



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
3867 Wolverine St. NE, F-16 - Salem, OR 97305 - Phone (503) 399-5741, Ext. 3 - Fax (503) 399-5799

Permanent Rate Limit

A resolution proposing a permanent rate limit in the amount of \$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2001-2002 to be placed on the November 7, 2000 Ballot to provide permanent stable funding for operation of Marion Soil and Water Conservation District.

WHEREAS, the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District has determined the public demand for technical assistance has reached the point where additional personnel is required;

Whereas, the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District has identified a need for a stable funding source;

WHEREAS, State of Oregon Ballot Measures 47 and 50 provide the framework for voter approved local taxes;

Whereas, the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District has determined that \$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value is within State of Oregon Ballot Measures 47 and 50, which is available to the District; and,

WHEREAS; it is the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District intent to submit a ballot measure at the next November General Election for a permanent rate limit to the registered voters of the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District for approval;

NOW THEREFORE, the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District does ordain as follows:

For the purpose fiscal stability to the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District's General Fund, ensuring funding for technical assistance to address water quality issues in the Clean Water Act, Senate Bill 1010 Water Management Plan and Endangered Species Act at service demand levels of residents, a permanent rate limit proposal of \$.05 per \$1000 assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2001-2002.

This measure shall be submitted to the electors of the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District, for their approval or rejection, at the State General Election held November 7, 2000.

The following authorized district official hereby certifies the above permanent rate limit resolution is true and complete.

Jeanne Fromm
Signature of authorized district official

Jeanne Fromm
Printed name of authorized district official

September 7, 2000
Date signed

District Chair
Title

SEP 10 7 24 AM '00

Permanent Rate Limit - Marion SWCD General Election November 7, 2000

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is asking voters within the District for a new permanent rate limit of .05 cents per \$1000 assessed value. The \$590,000 annual income from this permanent rate limit would enable the District to provide soil and water conservation technical assistance to urban and rural residents of the District, and to cities, special districts, and watershed councils in the District.

Since the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, farmers in the District have been able to get help on soil erosion and water conservation problems from the federally-funded Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The District provided administrative services to the local NRCS staff. The Federal government has reduced staff to the point the present staff has no time for landowners not in a federal program. The District has attempted to fill the void with employees funded by the state and county.

In the past two years requests to the District for technical assistance have multiplied. Feeling the pressure exerted by the Federal Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, not only farmers, but cities, special districts and watershed councils are all requesting technical assistance from the District. Unfortunately, these requests come at a time when funding is limited from existing sources. Grants are available only for projects, not for ongoing technical assistance. County budget, affected by property tax limitations, are strained to provide financing for the District. Funding from State of Oregon has been cut almost 30% over the last two years. As a consequence, the District finds itself with funding for only 2 1/2 employees to provide the technical assistance once provided by 21 federal employees.

To deal with its lack of stable funding, the District has decided to proceed with the development of its own permanent rate limit. If voters approve the permanent rate limit, the District will hire additional employees to provide soil and water conservation technical assistance for the Oregon Plan, Senate Bill 1010 Plan, Endangered Species Act, Watershed Health, and Water Quality Monitoring expertise, as well as, administrative and coordination of support services.

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board stress their commitment to offer technical assistance to all residents of the district. Pollution clean up by urban and rural residents will be required by the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Most cities and special districts do not have the expertise to deal with soil and water conservation matters such as identifying soil types, controlling soil erosion, managing fertilizers and pesticides, designing efficient irrigation systems, designing vegetative strips to catch pollutants before they reach streams, and designing vegetation restoration along streams and flood plains. These are the services the District could provide to all its residents.

Total words 464

Authorized Signature

Jeanne Fromm

Title District Chair

Print Name Jeanne Fromm

Local Government Unit Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

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