



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning

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June 2, 2006

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court S., Rm. 160  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski,

On behalf of the Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning, I am pleased to present the work program for the Big Look, per the requirements of SB 82.

The work plan has five phases:

- Phase 1: Identification of major issues (May – July 2006).
- Phase 2: Analysis of key issues and identification of tradeoffs between different policy options in addressing the key issues. (August to December 2006.)
- Phase 3: Targeted, interactive discussion with stakeholders and the public on the major issues and the policy tradeoffs inherent in different options that address the major issue. The activities would be designed so that the stakeholders and public would be asked to choose between the trade-offs. (Calendar 2007)
- Phase 4: Task force debate and consideration on these major issues; development of recommendations. (January – July 2008)
- Phase 5: Present recommendations and advocate for their adoption. (Late 2008 – early 2009)

## Assumptions Underlying Preparation of the Work Plan

The following assumptions were used to create the Big Look Work Plan:

- Members of the task force come to the task with experience, backgrounds, and networks of contacts, which should be deemed among the most valuable assets to be tapped in our work.
- One of our key strengths as a group, regardless of our differing backgrounds or the differing conclusions that we may ultimately draw as individuals on particular issues in 2008, is our collective knowledge of where “the rubs” in the system are. Another strength is our ability to frame those issues in a thoughtful manner, one which will be conducive to useful debates that in turn lead to the conclusive resolution of debates.
- We should move quickly, yet methodically, to those difficult and contentious issues that the Governor and legislature have charged the task force to address. Another positive corollary of this assumption is that if we can reach early agreement that, say 80% of the land use system is functioning adequately, then we have made a useful statement, in effect defining our task as reforming the problematic aspects rather than throwing out the whole thing and starting from scratch.
- The most useful “public involvement” engages informed stakeholders and forces debate about actual trade-offs, by presenting specific choices and eliciting reactions about the real conflicts which exist.

Open-ended “public involvement” on generalized topics simply yields unrepresentative anecdotes or ideological platitudes, which will not help anyone resolve real issues.

- The research presented in detail at the May 10 Task Force meeting provided a sufficient snapshot of generalized public opinion at this time. This information, like other public opinion polling, was more valuable in highlighting the contradictions than in resolving them.
- The work plan belongs to the task force, who can amend it as needed during the course of our work.
- Of the two syllables in the term “work plan,” the emphasis should be on the first syllable. The task force will play a significant role in doing the work described in the work plan. Our intent is that the task force take a hands on approach to framing the issues (Phase II), selecting consultants, and working with the target focus groups, rather than delegating those issues to staff.

The Task Force is honored to conduct the Big Look. Please contact me if you have any questions about the enclosed work program.

Sincerely,

Mike Thorne, Chair  
Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning

cc: Senate President Peter Courtney  
cc: Speaker of the House Karen Minnis