



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

FROM: Gerry Thompson *Gerry*

SUBJECT: Harney County/Malheur Lake

DATE: April 11, 1984

Quick recap of DISASTER REQUEST TO PRESIDENT

1. 3/21/84 We advised you by telephone that FEMA was willing to receive a request from you to the President for a disaster declaration to accomodate relief for residents and repair of public roads and the railroad.
2. Preliminary request to the President through FEMA over my signature 3/22/84.
3. Official request sent by courier to you on 3/23/84 (to be signed and sent as a ratification of my preliminary letter).
4. Our office ^{*was*} advised about 7 days later of receipt of your official request which had, in turn, been forwarded to the President.
5. All of Oregon's Congressional delegation sent copies of your request. Nearly all pledged support with Bob Smith, Packwood being the two most ardent and active.
6. In conversation with Packwood's office today (4-11-84), rumor had it that the President may make his decision Friday, 4-13-84. As of evening of 4-11-84, we were unable to confirm rumor. *AS OF 4-12-84, VERSTANDIG'S OFFICE WAS CHECKING THIS RUMOR FOR US.*

Quick recap of request to Corps of Engineers to review, under the advance measures provision of PL 84-99, the feasibility of CONSTRUCTING AN OUTLET CHANNEL.

1. 3/28/84 we advised you by telephone that the Corps seemed optimistic about a request for a feasibility study and that they felt we needed to move quickly. The Corps advised that June 1 would be an absolute deadline for construction to affect this year's flooding.
2. You instructed us to send request. A preliminary request was sent over my signature with the understanding my action would be ratified by an official request from you. Packet sent to you by courier and you sent ratification.

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3. You instructed, via me, all involved state agencies to immediately begin a concurrent review to assess environmental, economical and legal issues. The county was also asked to conduct a concurrent review.
4. Lynn Hardy (Emergency Management) was asked to coordinate an agency task force.
5. All congressional delegation was notified and copied by your request as were all Oregon legislators.
6. We stressed this action was only a request for a feasibility study and was totally separate from the request for a disaster declaration by the President.
7. Friday, April 6, we heard rumors the Corps was going to deny the request.
8. Official letter of denial by Corps, dated April 9, was received in our office April 11, 1984. (see attached)
9. Congressman Bob Smith & Senator Packwood notified by me of Corps' action. They were stunned and angry.
10. Have stated publicly that we would review with you upon your return before any further action taken. Agency heads notified morning of April 12, 1984.

GT:ds

Attachments