

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON**

**In the Matter of Reimbursing the Vernonia
Rural Fire Protection District Pursuant to
ORS 275.275(2)**

Order No. 13-2026

[2026 Distribution — Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District]

WHEREAS, on December 29, 1994, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Order No. 338-94 which, among other things, authorized the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District ("Vernonia RFPD") to apply for reimbursement for a portion of their operational costs due to the impaction on the District by natural gas exploration, development, transportation and storage in the Mist gas fields; and

WHEREAS, this reimbursement is made to the Vernonia RFPD under Order No. 338-94 out of the proceeds received from the Mist gas field and pursuant to ORS 275.275(2); and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2026, the Vernonia RFPD submitted a list of budgeted expenditures for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, along with the corresponding percentage which are a result of impaction in the amount of \$140,215.00, certified to be for the costs described above; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and approved these costs, and the Columbia County Treasurer has verified said costs; and

WHEREAS, the Request for Reimbursement and Certification, the Board's approval and the Treasurer's verification referred to above are attached hereto as Exhibits A, B and C, respectively, and are incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the amount available for reimbursement for impaction at this time is \$14,750.79 and, by prior agreement, Vernonia RFPD is entitled to thirty-four percent (34%) of those funds, \$5,015.27; and

WHEREAS, this matter is now before the Board of County Commissioners for approval of reimbursement in the amount of \$5,015.27, which is the allowable amount of reimbursement for the above-mentioned costs approved pursuant to Order No. 338-94;

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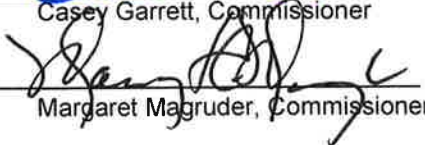
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Vernonia RFPD shall be reimbursed in the amount of \$5,015.27 as a portion of their operational costs due to impaction on the district by natural gas exploration, development, transportation and storage in the Mist gas fields, as described in the attached Exhibit A.

DATED this 17th day of June, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel



EXHIBIT A

May 11, 2026

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
ATTN: Pamela Smith
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

RE: 2025-2026 Impact Request

Pamela Smith,

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection district is asking for reimbursement of Impact Fund under ORS 275.275(2)(b). The following amount is being requested for reimbursement of operational costs in the amount of \$140,215.00.

Attached you will find a copy of our operational costs projected out in percentage based on our current budget for the 2025-2026 budget year. Additionally, you will find the attached copy of the signed certificate.

I would like to say that we at Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District appreciate the Board of Commissioners consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Greg Brody
Fire Chief
Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District



COST OF OPERATION

The following is a list of budgeted expenditures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and the corresponding percentage, which is a result if "Impaction".

<u>2025-2026 Budget</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>15% Impaction</u>
Personnel Services	\$ 648,000.00	\$ 97,200.00
Materials and Services	\$ 219,200.00	\$ 32,880.00
Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 67,566.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,135.00</u>
Sub Total	\$ 934,766.00	\$ 140,215.00

Total amount requested for reimbursement: \$140,215.00.

Note: Unappropriated, Debt Service, Operating Contingencies and Reserve Funds are not included in the above amounts.

If the total requests for reimbursement exceed the total amount available for disbursement from the "Impact fund", we request that the formula approved and applied in November of 1994 be used to determine the distribution amounts. Enclosed is a cost of operation statement and a certification of cost signed by our staff.



CERTIFICATE

On behalf of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, we certify that the attached "EXHIBIT A" is a listing of budgeted expenditures for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, along with the corresponding percentage, which is a result of "Impaction" on the district. This "Impaction" is due to the natural gas exploration, development, transportation and storage in the Mist gas fields. It has been determined that a portion of these operation costs are reimbursable under ORS 275.275 (2)(b).

Dated this 11th day of May 2026

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT



Greg Brody, VRFPD Fire Chief



Charollette Tannery, Lieutenant of Administration

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners

Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith
Casey Garrett

Administration

Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications

Mark Pacheco

**ST. HELENS, OR 97051**

230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
columbiacountyor.gov

To: Columbia County Treasurer

Date: June 10, 2026

RE: Review and Determination Regarding Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District's Request for Reimbursement, Certificate, and Cost Bill.

The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the request for reimbursement, certificate, and cost bill submitted by the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District for a portion of its operational costs incurred due to the impact on the district of natural gas exploration, development, transportation, and storage in the Mist gas field. The Board has determined that the documentation is adequate and that the operation costs incurred meet the requirements for which the Board originally approved reimbursement under ORS 275.275(2) in Order No. 338-94.

The Board hereby requests that you verify the cost bill sought for reimbursement, as required by ORS 275.275(5), and sign and return the attached verification document to the Board of Commissioners' Office.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Kellie Jo Smith
Chair

s/JN

**COLUMBIA COUNTY****Department of Finance**

Mary Ann Guess, Treasurer / Tax Collector

ST. HELENS, OR 970

230 Strand St., Room 254

Direct (503) 397 - 7331

Fax (503) 397 - 7251

www.columbiacountyor.gov**CERTIFICATE**

Pursuant to ORS 275.275(2)(b), I have reviewed the May 18, 2026, request for reimbursement, certificate and cost bill submitted by the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District and verify that, to the best of my knowledge, they are for a portion of the operational costs incurred due to the impaction on the district of natural gas exploration, development, transportation, and storage in the Mist gas fields. The Board of County Commissioners has determined these costs to be reimbursable under ORS 275.275(2)(b) and Order No. ___-2026.

Dated this 18th day of May 2026Mary Ann Guess
Columbia County Treasurer

By: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Guess", written over a horizontal line.
Mary Ann Guess