



From the Director:

On behalf of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), our department is pleased to provide the Planning for Natural Hazards: Oregon Technical Resource Guide.

The Guide is part of the state's response to the damaging flood and landslide events of 1996 and 1997. Following those disasters, Governor Kitzhaber directed our agency to review Statewide Planning Goal 7 (Natural Hazards) to see if more could be done through the state land use program to reduce the risks to life and property.

With the support of a federal hazard mitigation grant, our review of Goal 7 began in 1998 with the assistance of a consultant team from the University of Oregon's Community Planning Workshop. We conducted a statewide survey of local planning officials and met with hazard experts and state agencies. The survey revealed two priorities for many local planners: 1) the need for updated information about natural hazards affecting their communities, and 2) practical examples and technical assistance to help strengthen the hazard provisions of their comprehensive plans and implementing regulations. In June 1999, based on the survey and the recommendations of a state-local advisory committee, LCDC directed the department to prepare a package of technical assistance materials for local governments on natural hazards.

The department believes that the task of addressing natural hazards adequately in the planning and development of Oregon's communities will become more important as our state's population continues to grow. We hope the Guide will help lead to improved comprehensive plans to relieve the mounting pressures to develop in hazard areas.

The department is grateful for the assistance of many local and state specialists who volunteered their time and expertise to review the drafts of the Guide and offered many useful suggestions. Their contributions were invaluable in making sure that the Guide is technically accurate and presents practical planning assistance in an easy-to-use format.

The Natural Hazard Guide demonstrates our department's continuing commitment to respond to the technical assistance needs of local governments as they carry out their many responsibilities under Oregon's statewide planning program. Those using the Guide are encouraged to share it with others and copy pertinent sections to further expand their awareness of the importance of natural hazards in land use planning.

Please feel free to write or contact the department concerning any questions, corrections or improvements to the Guide. A 'comment card' is included with the document. In the future, if budget funds permit, we hope to prepare and distribute updated supplements to the Guide.

Sincerely,

Richard Benner, Director

