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City of Coos Bay
Planning Commission
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Planning Commission Directors:

I oppose changing the zoning of any Natural or Conservation designated Estuary Units in the Coos Bay waterways as these areas are specifically already protected and zoned appropriately, as they were inventoried 40 years ago and designated. Goal #16 of the Statewide Planning Guide explains the importance of maintaining the natural and conservation units in our estuary to protect fragile habitats while allowing only a few uses: recreation, fishing, shellfish farming and maintenance of eel grass beds as nursery areas for estuary species. Changing these designations should NOT be allowed as the estuary acts as a carbon sink especially the eel grass bed areas already designated as specie habitats. Removing eel grass beds, or other estuary grasses which absorb carbon to then build a carbon emitter seems very much against the Oregon Climate Pact of 2015 as well as the Estuary Protection Act of 1968. Building a carbon or methane emitter on the bay is madness in terms of habitat destruction, greenhouse gas emissions and overall expense to the health of all the inhabitants in Coos Bay and North Bend. Allowing a carbon sink to be degraded while allowing a carbon emitter to be built is adverse and very disturbing.

No alterations to the Natural Estuary units should be made. Other Units should remain Conservation. Recreation and Tourism is the future, not a filthy fossil fuel project.

Sarah Crawford