



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: (503) 373-0050

Fax: (503) 378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD



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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission
FROM: Patrick Wingard, North Coast Regional Representative
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6, September 24-25, LCDC Meeting**

TSUNAMI PLANNING

I. OVERVIEW

Oregon's Coastal Management Program (OCMP) is the combined effort of 32 cities, seven counties and a host of state agencies that carry out the statewide planning program on the coast. The value of the networked program resides not only within the coordinated plans and policies that form the legal framework for the system but within the people that steward the program. The human network of city and county officials, department staff and agency partners that comprise the OCMP offer fertile ground for building strong collaborative partnerships. This report will exemplify how these relationships are leveraged to advance tsunami planning initiatives and resiliency efforts in the north coast communities of Clatsop County and Cannon Beach.

For additional information about this report, please contact Patrick Wingard, North Coast Regional Representative at 503-812-5448 or at patrick.wingard@state.or.us.

A. Clatsop County

Clatsop County is moving toward the final stages of adopting a Tsunami Hazard Overlay (THO) zoning district that focuses on land use strategies to reduce tsunami risk. The county has given special attention to public involvement, education and outreach, and coastal resilience in this planning effort. The proposed comprehensive plan policies and code provisions that were developed as part of this project were modeled on the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD or department) April 2015 *Preparing for a Cascadia Subduction Zone Tsunami: A Land Use Guide for Oregon Coastal Communities*. Clatsop County is on track to become the first coastal jurisdiction to adopt land use provisions related to tsunami. Draft comprehensive plan and code provisions, developed by a diverse citizen advisory committee, were completed in June 2015 and adoption is scheduled for December. The OCMP awarded a \$7000 technical assistance grant to Clatsop County for the project.

Phase I of the THO project began in February 2015. Project work tasks included appointment of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) by the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, development of project goals and objectives, robust public education and outreach through public meetings and workshops, and development of the CAC’s recommended draft comprehensive plan policies and land use provisions. Phase II began in July with the focus on public hearings and adoption.

Clatsop County’s future resiliency planning work will focus on the development of a Tsunami Evacuation Facilities Improvement Plan (Plan) to assess tsunami risk and vulnerability, determine evacuation needs and evaluate existing facilities. The Plan will also identify design standards and needed improvements in addition to implementation and financing options and accompanying development code and comprehensive plan amendments.

As part of Clatsop County’s Transportation System Plan (2014-15) project, the project advisory committee applied a “resiliency filter” in its evaluation and selection of transportation improvement project alternatives. This filter gave extra weight and prioritization to projects that advanced local and regional resiliency efforts (e.g., roads/trails that served as evacuation routes for natural hazards) in addition to addressing standard needs of the transportation system.

In February 2013, the Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted rule amendments to allow within forest zones the siting of storage structures for emergency supplies to serve communities and households as part of tsunami preparedness planning efforts (OAR 660-006-0005 and 0025). Shortly thereafter, the Clatsop County Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for the city of Cannon Beach to construct an emergency supply storage structure on city-owned forest land located outside of the tsunami inundation zone and beyond the city’s urban growth boundary (UGB).

B. Cannon Beach

The city of Cannon Beach has undertaken several robust tsunami evacuation route and facilities planning and development projects in past years. Cannon Beach relies on a citizen advisory committee to continually assess and improve tsunami evacuation route signage, mapping and maintenance. Everything in Cannon Beach is done with public participation and evacuation route work is no exception.

In 2013, Cannon Beach purchased 55 acres of vacant forest land at the southeast corner of the city as a potential relocation site for critical facilities (public safety buildings, school, emergency shelter). With assistance from DLCD staff, the site has been annexed into the city limits. The city is currently working with DLCD staff on a phased approach to UGB expansions at the site to accommodate future utility extensions and other improvements outside of the tsunami inundation zone. Developing this property to support critical facilities will require a substantial public investment in both buildings and infrastructure. Transportation infrastructure improvements, in particular, are likely to be more costly than originally thought. As a result, progress on this project has been relatively slow. Assistance from the North Coast Regional Solutions Team may be needed.

Cannon Beach supported DLCD's work to develop the tsunami land use guidance booklet and the department's recent coastal resilience grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Like all other coastal communities, Cannon Beach lacks the resources to tackle the broad spectrum of resiliency planning projects and initiatives that need to be completed in advance of the Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami. Maintaining a strong partnership with DLCD is essential for advancing these important long-range planning and resiliency programs.

One of the city's three emergency cache sites is outside of the city limits/UGB, on forest land. DLCD staff assisted the city on zoning and permitting for the cache site. It is possible, perhaps likely, that the city will expand the cache site program. DLCD's guidance on the existing cache site will be a useful template for future cache sites outside of the city limits/UGB.

The Cannon Beach community is continually devising creative ways to engage residents and visitors on tsunami planning efforts. The second annual Race The Wave event will be held on Sunday, September 28 – everyone is invited! Race the Wave pairs recreation with awareness of tsunami evacuation routes and preparedness. The race begins on the beach and goes through the city's main evacuation routes before ending at supply cache containers located outside of the tsunami inundation zone. The event will highlight work Cannon Beach has done locally to prepare for a potential earthquake and tsunami. Race the Wave is supported by the city of Cannon Beach, Clatsop County Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Office on Disability & Health at Oregon Health & Sciences University, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X Office, and the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Cannon Beach tries to incorporate disaster resilience into its day-to-day decision-making. The Coastal Management Program's South Clatsop Resilience Network project, completed in January 2015, helped to further these efforts. The city is planning for seismic upgrades to its water tanks and the Fir Street Bridge. The bridge upgrade, in particular, is critical for the timely evacuation of the downtown area after a local Cascadia earthquake. The city regularly re-evaluates its disaster preparedness measures; both the individual elements and the overall program. The city's Emergency Operations Plan is currently undergoing revision.