



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

December 9, 2025

Council President Lynn Peterson; Metro Council  
VIA EMAIL  
Re: Washington County seat on the MERC

Dear Metro Council President and Councilors:

The Washington County Board of Commissioners is reaching out to recommend Dave Parulo, the President and CEO of Explore Tualatin Valley, to replace the retired Deanna Palm on the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC).

Since Mr. Parulo has joined Explore Tualatin Valley in 2021, he has worked to develop deep understanding of the advantages of bringing more tourism and visitors to the region, not just making the Tualatin Valley a place for day trips, but highlighting the opportunities when people visit and stay in the region. This perspective will bring benefits to the MERC as it focuses on the Metro run venues and opportunities to expand the opportunities for all types of events.

Mr. Parulo's career has taken him across the nation, with accolades for his work in developing strategies to market regions to visitors. His work in the hospitality industry will also help with the decision-making and policy development across the broad portfolio of spaces that the MERC is tasked with supporting and developing.

The event spaces that the MERC provides oversight to are vital pieces to the regional economy, bringing people into the region for events and entertainment. Bring people into region bolsters the reputation and opportunities for visiting throughout the region, and supporting the MERC's work is key to continuing to see tourism impact our communities.

Acknowledging the important and dedicated work of Deanna Palm in representing the Washington County perspective at the MERC, we enthusiastically endorse Dave Parulo for the Washington County seat on the MERC upon her retirement. We know he will continue to work in partnership with the region in this role.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Harrington  
Chair, on behalf of the Washington Board of County Commissioners