

[On City Letterhead]

Date

Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council
PO Box 2308 Ptarmigan Street NW
Salem OR 97304

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Salem Area Natural Floodplain Functions Plan

As the elected City Council for Salem, we represent the people that live in and have property in the Willamette River Floodplain and other areas subject to flood hazards within Salem's city limits. As such, we are very interested and supportive of the project proposed by the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council that will result in a Floodplain Species Assessment and Natural Floodplain Functions Plan for the Salem area.

Development of these resources will support Salem's goals related to floodplain and natural resource management in the City. The project is consistent with the Salem Floodplain Management Plan action item NR8, which directs the City to "Prepare a Flood Species Assessment [and Plan] in conformance with CRS Activity 510". The project also aligns with other projects that the Council has directed staff to work on, such as development of a Goal 5 Riparian Corridor Inventory and implementation of goals and policies set forth in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan.

We understand that Salem's floodplains are important for the survival and support of multiple species that have been listed as threatened or endangered by state and federal agencies. To our knowledge, a comprehensive assessment of floodplain-dependent species or the habitats that are important to these species has not been conducted in Salem. Therefore, the completion of a Floodplain Species Assessment and a Natural Floodplain Functions Plan would provide City staff with additional tools for guiding floodplain development and managing our floodplain habitats to allow for better protection of the important ecological functions of Salem's floodplains.

We further understand that such a plan and other elements proposed, such as public information materials, could provide a benefit to the City's residents by adding Community Rating System credits under the National Flood Insurance Program, which together with other efforts will assist with lowering flood insurance rates for Salem citizens.

The proposal by Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council is consistent with City of Salem's goals and policies, and we highly support funding for this effort. We believe this effort could help identify future protection and restoration activities that could benefit the species dependent on floodplains in Salem. This work can also be an example for other communities in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Mayor Chris Hoy
On Behalf of Salem City Council