



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

Oregon Coastal Management Program

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November 21, 2023

Mary Schamehorn, Mayor
City of Bandon
P.O. Box 521, Bandon, OR, 97411

Re: Coastal Public Access Policy Amendments



Dear Mayor Schamehorn and City Councilors,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony for the proposed ordinance number 1662, amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Title 17 of the Bandon Municipal Code to address public access. The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is highly supportive of this initiative. DLCD and City staff have partnered on this effort for the past 18 months to update the City's public access to coastal shorelines inventory, policies, and code. DLCD supports the City's efforts to create a policy framework to meet and exceed the requirements of Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 17 (Coastal Shorelands) and acknowledge local community needs.

Coastal communities are leading the state in advancing accessibility to coastal resources. One indicator of this is Travel Oregon's recent funding announcement of over \$1.1 million in grant awards (a third of the total funding awarded across the entire State) going to coastal communities specifically for projects focused on improving accessibility and inclusivity in public spaces. The Port of Bandon is one of the funding recipients, receiving \$100,000 to add accessible, paved parking and to enhance the historic Old Town Bandon waterfront district by creating an inviting place for all visitors and residents to enjoy.

One of DLCD's goals is to support local government planning for improved public access to coastal shorelands throughout Oregon's coastal zone. The department was able to provide the City of Bandon financial support through a Planning Assistance Grant to review and update the city's coastal public access policies. The policy framework developed through this partnership was used to create a Model Comprehensive Plan Amendment framework that DLCD highlights in a Coastal Shoreline Public Access guidance document. Once this guidance document is finalized, DLCD will distribute it to all coastal local governments with the hopes that they will follow the City of Bandon's leadership and adopt updates to their public access policies.

DLCD requests that this letter be entered into the record of the proceedings. Please contact me at (541) 514-0091 or via email at meg.reed@dlcd.oregon.gov if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your time and consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Meg Reed, Coastal Policy Specialist