

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

On or about May Seventeenth, KIEM TV reported that the U.S. Postal Service says that the Eureka Mail Processing Center will be moving to Medford in July of this year. So what's new? They announced those plans in Twenty Fourteen. There were public meetings with the majority of attendees objecting to the proposed move. U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson was against the move as is our current Congressman Jared Huffman. Postal administrators were present at the public meetings but took no heed to the objections. I am sure their minds were made up long before they hit town. The recent KIEM TV report states that a representative with the USPS told News Channel Three that the agency is currently working out transportation logistics and conducting feasibility studies. They will have those complete in July and will then begin the transition to Medford. In my opinion, when you plan for a change, first the idea is hatched followed by a study to see if the proposed idea is feasible followed (in this case) by a transportation logistic study. THEN you make the decision and notify those affected. In this case, the USPS made up its mind first and followed with what should be the required study. As far as logistics, there is not much to study; there are two ways to get to Medford from here. You measure the mileage; figure the expense per mile and the regularity of the trips. As far as a feasibility study, they have already admitted that there will be at least a one day delivery delay because of the distance involved and that only four percent of the mail from the county will be addressed locally. I don't know what the percentage of the mail was locally addressed years ago but I can state that it has always been less than fifty percent. They state that delivery time will be delayed by one day. That is a deliberate lowering of delivery standards. Some of you may remember the time when your post office had a mail collection drop for 'Eureka only'. That was discontinued with automation with the letter sorting machine separating 'Eureka' mail in the workroom. Question: if the amount of county mail is so small (four percent as stated), why not install a separate drop designated for mail addressed to that post office only such as Eureka only, or Arcata only or Fortuna only as examples. Mailed today, delivered tomorrow with minimal employees involved in the processing. In fact, there would be no increase in work hours in a small office as the postmaster or clerk has to be there anyway. Of course the argument that you would probably get from the postal service would be that the postmarks are affixed at the distribution center not at the local office. Ah mechanization and long term short sightedness!

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