

# Council approves wetlands plan

The public will have the opportunity to discuss the plan's amendments at a later date

By Jesse Sowa  
Community Reporter

The Eugene City Council unanimously approved amendments to the West Eugene Wetlands Plan on Wednesday afternoon that prohibit the ability of the Eugene Water and Energy Board to put power lines where it sees fit.

The council previously discussed and approved language for the amendments to create the Planned Transportation Corridor and Utility Corridor wetland designations, which city staff then prepared for adoption.

According to Jan Childs, planning division manager for the city, the amendments also allow for the approval of construction

of new roads through the wetlands area, although no action was taken on that issue.

The amendment restricts new roadway construction projects not listed on the plan prior to 1992, Childs said. Neil Bjorklund, metro area planner for the city of Eugene, added that the corridor can only be used for road construction with permission from state and federal officials.

The designations will not take effect until applied to specific properties, which requires subsequent action by the council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners. The commissioners will discuss the council's action on the amendment June 2.

The amendment is part of a

larger group of policy and text amendments which will be discussed further by the council on June 17. That discussion will include the decision on the future of several pieces of land in the wetlands area, including those owned by Hyundai.

Councilman Bobby Lee voiced concern that community members want to have their say before a final decision is made.

"People perceive utility as part of a development concern," he said.

Staff members told Lee the public will have a chance to voice their concerns on this issue at a later date.

Bjorklund said public opinion could affect actions taken on the issue.

"Both the [Eugene] Planning Commission and the elected officials could direct staff to do further analysis based on public testimony," he said.



# Group calls for Measure 11's repeal

A committee rallied in Eugene for Initiative 66, which attempts to overturn Measure 11

By Jessica Temple  
Freelance Reporter

About 20 people attended a Citizens for Measure 11 Reform rally Wednesday at the Lane County Courthouse.

The Portland-based committee was formed in an attempt to promote Initiative 66, a proposed ballot measure that would overturn Measure 11 in the November general election.

Ballot Measure 11, which was passed by voters in 1994, currently requires mandatory prison sentences for 23 specific felonies for persons age 15 and up. However, Initiative 66 would require 7,400 signatures before it could be added to the November 1998 ballot.

Ron Chase, a speaker at the rally,

talked about the results of Measure 11. He said it was marketed by its creators to ensure repeat violent criminals would receive longer prison terms.

"As of November 1997," he said, "57 percent of inmates prosecuted and convicted under Ballot Measure 11 had no prior criminal history."

Chase also stressed that Measure 11 negatively altered the entire judicial system by changing the relationship between defendants, prosecutors and judges.

"It eliminated judicial discretion, taking authority away from judges to impose sentences based on not only the offense, but the offenders' prior criminal history and special circumstances," Chase said.

Ed Whitelaw, a University professor of economics, also spoke at the rally in support of Initiative 66. He wrote an article for Oregon Quarterly about the downfalls of Measure 11, in which he stated

that the growth of prisons does not make sense financially.

"If we had tried to set out the most expensive and least effective measure ... we would have come up with Measure 11," Whitelaw said.

Chase agreed.

"Rather than working with children and providing family support to prevent this behavior, we are investing our scarce resources into building prisons and detention facilities to confine them after they have committed a crime," he said. "While much lip service is given to prevention, Ballot Measure 11 ensures that the real money is spent on reactive remedies.

"I don't think anyone had the vision to foresee the chain reaction set off by Ballot Measure 11," he said. "It inhibits, rather than promotes the administration of justice. It places an unacceptable financial burden on the state. It creates more problems than it solves."

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### SETA protests animal injustice

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, SETA, is continuing its 100-hour vigil in front of Johnson Hall to educate students and the campus community about the injustices done to animals. Participants

take turns sitting in a cage outside the administration building to symbolize the oppressive conditions animals face every day. Each day focuses on different issues: veganism, animal research, cosmetic testing, animals in entertainment and pet and wildlife issues. The vigil will end Friday at 3 p.m.

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## Twenty Years of Women's Voices Thursday May 21st 8pm - EMU Amphitheater

Speak out against violence against women

- 20th Anniversary of Take Back the Night
- Starts at 8 p.m. Corner of 13th and University
- Local speakers and self-defense demonstration
- March ends downtown at the corner of 8th and Oak
- Visit the Clothesline project and info. display tables
- ASL Interpreted
- 9 p.m. Workshop in the Ben Linder Room with Jack Straton  
"The role men can play in ending sexual violence"



Organized by the ASUO Women's Center and Sexual Assault Support Services  
Cosponsors: Eugene Weekly & UO Office of Student Life  
For more info contact 484-9791

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