



---

CITY OF

---

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

---

**Sam Adams, Mayor**  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Randy Leonard, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner

---

February 23, 2010

Chair Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Jeff Cogen  
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Chair Wheeler, Commissioner Cogen and Commissioners,

As the City of Portland's representatives to the Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), we want to thank you again for your commitment and hard work during the Core 4 urban and rural reserve process. The recommendations before you bring us exceedingly close to a regional agreement on a long-range growth management plan that will cement a regional partnership for decades to come.

As you finalize an agreement with Metro, we would like to reiterate the recent recommendations on reserves by MPAC at their January 27, February 1, and February 10 meetings. These meetings represent 10 hours of deliberation and many more hours of preparation.

The MPAC recommendation addressed the areas of West Multnomah County known as Area 9, which contains sub-areas 9A, 9B, 9C and 9F. This area is of particular interest to Portland because of the proximity to the city, the NW Hills of Portland and Forest Park. Areas 9C and 9F were recommended for a rural reserve designation at the Core 4 final meeting on February 8, and we are very pleased with this outcome.

However, we note that Areas 9A and 9B remain "undesignated" in Multnomah County's proposed agreement with Metro. On February 1, MPAC recommended that both 9A and 9B be designated rural reserve by an overwhelming vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and with 2 abstentions. And on February 10, MPAC reaffirmed its original recommendation for all reserve areas by an overwhelming vote of 15-2.

For over a year, the city has studied these areas closely, and we have repeatedly urged a rural reserve designation for all of Area 9. Our reasons are found in several letters and testimony presented to you, Metro Council and the Core-4, dated October 16, 2009, December 10, 2009 and most recently January 11, 2010. We base our conclusion on the urban and rural land suitability factors, Metro's Guiding Principles for making great communities, and the region's urban land needs recommended in the COO's Urban Growth Report. We examined governance, the relative cost of services—especially transportation and expected maintenance liabilities—the expected effectiveness of transit, and impacts to significant natural landscape features of Forest Park, and the impacts on natural resources, wildlife habitat, and water quality. As you finalize your agreement with Metro, we urge you to give serious consideration to the recommendations of MPAC and the City of Portland and amend the agreement to reflect a rural designation for all of Area 9.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of the city, the county, and this region we all love.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Adams

Commissioner Amanda Fritz