



KATE BROWN
Governor

June 30, 2021

Commissioner Heather Buch
Lane County Public Service Building
125 E 8th Street
Eugene, OR 97401

Mandy Jones
45909 Goodpasture Road
Vida, OR 97488

Dear Ms. Buch and Ms. Jones,

I received Lane County's request that the McKenzie Rebuilds project be designated an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing this request; support letters from the McKenzie River Trust, United Way of Lane County, and The Ford Family Foundation; and the assessment summary conducted by Oregon Solutions, I feel this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives. Therefore, I designate this an Oregon Solutions project, and I appoint you both – Lane County Commissioner Heather Buck and Mandy Jones – as co-conveners to lead a collaborative team of public, private, and civic partners focused on assisting the rebuilding effort in the McKenzie River Valley.

As outlined in Oregon Solutions' assessment report, the McKenzie/Holiday Farm Fire exposed and exacerbated several chronic issues the area experienced pre-fire, including inadequate communication networks, aging and failing septic infrastructure, high levels of poverty, and a declining economy. It is my understanding that in the wake of the destructive impacts of the fire, the community seeks this moment as an opportunity to rebuild in a better and more sustainable way to support recovery and a prosperous future. I believe addressing these issues will benefit all those who work, visit, and travel to this area.

I am pleased by the efforts of the community and supportive organizations to help the McKenzie River area prepare to rebuild after the fire. Recovery, no doubt, will be difficult and complex. Oregon Solutions can play a unique and important role by providing a neutral facilitation process to help all coordinate and implement a plan. My South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Teams will engage in the Oregon Solutions process to help coordinate state agency roles and responsibilities on project implementation.

I look forward to tracking this effort. Please keep my office updated, and thank you for your attention and interest in this critically important project.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

KB:lh/rc