

# FEMA denies that Fema Funds were denied to Bayshore

by Glen Morris  
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On June 18th, three days before FEMA was closing projects, they contacted me to ask if we had any expended funds. At that point, I used the river flooding analogy and complained (nicely) that I was upset that we were denied funding.

At that point, the FEMA person denied that we were denied. When I said I had a written denial, she demanded that I submit it to her at once by e-mail. Within 10 minutes, I had an e-mail back saying that we would have funding and she, personally, would take care of getting the right people to contact me. I explained that I had the 25% match commitment from the State but that I had to release the money because of being denied the FEMA claim and that I expected that FEMA would straighten the situation out. She promised that she would work on it right away.

On June 19th, I got a telephone call and 7 FEMA/State people were down in Bayshore and wanted to meet with me NOW. We talked about the situation, visited the site where the sand was to be moved onto the beach, and they told me what they needed by Thursday, June 21st.

I met with the County, Gary Tryon of TRI-AGG, and several other people to get cost estimates, review the affected areas, and get signatures. In the meantime, I was e-mailed that I needed a special permission form to cross the vacant lot (even though I had a signed letter from the property owner) and the beach access. Fortunately, the property owner, who lives in Washington, was actually in Bayshore at that specific moment in time. He signed the FEMA approval letter and Anne Weeks signed the approval letter for using the Beach Access on behalf of the Homeowners Association, who had approved it in March, and again now because there was a new Board elected in May. All forms were completed and submitted to FEMA by Fax, including maps, at 1:30 P.M. on the 21st. I signed the Project letter at 4:30 P.M. Copies of the approved Project were faxed to the County and the State.

There was a meeting on June 27th of all of the Federal, State, and local agencies that have anything to do with the Permitting, special studies, and other input. In addition to FEMA, State Parks, DCLD, Oregon Infra-Structure Agency, Lincoln County Planning, and Lincoln County Public Works (who will be coordinating and managing the project for the Road District) were in attendance.

The initial statement by the FEMA Environmental person was that this project would have a Federal NEXUS (whatever that means) and that, as a result, the environmental, archeological, history, endangered species, and other studies could be expected to take 2 to 5 YEARS and that nothing could be done in the meantime.

After a rather heated discussion by the County and State staff members, a compromise has been tentatively reached. It is not the best solution, but it will allow work to begin while studies are underway.