

RESOLUTION No. 37117

Declare City Council support for the reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks and the development of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project (Resolution)

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1873, the Willamette Falls Locks opened to allow passage around the waterfall at Oregon City, thereby providing access to a one river system; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, the Army Corps of Engineers purchased the Locks from the private operator, thereby ensuring free public passage through the Locks; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the Willamette Falls Locks were listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it was the first significant facility built to improve navigation on the Columbia-Snake River Inland Waterway system and through 1939, the most important; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the Willamette Falls Locks were designated as a State Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Governor Kulongoski designated the Willamette Falls Locks as an Oregon Solutions project, and the Willamette Falls Locks Oregon Solutions Task Force was formed, which continues to the present as the One Willamette River Coalition coordinated by the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation to preserve the Locks and support its continued operation; and

WHEREAS, from 2006 through 2010, funding provided to the Army Corps of Engineers from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Clackamas County and the U.S. Congress allowed for seasonal operations and selected structural upgrades, including \$2.2 million in funds from the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5); and

WHEREAS, in November 2011, the Willamette Falls Locks were placed into "non-operational" status and on short notice were closed to vessel passage based upon an engineering assessment that identified safety concerns of potential failure; and

WHEREAS, closure has placed a severe hardship on commercial, recreational and tribal river users; and

WHEREAS, in March 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation declared the Willamette Falls Locks as one of the most threatened National Treasures, thereby providing technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (now Restore Oregon) named the Willamette Falls Locks as one of its 10 "Most Endangered Places;" and

WHEREAS, an application is being prepared for designation of the area surrounding the Locks as a National Heritage Area by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, ECO-Northwest, under contract with the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, published the "Willamette Locks Economic Potential Report," providing information on potential operating costs and community benefits of reopening the Locks; and

WHEREAS, the non-operational status of the Locks has rendered the Willamette river non-navigable above Willamette Falls; and

WHEREAS, the Locks are a primary historic asset under application being prepared for designation of the areas at the Willamette Falls as State and National Heritage Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of West Linn, Oregon City and Wilsonville have adopted formal Resolutions Supporting the Reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks;

WHEREAS, The Willamette Falls Legacy Project includes a public riverwalk providing access to the Falls in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, The Willamette Falls Legacy Project represents a joint effort by Oregon City, Metro, Clackamas County, and the State of Oregon and the property owner of the former Blue Heron Mill site to redevelop the site as a mixed use development; and

WHEREAS, The Willamette Falls Legacy Project will create vitally important jobs, economic opportunities, housing, historic, cultural and environmental enhancements of regional and statewide significance;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Portland City Council urges the Corps of Engineers to expedite the needed rehabilitation of the Willamette Falls Lock and reopen the Locks to the general public and commercial, recreational and marine traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland City Council supports recognition of the Willamette Falls Locks in the Regional Transportation Plan and inclusion of the Willamette Falls Locks as a Metro JPACT priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland City Council supports creation of a State Task Force to work with the Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for sustainable operations of the Willamette Falls Locks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland City Council supports the advancement and development of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland City Council urges the Oregon Congressional delegation to support the expedited repair and re-opening of the Willamette Falls Locks and the development of a public riverwalk at the site of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland City Council supports the rehabilitation of the Locks as an integral part of the State and National Heritage Area at Willamette Falls and the advancement of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project.

Adopted by the Council: APR 01 2015

Mayor Hales
Prepared by: Rachael Wiggins
Date Prepared: 03/24/2014

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland

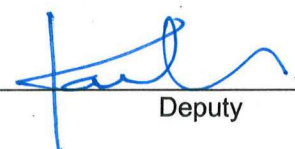
By 
Deputy

Agenda No.
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Title

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INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Mayor Hales/Commissioner FISH	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>MAR 27 2015</u>
COMMISSIONER APPROVAL	Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland By:  Deputy ACTION TAKEN:
Mayor—Finance and Administration - Hales	
Position 1/Utilities - Fritz	
Position 2/Works - Fish <i>com's for NICK FISH</i>	
Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman	
Position 4/Safety - Novick	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau: Mayor's Office	
Prepared by: Rachael Wiggins Date Prepared: 3/25/2015	
Financial Impact Statement & Public Involvement Statement	
Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/>	
Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan	
Council Meeting Date April 1, 2015	

AGENDA
TIME CERTAIN <input type="checkbox"/> Start time: _____
Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)
CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/>
REGULAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: 15 min (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish	✓	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	✓	
4. Novick	4. Novick	✓	
Hales	Hales	✓	