

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007-08 THROUGH 2011-12 ADDING THE STREAKED HORNED LARK HABITAT PROJECT) RESOLUTION NO. 08-3930
)
) Introduced by
) David Bragdon, Council President

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes the need to prepare a long-range plan estimating the timing, scale and cost of its major capital projects & equipment purchases;

WHEREAS, Metro departments have inventoried existing major capital assets, prepared status reports on current capital projects and assessed future capital needs;

WHEREAS, Metro's Council President has directed the preparation of a Capital Budget for fiscal years 2007-08 through 2011-12 that projects Metro's major capital spending needs over the next five years, assesses the impact of capital projects on the forecasted financial condition of Metro funds, and assesses the impact on operating costs;

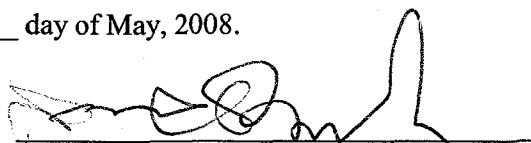
WHEREAS, the Metro Council has reviewed the FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council has conducted a public hearing on the FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12 Capital Budget and authorized the FY 2007-08 through FY 2011 Capital Budget;


WHEREAS, the Capital Budget priorities have altered and the following changes are necessary; now, therefore:

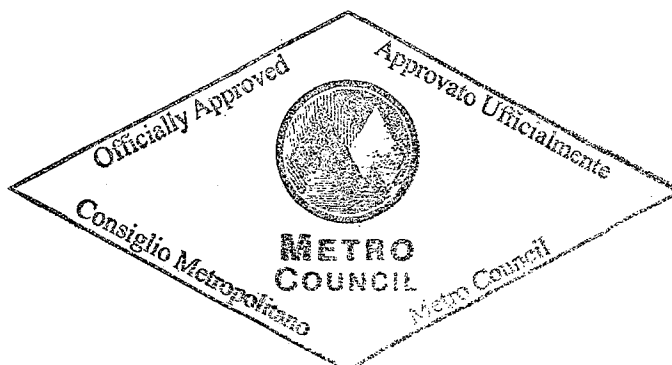
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby authorizes that the Streaked Horned Lark Habitat Project be added to the FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12 Capital Budget.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 8th day of May, 2008.


David Bragdon, Metro Council President

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-3930, AMENDING THE FY 2007-08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THE STREAKED HORNED LARK HABITAT PROJECT

Date: May 8, 2008

Prepared by: Paul Vandenberg

BACKGROUND

A stated objective of the *Natural Resources Management Plan for Smith and Bybee Lakes* (Plan) is to integrate management of the St. Johns Landfill with management of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. As such, the landfill is managed not only to control buried waste and its by-products, consistent with regulations, but also to restore and diversify vegetation and habitat, and to provide associated public education opportunities, consistent with the Plan. Staff of Metro's departments of Solid Waste & Recycling and Parks & Greenspaces coordinate in these efforts.

In 2006, communications between Metro and Port of Portland staff revealed an opportunity to create nesting and foraging habitat at the landfill for the streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), both of which have been listed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as Critically Sensitive species. The streaked horned lark is also listed as a Candidate species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Port was planning to develop a dredge spoils field in the Rivergate Industrial District that was supporting the only remaining known breeding population of these two species in Multnomah County; and the landfill - due to its physical features and protected status - offered an appealing alternative site with the potential to partially compensate for the loss of habitat in Rivergate. In addition, it was recognized that public education and research opportunities associated with this effort were potentially significant.

Construction at the Rivergate site began in spring 2007, and logistics for creating habitat at the landfill were discussed among Metro, Port of Portland, and Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife staff. It was concluded that the targeted lark species were more likely to use suitable habitat at the landfill while they were still using the Rivergate field, rather than after they vacated Rivergate altogether; as such, implementing the project in fall 2007 was desirable. Metro and the Port signed an intergovernmental agreement in September 2007 under which some 7,200 cubic yards of sand donated by the Port were hauled from West Hayden Island to the landfill, and spread over 5-acres of the landfill surface. Metro field staff subsequently seeded the area with native grasses and forbs to establish sparse growth, thereby providing a suitable foraging and nesting landscape for the larks, and have started routine monitoring of the area for bird activity.

In addition to donating the sand at a value of \$60,000, the Port expended \$67,332 for equipment, materials and labor associated with loading trucks provided by Metro under a hauling contract. The charge to Metro for hauling services was \$78,578. Oregon State University provided in-kind consulting services regarding habitat design and monitoring.

Because the lark habitat construction project was ultimately a capital project, and was planned and implemented relatively quickly in fall 2007, in order to increase the prospect for success, it was not included in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). For this reason, staff is asking Council for a resolution to formally add the project to the FY 2007-2008 CIP. Approval of this resolution

would add the Streaked Horned Lark Habitat Project to the FY 2007-2008 CIP, in the amount of \$205,910, as detailed in the attached Capital Project Request, Project Detail (Attachment 1).

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

- 1. Known Opposition:** None known.
- 2. Legal Antecedents:** Resolution No. 07-3795, For the Purpose of Adopting the Capital Budget for Fiscal Years 2007-08 through 2011-12, established the current CIP, and recognizing the donated improvement on Metro's official accounting records.
- 3. Anticipated Effects:** Approval of this resolution would add the Streaked Horned Lark Habitat Project to the FY 2007-2008 through 2011-12 CIP, and recognizing the restoration project on Metro's asset listings.
- 4. Budget Impacts:** The new project would be added to Capital Budget in the amount of \$205,910. Sufficient appropriation exists to recognize the Port of Portland's contribution from the under-expenditure of other St. Johns Landfill projects in FY 2007-2008.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends approval of Resolution 08-3930

Capital Project Request - Project Detail

Project Title:
Fund:

Project Status:
Funding Status:
FY First Authorized:
Department:

Project Number:
Active:
Dept. Priority:
Facility:
Division:

Source Of Estimat:
Source:
Start Date:
Date:
Cost Type:

Type of Project:
Request Type:
Completion Date:
Prepared By:

Project Estimates	Actual	Budget/Est	Prior							
Capital Cost:	Expend	2007-2008	Years	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Total	
Restoration	\$0	\$205,910	\$205,910	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$205,910	
Total:	\$0	\$205,910	\$205,910	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$205,910	

Funding Source:

Port of Portland	\$0	\$127,332	\$127,332	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$127,332
Fund Balance - Landfill Closure	\$0	\$78,578	\$78,578	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,578
Total:	\$0	\$205,910	\$205,910	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$205,910

Annual Operating Budget Impact

Project Description / Justification: _____
 Estimated Useful Life (yrs):
First Full Fiscal Year of Operation:

The purpose of this project is to create nesting habitat for the streaked horned lark at St. Johns Landfill. It is part of Metro's overall restoration program for the site, which includes vegetation and habitat diversification on the landfill surface, consistent with goals of the Natural Resources Management Plan for Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Considered a critically sensitive species by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the streaked horned lark is a rare subspecies that was added to the state's Endangered Species Act Candidate List in 2001.