



CLACKAMAS COUNTY

## Soil and Water Conservation District

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### NOTICE OF DISTRICT MEASURE ELECTION MEASURE #3-221

Notice is hereby given that on November 7, 2006 a measure election will be held in Clackamas County.

#### Board of Directors

Mike Dillard  
Chair, Zone 1, Northeast  
County

Ricardo Dailey  
Vice Chair, At-Large  
Representative

Lowell Hanna  
Treasurer, At-Large  
Representative

Patti Jarrett  
Secretary, Zone 2, Mid-  
County Urban  
Representative

Don Guttridge  
Zone 5, East County  
Representative

Janiece Miller  
Zone 3, West County  
Representative

Joan Zuber  
Zone 4, South County  
Representative

Mike Weinberg  
Associate Director

Jan Lee  
Associate Director

#### BALLOT MEASURE 3-221

**Caption:** Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Permanent Rate Limit

**Question:** Shall the District be authorized to have a permanent  
rate limit of \$0.05 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning  
FY 2007-2008?

**Summary:** This permanent rate limit will enable Clackamas Soil  
and Water Conservation District to provide education  
and technical assistance to urban and rural residents,  
farmers, businesses, municipalities, and others to meet  
rising legal and public expectations for healthy and  
sustainable management of our land, air and water.  
The District does not make or enforce regulations.

The permanent rate limit will support current District  
programs including conservation technical assistance,  
help for landowners navigating regulations, and cost-  
share funding for conservation projects to improve the  
quality of our streams, working lands and natural  
habitat for fish, wildlife, and people. The District is also  
responding to citizen demands to implement a  
countywide weed program focused on education and  
sustainable control methods.

This measure establishes a permanent rate limit of  
\$0.05 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. It will cost a  
property owner a maximum of \$10.00 per year on  
property valued at \$200,000 and yield an estimated  
\$1,400,000 to the District. The District may levy a lower  
rate. This permanent rate is an upper limit that by law  
can never be raised.

## **MEASURE 3-221**

### **Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Permanent Rate Explanatory Statement**

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) plays an important role in the conservation and utilization of our natural resources. We work with landowners and local communities to develop opportunities that sustain and improve our communities, economy, and resources. From the scenic beauty of the Mt. Hood Territory to the lush pasturelands of the Willamette Valley, the SWCD balances the County's environmental and economic demands to benefit our natural resources and livability.

#### **“A Nickel for Conservation”**

In order to provide a necessary and stable funding base for the important conservation work we do, the SWCD requests a Permanent Rate Limit of 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would cost the average taxpayer \$10 a year and generate approximately \$1.4 million in annual revenue to support our conservation education, technical assistance, and outreach programs. You can help Clackamas County remain a sustainable and healthy place to live, work, and play for generations to come.

#### **Demographics**

Clackamas County, the third most populous county in Oregon, is a unique mixture of rural farms, timberlands, and urban areas, with a vast array of rivers and streams flowing throughout. Our scenic waterways provide drinking water and recreational opportunities, in addition to supporting agriculture and nursery production, livestock, and wildlife. Properly managing the health and vitality of these watersheds is crucial to the environmental and economic health of Clackamas County—not to mention the people, fish, and wildlife that call this area home.

#### **How we do it**

The SWCD works with landowners of all types—from nursery and produce growers, to livestock operators, hobby farmers, and residents with urban backyards. We educate landowners about farm and conservation practices that improve water quality by keeping mud, manure, and pesticides out of the waterways. Through workshops, habitat enhancement partnerships, urban naturescaping classes, technical assistance, and a new Countywide Weed Control Program, we help landowners increase conservation efforts while realizing the greatest benefit from their resources. We also help landowners gain access to watershed restoration dollars through federal, state, and local grants.

#### **Without our work**

Without the SWCD's valuable work, our natural resources and landscape might not remain sustainable. Our goal is to ensure that the Mt. Hood Territory remains clean and vibrant, but that takes a sustained effort and community commitment. Although our work around the County is constant, it is often behind the scenes so it may not always be noticed. But if we were not doing our job, you would definitely notice!

#### **History**

Your Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District was created by Clackamas County voters in 1958 as a Special District. SWCD's are non-regulatory agencies. The SWCD is self-governed by non-paid elected directors. We are currently funded through a variety of county, state, and federal sources. The bulk of our dedicated funding expires in 2007, making it necessary for us to find a stable and local funding source in order to continue our countywide conservation work.

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