



Save Helvetia
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*Advancing policies, leaders and actions
that protect Helvetia's treasured resources*

May 1, 2012

Department of Land Use and Conservation
Citizen Involvement Coordinator
635 Capitol Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Insuring Widespread Citizen Involvement and Input in All Phases of the Process

Gentlepeople,

We are conducting research into the citizen involvement programs in Oregon and under state land use planning statutes, administrative rules, and/or policies and procedures. We see that as part of 2009 ORS 197.040, the LCDC Commission has listed under its **rules**, and under section **(2), (f) Insure widespread citizen involvement and input in all phases of the process; and in section (d) of same section, review comprehensive plans for compliance with goals;**. We seek to learn how the LCDC Commission implements and operationalizes these authorities and responsibilities with regard to counties.

Perhaps the LCDC Commission has developed Oregon Administrative Rules to provide definition and clarity in this area. Perhaps you have developed policies and procedures that guide this. If so, we would like to be informed.

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Some questions that have come to mind include:

Does LCDC or DLCD conduct periodic site audits/visits?

Does the LCDC/DLCD receive any periodic reports by county government regarding its citizen involvement programs?

Is there a periodic report made by any county subcontractor of the citizen involvement programs?

Is there any report made by citizen participation organizations and/or the committees for citizen involvement as part of any periodic review?

Is there any signed Intergovernmental Agreement between the state and a county that specifies assurances regarding elements of the citizen involvement plans and compliance to it?

Are there performance goals that oblige a county to achieve measurable goals through time? And the same should they not be meeting compliance?

Does LCDC/DLCD host any periodic conference, bringing together citizen involvement coordinators from across the state and to discuss latest approaches/best practices? Are citizens welcomed at any conferences of this type?

Does LCDC/DLCD offer technical assistance and consultation to counties in citizen involvement programs and processes? And to bring counties into improvement with its citizen involvement practices?

Does LCDC/DLCD intervene if and when county leaders might not give due credence to citizen involvement goals, perhaps just relying on allusions of involvement?

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What avenue has been instituted through which a citizen or a community organization might lodge a complaint to the LCDC Commission regarding non compliance or violation?

What follow up is generated by the lodging of such a complaint?
Is there a hearings process or administrative review prescribed for alleged violations?

Does LCDC/DLCD have the authority to sanction a county for citizen involvement violations through time?

Thank you for your time in responding to this inquiry. We have become students of our local, regional, and state citizen involvement processes and we anticipate our research will help us participate in supporting and strengthening citizen involvement and participation in land use planning, and in accordance to statewide planning goals.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey
Steering Committee, Save Helvetia
www.savehelvetia.org

