

# ...PDC closer to setting wage policy on mixed-use projects

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private projects," said Bob Shiprack, executive secretary-treasurer of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. "PDC is trying to draw a very clear line (as to when the prevailing wage law should apply)"

Commissioners directed PDC staff to develop a "draft wage policy" that outlines specific requirements for when a privately-owned project that receives PDC funding would be subject to prevailing wage rates. It also wants the wage policy to include language that will expand opportunities for minorities and women in construction.

Commissioners set forth the following requirements to be included in the draft wage policy:

- A specific amount of PDC investment which would require prevailing wage rates.

- A specific percentage of total project cost which would require prevailing wage rates.

- A specific amount of PDC investment, below which prevailing wage would not apply.

The draft wage policy will exempt certain smaller scale forms of PDC programmatic investment such as business and tenant assistance programs and

new market tax credits, as well as affordable housing projects (in accordance with a recent agreement reached between the Community Development Network and construction unions.)

At the Dec. 6 meeting, PDC Commissioner Charles Wilhoite referred to a \$750,000 threshold for triggering prevailing wage requirements.

Shiprack confirmed that in meetings with PDC staff, building trades union officials tentatively agreed that if PDC's investment in a project is less than \$750,000, the project would not prevail. If more than 25 percent of a PDC project comes from public funds, the project would prevail.

"It's a true compromise by the unions," Shiprack said.

Under state law, a project prevails if it is more than \$50,000.

Shiprack told the NY Labor Press that if the finalized PDC wage policy is acceptable, he will take it to the State Legislature for implementation.

"This public-private issue isn't just a problem in Portland," he said. "It's a problem statewide."

Earlier this month legislative leaders sent a letter to PDC commissioners encouraging them "to find a resolution regarding the application of prevailing wage rates to public/private projects."

The PDC wage policy action is the initial result of a Construction Wage Study, which the Board began last August. The wage study included four public work sessions and nearly 20

hours of panel discussions, public testimony and input from PDC.

Many of the issues raised concerned the impacts and benefits of prevailing wage rates as it pertains to job training; construction employment and contracting opportunities; cost and quality of construction; and workforce diversity.

Participation included leaders of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

, union and nonunion organizations and members, developers, contractors, minority- and women- owned business and construction workers, as well as other jurisdictions.

PDC staff will return on Jan. 10 or earlier with more details on the potential specifics for a wage policy. The Board also accepted public testimony on the resolution at its meeting Dec. 13 (held after this issue went to press).

# ...Union-made goods

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products; Godiva chocolates; Coastal Berry Co. fruit and nuts; Montpelier Almonds; Sunkist citrus fruit; Sunworld citrus fruit; Airdrome citrus fruit; Big Jim citrus fruit; Maui Pineapple Co. — Hawaiian God, Maui Gold, Jet Fresh Maui, Maui Organic and Champaka; Ghirardelli chocolates; and Brown & Halley candies.

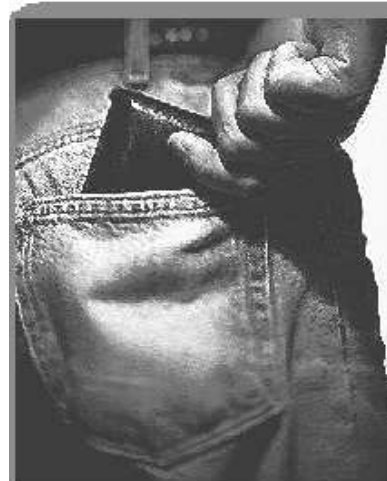
**FRESH FRUITS:** Butterfly; Mann's CA; Penguin; Pickup; Sun-flavor CA; Elwin R. Mann apples; Airdrome\*, Big Jim\*, Sunkist\* Sunworld citrus\* (grapefruit, lemons, oranges, tangerines); Swanton Berry strawberries; Montpelier almonds; Brown Date Garden dates. \*Only those with United Farm Workers Black Eagle label.

**VEGETABLES: Fresh:** Family Farms mushrooms; Vlasic Farms mushrooms (California); Red Coach lettuce; Muranaka\*, Sonza-Boster. **Frozen:** Bird's Eye; Freshlike; Hanover; Sparten. **Canned:** B&B mushrooms; Festal; Freemont

sauerkraut; Goya blackeye and chickpeas; Green Giant; Hanover; Libbey's; Kroger cut green beans, peeled whole tomatoes, whole kernel corn; Tendersweet. \*Only those with United Farm Workers Black Eagle label.

**CONDIMENTS:** Aunt Jemima; Cattleman's; Colonial; Colonial Salt; Diamond Crystal Salt; Durkee; Dutch Mill; Ebro; Flake; French's mustard; Fry Krisp Guldens mustard Heinz Catsup; Heinz Ketchup; Hidden Valley Ranch; Hormel; Jefferson Island; JIF peanut butter; Ken Salad Dressing; Kernal Fresh; Kitchen Bouquet; Leslie; Lucky Whip; Monarch salt; Monterey mushrooms; Morton salts; Mrs. Butterworth's; Nifda salt; Open Pit Onion, Sweet, Thick & Tangy Smoked Grill, T & T Sugar and Spice, T&T Original, Thick and Hickory, Traditional; Pace; Peanut Butter Crunch; Red & White Salt; Red Cross; Red, White and Blue; Saucy Sweet and Sour Sauce; Sorrell Ridge; Sterling Salt; Sunflower & Scotts; Susan & Polynesian; Sysco Salt; Van Holtens; Vince & Son's; Vlasic; Watkins sauces, Watkins spices.

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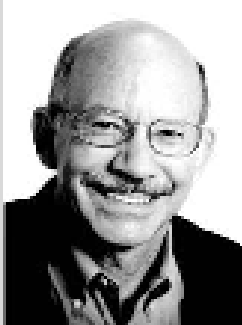
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Democrat for Congress



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