

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING)
PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION)
WHICH WOULD PRESERVE, PROTECT)
AND ENHANCE PARKS, OPEN SPACES,)
FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, TRAILS)
AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES)

RESOLUTION NO. 99-2775
Introduced by Mike Burton
Executive Officer

WHEREAS, Congress is currently debating proposed legislation, "The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999" (CARA) (H.R. 701 and S. 25), which would fund grant programs for: land acquisition for parks and open spaces; development of park and recreational facilities; habitat restoration activities; and planning and environmental education projects; and

WHEREAS, CARA would authorize funds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) and the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) programs, which in turn would make funds available to state, regional and local park providers through competitive grants processes; and

WHEREAS, funding for these programs would come from offshore oil drilling and gas leases which already are being paid to the U.S. Treasury (an estimated \$4.5 billion in federal FY 2000); and

WHEREAS, Oregon's allocation of LWCF revenues is estimated at \$5.2 million to \$7.3 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's allocation of TWW revenues is estimated at \$6 to \$9 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Metro and local government park providers, and nonprofit land conservation organizations could compete for funding from each federal program and thereby leverage limited local funds; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has developed preliminary projects to be funded under its Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) program, if Congress approves the Reinvestment and Conservation Act of 1999; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department,

ODFW has proposed a "Teaming With Metro Greenspaces" initiative under its TWW program which would allow the federal funds to be matched with Metro funds for land acquisition, habitat restoration, stream and wetland enhancement activities, planning and habitat inventories, environmental education programs, and interpretive centers, kiosks, viewing blinds, and signs; and

WHEREAS, Metro general funds and Open Space bond revenues, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds appropriated for Regional Parks and Greenspaces programs could be significantly leveraged by the proposed Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999; and


WHEREAS, the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee was briefed about the proposed federal legislation and grant programs at its April 6, 1999 meeting and voted to support the legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee was briefed about the proposed federal legislation and grant programs at its April 14, 1999 meeting and voted to support the legislation; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metro Council endorses the proposed federal legislation known as the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 or comparable legislation which includes funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program (UPARR), and Teaming With Wildlife (TWW).

ADOPTED By the Metro Council this 6th day of May 1999.



Rod Monroe, Presiding Officer

Approved as to form:



Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel



METRO

METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-2775, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING FEDERAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE PARKS, OPEN SPACES, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Date: May 6, 1999

Presented by: Councilor Atherton

Committee Action: At its May 5, 1999 meeting, the Metro Operations Committee voted 3-0 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2775. Voting in favor: Councilors Atherton, Kvistad and Washington.

Council Issues/Discussion: Charlie Ciecko, director of Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, made the staff presentation. Also presenting testimony was Claire Puchy, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Resolution No. 99-2775 endorses federal legislation which funds open spaces, parks, fish and wildlife habitat, trails and recreational programs. Actually, several similar proposals are also under consideration but this resolution supports not only the general concept of the above-mentioned programs, but specifically calls out bi-partisan sponsored legislation titled "The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA)."

CARA authorizes funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and the Teaming with Wildlife program. The estimated annual benefit to Oregon is between \$5.2 million and \$7.3 million for the first two programs, and between \$6 million and 9 million for the Teaming With Wildlife program. The metro region could benefit from the allocation of these funds, and the possibility of using Metro "Greenspaces" funds as local match was cited.

While Oregon legislator has signed on as a sponsor for this legislation, several of them are on key committees that could play a role in its passage.

The Metro Operations Committee received assurance that this legislation truly has bi-partisan support. It then determined to bring it before the Metro Council as soon as possible, and to support it with a letter signed by all Metro Councilors.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-2775 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE PARKS, OPEN SPACES, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Date: April 14, 1999

Presented by:

**Charles Ciecko
Mel Huie**

Proposed Action

Resolution No. 99-2775 requests Council endorsement of proposed federal legislation which would provide funds for grant programs for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of parks, open spaces, fish and wildlife habitat, streams and riparian corridors, trails and recreational facilities at the local, regional, and state levels. If the resolution is approved, Metro will urge Members of Congress from the Northwest and other public agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations to support the proposed federal legislation.

The proposed legislation has already been endorsed by the National Association of Counties and the National Governors' Association, along with 3,000 businesses and nonprofit conservation organizations across the country. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber is a member of the coalition supporting legislation to fund the aforementioned activities.

Background, History and Analysis

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA) (H.R. 701 and S. 25) has been introduced in the House and Senate by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans. If approved, funding would be available to public agencies for land acquisition, purchase of easements, park development, construction of recreation facilities, habitat restoration and enhancement activities, wetland protection, planning and related environmental education programs.

The proposed revenue source for these programs and activities is from offshore oil drilling and gas leases. An estimated \$4.5 billion in federal taxes will be generated from offshore activities in federal FY 2000. Of this amount, a range of \$734 million (Senate bill) to \$1.06 billion (House bill) is proposed for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program (UPARR). The Teaming With Wildlife program (TWW) would receive an amount between \$325 million (Senate bill) and \$459 million (House bill).

These revenues have historically funded competitive grant programs supporting federal, state, regional and local conservation and park activities. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program were two of the largest grant programs which funded land acquisition for parks, and the development of park and recreational facilities. But funding for these programs was dramatically reduced at the start of the Reagan administration in 1981. For example in 1998, Oregon had an allocation of less than \$300,000 from the LWCF to distribute statewide.

The proposed legislation would provide funds to revitalize the LWCF program. Oregon's allocation is estimated at \$5.2 million to \$7.3 million per year for the LWCF if the Reinvestment

and Conservation Act of 1999 is approved by Congress. These grant programs could significantly leverage local funds available for acquisition and development purposes.

Teaming With Wildlife (TWW), which is non-game oriented, is a new program emphasizing the preservation, protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. Eligible activities would include land acquisition, habitat restoration activities, wetlands conservation, watershed planning and protection activities, environmental education activities, and construction of interpretive centers, kiosks, viewing blinds, etc. Funds would be administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has developed a list of potential projects and activities under its potential TWW program. An estimated \$6 to \$9 million per year for Oregon's TWW program could be available if legislation is approved.

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces staff have worked with ODFW to include a "Teaming Up With Metro Greenspaces" initiative. TWW funds could be matched with Metro funds for land acquisition, habitat enhancement and restoration activities, planning and habitat inventories, environmental education programs, and construction of nature centers, interpretive signs, viewing blinds and kiosks. Metro funds could be leveraged significantly.

Budget Impact

No budget impact at this time.

If Congress approves funding for these new initiatives, Metro would be eligible to apply for funds beginning in federal FY 2000 or FY 2001. Most-likely, the funds would be administered by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (LWCF and UPARR) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (TWW). All grant programs will be competitive in nature and require "local matches."

Executive Officer's Recommendation

The Executive Officer recommends approval of Resolution No. 99-2775.