

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Supporting the Columbia )  
River Channel Deepening Project )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

RESOLUTION NO. 60-2004

WHEREAS, the deep-draft navigation channel in the lower Columbia River is an asset of national significance that provides competitive access to world markets that move an annual average of \$14 billion in waterborne cargo; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River deep-draft navigation channel is a major benefit to our regional trade-based economy and to rural and urban communities throughout the Pacific Northwest, providing thousands of jobs and \$208 million dollars annually in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, there are 40,000 jobs averaging \$46,000 in annual wages that are dependent on maritime commerce along the Columbia/Snake corridor and over 59,000 more jobs that are positively influenced by this maritime activity; and

WHEREAS, the federal navigation channel must be maintained at depths adequate to accommodate the deep-draft cargo vessels that increasingly dominate the world fleet; and

WHEREAS, it is the top marine transportation priority for lower Columbia River ports to deepen the federal navigation channel from 40 feet to 43 feet; and

WHEREAS, the channel deepening project has garnered favorable "no jeopardy" biological opinions by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, this project has been granted water quality and coastal zone management approvals from the state natural resource regulatory agencies in both Oregon and Washington and a Record of Decision (ROD) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); and

WHEREAS, \$55.4 million in state matching funds for this project has been fully appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the Project Cooperation Agreement between the Corps and non-federal sponsoring ports (ports of Portland and St. Helens in Oregon and Kalama, Longview, Vancouver and Woodland in Washington) has been executed which both parties agree to roles, responsibilities and cost sharing; and


WHEREAS, the Columbia River Channel Coalition was organized to build an alliance of organizations and individuals who support an economically viable and environmentally sound plan to deepen and maintain the Columbia deep-draft federal navigation channel to accommodate larger ships and enhance trade and job opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Columbia County hereby endorses and adds its support to the Columbia River Channel Coalition's efforts and is willing to advise federal elected officials of its support.

Dated in St. Helens, Oregon, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By:   
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By:   
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner