



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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Date: October 6, 2016
To: Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney,
House Speaker Tina Kotek, State Resilience Officer Mike Harryman,
Legislative Assembly
From: Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)
Critical Buildings Working Group
Subject: Recommendations to Update and Expand the Oregon Critical Building Database

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) is pleased to provide recommendations to update and expand Oregon's current seismic database of critical buildings. OSSPAC's mission is to reduce earthquake risks by developing and influencing policy at the federal, state and local levels, facilitating improved public understanding and encouraging identification of risk and supporting research, mitigation, and resilience. A key role of the Commission is to review and advise the Governor and Legislative Assembly on plans and proposals addressing seismic hazards.

The safety and continued functionality of critical buildings during and immediately after a magnitude 9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake is essential to our State's resilience. Of the many classes of buildings described in the Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP), the following are among the most important:

- public schools,
- fire and police stations, and
- hospitals and emergency operations centers.

Without the resilience of these vital facilities, the State's recovery will be severely compromised. To this end, ORS 455.400 mandates a deadline of 2022 to mitigate all state emergency facilities for immediate occupancy and a deadline of 2032 for all schools to be life-safe.

The Statewide Seismic Needs Assessment (SSNA) database has served as an important tool in defining the magnitude of the problem the State faces and highlighting the need for seismic resilience to both decision makers and the public. However, it was developed by DOGAMI in 2007 and it urgently needs to be updated and expanded. It also needs to be made more transparent, more widely available and needs to track progress toward the 2022/2032 deadlines mandated by State law. This was a key recommendation of the 2013 Senate Bill 33 Task Force on Resilience Plan Implementation made in October of 2014.

In order for the Legislature to be sure that ORS 455.400 is being followed, the State needs both a comprehensive and accurate database and a score card tracking progress toward the mitigation deadlines. This is the only way to ensure real progress on reducing Oregon's risk.

OSSPAC recommends that the current seismic database of critical buildings be updated and expanded. Specifically:

1. Review all current building data for accuracy, including ensuring that each discrete building of a facility is included separately in the database.
2. Update for missing buildings and ensure that database includes all critical buildings, including recent construction in order to provide a complete picture of the State's buildings.

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3. Update building data using the newest version of the FEMA 154 screening methodology and highlight all collapse-prone buildings.
4. Add key telecommunication infrastructure buildings to the database.
5. Add State government-owned buildings valued over \$1 million to the database.
6. Perform benefit cost analyses (BCA) on selected buildings. The Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office (DAS CFO) has developed a new DAS BCA tool that could be further developed for use by others.
7. Prioritize selected buildings for seismic mitigation. DAS CFO has developed a building prioritization scoring method that could be further developed for use by others.
8. Develop a tracking and updating methodology to easily update database in future and to create a scorecard for how the State is tracking to 2022/2032 deadlines.

OSSPAC further recommends that the updated critical buildings database be made more transparent and accessible to the public. Specifically:

1. Ensure that the database is comprehensive and that all the data is accessible from one location.
2. Ensure that the database is accurate, regularly maintained and significantly updated at least once every 2 years (to align with the legislative biennium) after this update project is completed.
3. Ensure that the database is available to the public and includes easy scorecards in relation to the 2022/2032 State deadlines.

OSSPAC respectfully recommends that the Legislature and/or Governor determine which agency should be responsible for each recommended task and that the Legislature provide adequate funds for full implementation of each task.