

Title of the Work Group: Multi-Agency Tsunami Line Work Group

Mike Harryman, State Resilience Officer and Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor will co-lead this work group.

Background

Tsunami Inundation Line (TIL) legislation was passed in 1995 as SB 379, and the tsunami line rules were adopted by DOGAMI in 1996/1997. This line restricts construction of certain essential facilities, hazardous facilities, major structures, and special occupancy structures. Types of structures and facilities that are located within the inundation zone denoted by the TIL, by statute of Oregon Administrative Rules, gives authority to DOGAMI to allow exemptions by following a set process.

The tsunami line adopted in 1996/1997 is still in use today. In 2013 DOGAMI updated tsunami mapping, which introduced the so-called “t-shirt” sizes of tsunami (S, M, L, XL, and XXL). The American Society of Civil Engineers developed the nationally-vetted ASCE 7-16 Tsunami Guidelines, intended to be adopted into building codes in 2019.

Work Group Charge/Scope of Work

The DOGAMI Board adopted a motion to formally request the Governor’s Office convene and lead a multi-agency taskforce for the purpose of recommending updates to the statutory requirements found in ORS 455.446 (Construction of certain facilities and structures in tsunami inundation zone prohibited) and ORS 455.447 (Regulation of certain structures vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis); and to propose a legislative approach and timeline for any recommended statutory changes. This multi-agency taskforce proposes to include the following:

- Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)
- Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

Intended Duration of Work Group Term

The intent is to hold 3-5 meetings that will be facilitated by GO staff, attendance can be either in person or by conference line. Meetings would start in February 2019 and be completed by June 2019.

Form of Advice

The work group is expected to make recommendations to the GO staff on which Tsunami Inundation Line to develop possible legislation for the 21-23 session.

Current options expressed by the DOGAMI Board

- The SB 379 existing line is similar to the M-line in many places, less so with the L-line.
- There is significant public interest in the reasons for changing the line, particularly in communities that have made decisions based on the existing line.
- Based on different methodology, the ASCE7 differs from both the existing line and from the 2013 DOGAMI tsunami inundation lines, including L1. Note difference in methodology:
 - “T-shirt” inundation zone lines were developed by DOGAMI and are based on understanding of the Cascadia subduction zone geophysics, guided by a 10,200 year history of great earthquakes on the subduction zone.
 - ASCE-7 line was developed by a committee of international experts, including faculty at Oregon State University, is based on assumptions driven by probabilistic Tsunami Hazard analysis. These assumptions incorporate knowledge of local geophysics, as well as assumptions from global models.

Openness of Meetings

GO staff will staff the meeting with meeting materials being posted on the State Resilience website.