



Sustaining Quality of Life in the Southern Willamette Valley

Region 2050 Alternative Growth Scenarios Evaluation: Electric and Solid Waste Facilities and Services Draft July 29, 2004

This summary evaluates the extent to which each scenario meets the Regional Goals and Objectives related to the electric and solid waste facilities and services.

Summary of Findings

Electric

Load growth anticipated under any of the scenarios would be gradual enough that electrical utility systems would have little difficulty incorporating the anticipated growth.

Solid Waste

Short Mountain will still be viable in the year 2050. Every year, the facility is better able to utilize the space in the landfill, and, as long as recycling continues to increase or at least does not decline, the landfill's current projected life projection (to year 2045) is expected to extend. They are implementing changes right now that will decrease tonnage to the landfill (including mattress recycling, electronics recycling, and expanded yard debris recycling). The mattress recycling alone should change the equation for closure of Short Mountain. Additional long-term changes that may occur in the next 50 years include operational changes at Short Mountain that could also lengthen its life span.

The conclusion of this evaluation is that in all three scenarios, we can assume that Short Mountain will still be the primary solid waste landfill in Lane County. We can expect the following changes:

- Existing transfer stations will remain, and will be expanded to meet need. Cottage Grove's transfer station is already 5 days/week. It may be expanded to 7 days/week, particularly for the Satellite growth scenario. Veneta's transfer station will have to be expanded for all three of the scenarios (due to its proximity to a growth center).
- Large scale growth west of Eugene could result in a second transfer station in west Eugene similar to the one currently at Glenwood.

- Development of Short Mountain is/will require expansive wetland mitigation work by Lane County Waste Management. They have already bought a large chunk of land to the south of the landfill and are currently negotiating with a neighboring landowner to gain more property (the remainder of the Camas Swale). Staff hopes to transfer this entire site to Lane County Parks & Recreation once it is mitigated as a large park. So it is possible that by the year 2050 all of the area to the south and east of Short Mountain will be a public park, with river access.

Methodology

Electric

Lead: Craig Andrus, Emerald Peoples' Utility District (EPUD) and Richard Jeffries, EWEB

Team: Electric service staff in EWEB, SUB, and EPUD

Approach: Evaluate current capacities based on recent history of measured load in each respective utility's service area. Looking at projected growth in the areas, utilities determined the types of zoning which would be assigned, and, based on current comparable service areas, estimated the electrical facilities and capacities which would need to be constructed to meet those needs. Bonneville Power Administration was approached regarding their capacities and asked to evaluate the region's needs based on the projected load growth. Coordinated work with county and cities regarding reservation of areas for corridors or substation additions, as well as provision for easements along projected traffic feeder routes for electrical facilities

Solid Waste

Lead: Amanda Ferguson, Cottage Grove

Team: Lane County Solid Waste Management staff

Process: Identify needs and options for regional solid waste facilities through meeting with Lane County Solid Waste Management staff. Discuss the future of solid waste management in Lane County, where solid waste management needs and facilities are expected to be in the year 2050, and whether or not the alternative growth scenarios would have any noticeable impact on this expectation.

Criteria

The evaluation measures the extent to which each scenario satisfies the following Regional Goals and Objectives related to community facilities and services.

Goal

Develop a regional approach to facilitate the efficient provision of infrastructure and community services in the Southern Willamette Valley in conformance with the desires of each utility and district.

Objectives

1. Work collaboratively to ensure the availability of a full range of infrastructure and services to meet the needs of all residents in the region.
2. Identify innovative strategies and partnerships to finance existing and future facility expansions and improvements.
3. Develop a regional strategy to place less demand on infrastructure through enhanced conservation policies and practices.
4. Develop a regional strategy to improve access to telecommunications facilities.