

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 03-094

Directing the Facilities and Property Management Division and the Transportation Division to Assess the Potential for Earthquake Damage to County-owned Public Facilities and to Address Mitigation of the Risk of Earthquake Damage in Capital Improvement Plans

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. On June 30, 1992, this Board adopted Resolution 92-121 directing Facilities Management, Transportation and Risk Management staff to assess the vulnerability of county structures to earthquake damage and to use seismic mitigation strategies in any new construction in the 1992-93 budget years. The resolution further provided that the Board would consider new strategies to address earthquake preparedness as new information became available.
- b. Since Resolution 92-121 was adopted, significant new research has been done concerning the likelihood and severity of earthquakes in Multnomah County.
- c. Since Resolution 92-121 was adopted, the county has taken the following actions to mitigate earthquake damage to persons and property in and around county owned and occupied facilities:
 - 22 buildings, representing most of the major, older County buildings, have had preliminary seismic studies prepared by structural engineers
 - Substantial seismic renovation was accomplished at Central Library, North Portland Library, Elections Building, Kelly Building, the south half of the Walnut Park Building and the GCC Service Building.
 - The ten new buildings built since 1993 are built to Seismic Zone 3 standards
 - Sale or offering for sale of three of the most seismically-deficient buildings: Ford Building which has been sold, Gresham Neighborhood Center which is being sold and Morrison Building which is being offered for sale.
 - The Burnside Bridge, a designated Regional Lifeline, has received a Phase 1 seismic retrofit to its approach ramps, with deck, beams, and girders tied to supporting substructure. (Main span Phase 1, and substructure Phase 2, remains to be done.)

- Commencement of construction of three projects which will provide enhanced seismic safety for County operations which will be located in the project improvements: GCC "MDT Building" renovation and new construction to current Zone 3 codes at Wapato Facility and Hillsdale Library.
 - Extensive study of County Courthouse options, driven in large measure by concerns about that building's seismic performance, has been undertaken.
- d. A November, 2001 report entitled "Summary Report of Structural/Seismic Evaluations for Multnomah County Buildings" (Report) summarized seismic studies previously done on twenty-two Multnomah County owned and occupied buildings. The Report indicates that a number of county owned and occupied public facilities may be susceptible to significant earthquake damage from a major seismic event in the Portland Metropolitan area.
 - e. A July 1996 Report entitled, "Willamette River Bridges Main Spans Seismic Evaluation," and a November 1996 ODOT Report entitled, "Seismic Vulnerability of Local Agency Bridges," have been prepared summarizing the Phase 1 (superstructure) and Phase 2 (substructure) seismic remediation work which needs to be done on the six Multnomah County Willamette River bridges.
 - f. It is important for the Board to regularly assess the seismic vulnerability of county owned and occupied structures and plans for mitigation of potential earthquake damage. The annual consideration of capital improvement projects is the most appropriate process by which to assess such risks and mitigation plans. However, whenever significant mid-year developments require reassessment of approved plans, such developments should be presented to the Board with recommendations for supplements and revisions to approved capital improvement budgets.
 - g. The County has limited resources to fund a broad range of programs important to the public; earthquake damage mitigation is one of many competing priorities.
 - h. The Board is responsible for allocating limited county resources through its annual operating budget and capital budget. Upon weighing the available information on seismic activity, the structural integrity of county transportation facilities and county owned and occupied buildings, and competing budget interests, the Board of County Commissioners concludes that the actions and policy described in this resolution are an appropriate response.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

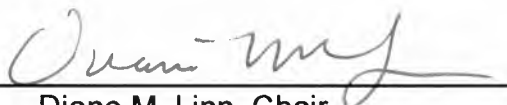
1. The Board is committed to assessing the seismic vulnerability of county owned and occupied structures and mitigation of potential earthquake damage. The Transportation and Facilities and Property Management Divisions (Divisions) are directed to continue to assess earthquake risk to county facilities and to develop plans for risk mitigation.

2. The Board further directs the Divisions to address earthquake mitigation as part of their budget prioritization in the Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) and to include in the CIPs a detailed statement of all work needed to mitigate potential earthquake damage that, for budgetary reasons, is not included in the CIP.
3. The Divisions are further directed to advise the Board of any significant developments occurring after adoption of the CIP that affect earthquake preparedness and that the Board should consider for mid-year amendment to the CIP.

ADOPTED this 19th day of June, 2003.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
John S. Thomas, Assistant County Attorney