



Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland

The Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047

May 20, 2016

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to express my support and enthusiasm for Portland's engagement in a new Oregon Solutions project. The Lents Stabilization and Job Creation Project is an exciting opportunity to bring city bureaus together with other state, regional and community stakeholders to create a roadmap for promoting economic development, neighborhood stabilization and natural area enhancement within an urban floodplain. Because of the significant opportunities this project holds, the City's General Fund budget includes \$460,000 in direct funding to support this effort in Lents. Additionally, several City bureaus have committed staff time and direct funds for project research and delivery. City staff are also working with staff and faculty at Portland State University to build partnerships and funding.

One of my priorities as Portland's Mayor is to implement projects that increase community resiliency and improve the quality of life of our most vulnerable citizens. The Lents area of Portland is rich in cultural diversity, potential for local jobs and commerce, and connections to our natural environment, yet the community needs our collective help. Pressures on the housing market, limited opportunities for family wage jobs and the persistent threat of flooding make this part of Portland a difficult place for businesses and residents to thrive. On average, Lents area households have more children, lower per-capita incomes, and significantly lower education levels than other parts of Portland.

The City of Portland has made significant investments in the area to support local businesses, improve parks and lessen the impacts from frequent flooding. The Lents Five-Year Action Plan (2014) calls for addressing these challenges by developing strategies to mitigate flooding, intensify industrial development and enhance and connect a network of natural areas. Oregon Solutions can help us. With your help, we can get started and effectively utilize funds committed to this effort.

A robust collaboration between government agencies, businesses, nonprofits and the community is needed to muster resources, align our efforts and work together to tackle these challenges in Lents. I am confident that Oregon Solutions assistance will lead to a more resilient future for our Lents neighbors and businesses, and that the greater Portland region will benefit from this work.

Please consider Camille Trummer your point of contact from my office in addition to the other City staff currently on board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Hales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlie" and the last name "Hales" clearly distinguishable.

Charlie Hales
Mayor

cc: Michael Mills, Oregon Solutions Project Manager