

Oregon has second-worst water-quality permit backlog

By **TONY SCHICK**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon's backlog of expired water-quality permits is among the worst in the country, meaning the state has let facilities discharge pollutants at levels that may violate current protections for the state's waterways.

That's the argument of a lawsuit filed in Multnomah County today by two environmental groups seeking to force the state's Department of Environmental Quality to update hundreds of old permits.

Environmental Advocates and the Northwest Environ-

mental Defense Center want to put DEQ under a court order to update permits that are more than five years old, which is about 40 percent of the permits.

"They've been trying to fix it over 15 years and they have not been successful," said Nina Bell of Northwest Environmental Advocates. "We want to have them put under a court order so they are required to take this issue seriously and deal with it once and for all."

More than a decade

Oregon's DEQ has struggled with backlog of old permits for more than a decade. In 2015, the state Legislature

directed the agency to hire an outside consultant to review its water-quality permitting program.

The consultant report concluded DEQ lacked appropriate staffing to write permits, often failed to coordinate properly the scientific and regulatory efforts needed to issue a new permit.

"We completely agree that there's a serious problem with having as many permits that are expired as we have right now," said Keith Andersen, a DEQ water-quality advisor.

DEQ has also been reluctant to write permits that demand costly upgrades, such

as a million-dollar treatment plant upgrade, particularly for cities that cannot afford them, Andersen said.

"We didn't get here overnight," Andersen said. "Fixing the problem is going to require time and resources. This is going to have to be a comprehensive solution."

Negative consequences

The backlog has negative consequences both for the environment and the companies holding the permits.

For instance, an outdated permit does not require facilities to meet water-quality standards that might have

been adopted or tightened in the years after it was originally issued. It can also hamstring a business that wants to expand or adjust its operations, because the state can't modify an expired permit to accommodate those changes.

Oregon's percent of active permits is next to last in the country at roughly 26 percent, according to EPA data. But the extent of expired permits is only part of the story, Bell said.

Washington, for instance, has a smaller backlog, with 65 percent of its permits active.

"They appear superficially to look better, but once you look behind the curtain and

you look at what those permits really are doing, you realize that there are very few controls required," Bell said.

But Bell's organization also filed a complaint in Washington in February over the state's controls on pollution discharged into Puget Sound.

Citing an obligation for the EPA to intercede when a state fails to uphold the Clean Water Act, the lawsuit aims to force an update to Washington's water-quality standards for toxics that can harm aquatic life.

A spokesperson for the Washington Department of Ecology declined comment.

Bills would ease rules on new farmland dwellings

Critics say proposals may disrupt ag

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Two bills aimed at expanding affordable housing in rural Oregon would make it easier to build dwellings or permanently reside in recreational vehicles on farmland.

Advocates of House bills 2937 and 2938 say the proposals would help mitigate the state's housing shortage without undermining protections for farmland.

However, critics argue the bills would disrupt agricultural operations without having much impact on housing and could be counterproductive by encouraging short-term rentals.

"It's just not the best use of farmland," said Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Proponents of the bills said lawmakers need to be creative in finding solutions to Ore-

gon's housing problem.

There are limits to what can be accomplished with legislation focused on landlord-tenant relations, said Julie Parrish, R-West Linn, during a March 14 legislative hearing.

"It doesn't put new units in the mix," she said.

Preservation

Oregon's land use system was intended to preserve farmland but not to create insufficient housing and perpetuate homelessness, Parrish said.

Meanwhile, HB 2937 and 2938 have restrictions that limit new dwellings and won't "upset the land use apple cart in any significant way," she said.

Under HB 2937, a single "accessory dwelling" can be sited within 100 feet of an existing home in a rural residential zone, or in a "exclusive farm use" zone with a county conditional use permit.

The same conditions apply to a single recreational vehicle used for "residential purposes" under HB 2938.

County governments can decide whether or not to incorporate these provisions into their land use plans and

they're also free to place additional restrictions on accessory dwellings and recreational vehicles sited in farm zones, according to supporters.

"The opportunity to be bold is there. You're going to take political arrows either way," said Shawn Cleave, government affairs director for the Oregon Association of Realtors.

Critics of the proposals said that affordable housing is needed more near cities where residents have access to jobs, transportation and other services, rather than in remote rural areas.

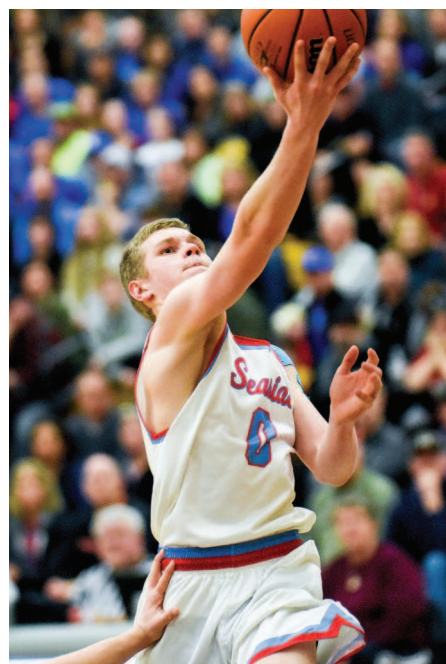
More people living in the countryside also means strains will increase on local road and water systems, opponents said.

Neither bill requires housing to be provided at affordable rates or to residents with low incomes, said Mary Kyle McCurdy, deputy director of the 1,000 Friends of Oregon, a nonprofit that supports Oregon's land use system.

The proposals don't prohibit landowners from using the dwellings for short-term vacation rentals, which often crowd out long-term rentals, McCurdy said.

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IN THE DAILY ASTORIAN



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Legal Notices

AB6183 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
A public meeting of the budget committee of the Elsie-Vinemapple RFPD #11, Clatsop County, Oregon, will be held at 42644 Loyd Lane, Seaside, Oregon to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. The meeting will take place on March 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place with comments from the public.
Published: March 15th and 17th, 2017

AB6162 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLATSOP

Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee for Newcastle Investment Trust 2014-MH1, Plaintiff, v. James L. Littlefield, Unknown Heirs Legatees and Devises of James L. Littlefield, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, Defendants.

Case No.:16CV33982 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY!
You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal paper called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication, 03/01/2017, along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff. The subject of this a judicial foreclosure of real property commonly known as 42376 Evergreen Acres Ln, Seaside, OR 97138 for non-payment of mortgage debt. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.

DATED: February 23, 2017.

Katrina E. Glogowski, OSB #035386, Allegiant Law Group, 22000 64th Ave W #2F, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 (206) 903-9966. Fax (206) 405-2701.

Published: March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2017

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Legal Notices

AB6214 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On **March 23, 2017**, at the hour of **10:00 AM** at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, 1190 SE 19th Street in the City of Warrenton, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 316 Lexington Avenue, Astoria, OREGON. The court case number is 16CV16981, where NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC is plaintiff, and CAITLIN M. SARANIERO; DAVID M. SARANIERO; U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON; RAY KLEIN, INC. D/B/A PROFESSIONAL CREDIT SERVICE; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; ASSET RECOVERY GROUP INC.; COMMERCIAL ADJUSTMENT CO.; PARTIES IN POSSESSION is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: <http://oregonsheriffssales.org/> (OR), <http://files.co.clatsop.or.us/ccso/foreclosures.pdf>

Published: February 22nd, March 1st, 8th and 15th, 2017.

AB6178 OFFICIAL NOTICE OREGON ALBACORE COMMISSION PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The OREGON ALBACORE COMMISSION (OAC) will hold a Budget Hearing pursuant to ORS 576.416, on Thursday, April 6 at 10:00am at the Cannery Pier Hotel, 10 Basin St., Astoria, Oregon upon a proposed budget for operation of the Oregon Albacore Commission during the FY July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. A public meeting will be held Wednesday, April 5 from noon until 5pm, and continue at 8:30am on April 6. Agenda items will include presentations, 2016 season recap and 2017 marketing and promotional activities.

At this meeting, any Albacore harvester in Oregon selling Albacore through a first purchaser or directly to the public and any first purchaser buying Albacore in Oregon has the right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget. Copies are available for inspection, under reasonable circumstances, at the Albacore Commission office in Lincoln City.

For further information, please contact: OAC, P.O. Box 983, Lincoln City, OR 97367-0983. Phone/fax: 541-994- 2647; nancy@oregonsalmon.org.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the OAC office at 541-994- 2647.

Published: March 15th, 2017

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