SUBJECT: Policy on Government to Government Relations with Oregon Tribes

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish, improve and maintain partnerships with Oregon's Indian Tribal governments, while seeking to better understand each other, and work cooperatively to identify and address mutual goals and concerns arising from state land use policy that affects Tribal interests. To the extent possible, work to have the growth management and resource conservation objectives of both the State and the Tribes compatible with one another. Improve upon or design solutions and programs to help reach these objectives.

REFERENCE: Authorities are Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes that govern state/tribal relations and the actions and responsibilities of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. In addition, the policy reflects gubernatorial direction as outlined in Executive Order 96-30 and legislative direction as provided in Senate Bill 770 (2001).

POLICY: It is the policy of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to:

- Facilitate better relations between the Tribes and state and local government.

- Establish a notification process to better coordinate and inform Tribes, and state and local governments about development projects under consideration, and about long-term economic and community land use objectives. Determine what projects and land use policy issues are of interest to the Tribes and keep them informed.

- Continue "Government-to-Government" relations on land use matters at the regional level between state agency contacts in the field (or region), local government planning department staff and Tribal administrators within the region, including Regional Partnerships and Regional Economic Revitalization Teams.

- Work with Tribal governments to share information that supports
development and maintenance of resource management plans, development policies and Tribal zoning ordinances applicable to lands held in trust. In the interests of state, local and Tribal governments, encourage Tribal land use policies and zoning to be similar and compatible with Oregon’s land use planning system, including policies for preserving Oregon’s best agricultural lands.

- Continue to assist local governments and the Tribes in natural and cultural resource site protection programs under the statewide planning goals.

- Be accountable for a land use program that is coordinated and consistent with the efforts under the Governor's Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative, and keep the Tribes informed of such actions that may affect Tribal interests.

- Work with Tribal governments and stakeholders to find ways to continue government-to-government relations with fewer resources.

- In conjunction with the work plans of the Natural Resources Work Group and Cultural Resources Cluster Group, continue to work with Tribal governments to assess what implications state and local waivers issued under ORS 197.352 will have on Tribal interests, particularly with respect to natural and cultural resources and sites.

- Involve Tribal Governments, through a Working Group and Economic Development Cluster, in the development of a work plan to address the process by which sewer service may be extended to tribal lands located adjacent to urban growth boundaries or unincorporated communities.

In addition to the provisions of this policy aimed specifically at relations with Oregon’s Tribal governments, the Department has reflected its overall communication policy with local governments, included Tribes, within DLCD Policy No. 06-01: Local and Tribal Government Communication Policy.

Accomplishments made by the Department in response to this policy, and since the Executive Order (EO-96-30) was established in 1996, are found in the Annual Reports presented each year to the Governor and Legislative Commission on Indian Services.