

JP Marchetti-Mendez

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Testimony to Portland City Council on the Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project, Recommended Draft

Good morning, I want to urge the Portland City Council to adopt updated and accurate EZone maps to protect critical natural resources such as streams, wetlands, forests, steep slopes, and wildlife habitat inside the City. It just makes sense (who wants bad/outdated data?!). Updated Ezone maps are needed to replace the existing inaccurate maps and allow Portland to meet its own natural resource protection policies. This project will ensure Portland's long-standing natural resource protections will be applied correctly and as intended. Protecting Portland's streams, wetlands, steep slopes, forests/woodlands, and wildlife habitat has never been more important. Given the climate crisis, we know that flooding, landslides, and wildfires are becoming more frequent and intense. The updated Ezone maps will help mitigate the climate crisis by better protecting its streams, floodplains, wetlands, and forest/woodlands, which in turn sequester carbon, mitigate flooding and landslides impacts, and help cool and purify air and water, and provide habitat for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. This project reflects substantial public investment and unprecedented "boots on the ground" and connection with property owners. This project has been a huge investment for the city and the community. For more than three years the staff went to meet with Portlanders at their own meetings, and conducted more than 600 site visits to individual properties where property owners and staff conferred about the effort and the natural resources on the site. Thank you for considering it, JP Marchetti-Mendez

Testimony is presented without formatting.