



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/3/2014)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 8/18/15  
Agenda Item #: B.1  
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am  
Date Submitted: 8/13/15

**Agenda Title:** **Board Briefing on Regional Efforts of the Columbia River Levee System Repair and Accreditation Oregon Solutions Project**

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** August 18, 2015 **Time Needed:** 1 Hour  
**Department:** Community Services **Division:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact(s):** Kim Peoples  
**Phone:** 503-988-5880 **Ext.** 85880 **I/O Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Christine Lewis, Policy Director, District 1

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Briefing on regional efforts to identify issues, deficiencies and potential strategies to address the deficiencies in the Multnomah County portion of the Columbia River levee system.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Upon recent loss of Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) accreditation for the levees within Peninsula Drainage Districts Nos. 1 and 2 (Pen 1 & 2) Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) which manages the Districts, requested the Oregon Solutions program to conduct an assessment for a collaborative process to address needed improvements to the levee system in those two districts in order to ensure re-accreditation of the levees and protect both the property (in case of high water) and property values behind the levees.

Subsequently, the County and the City of Portland co-convened the Columbia River Levee Repair and Accreditation Oregon Solutions Project team which is a cross sector regional team working together to address the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) accreditation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approval, and safety of all the Columbia River levees within Multnomah County.

The first phase of the Oregon Solutions process (Phase 1), which began in December of 2013 focused on identifying issues or shortcomings in the levee system that need to be addressed in Peninsula Drainage District's Nos. 1 and 2. The Oregon Solutions Team participants also engaged in a learning process about both the FEMA accreditation requirements and USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

Over the next 12-18 months the project team will expand the geographic scope to complete similar assessments for the Multnomah County Drainage District, Sandy drainage Improvement Company and Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company. The assessments will include physical inventories that will set the stage for evaluating solutions to the issues and shortcomings in all five districts.

The project goals include:

- A funding strategy to support the assessments and necessary repairs of the levees so that they are certified by consulting engineer as being protective of a 1% chance of flood, i.e., 100 year flood event.
- Achieve FEMA accreditation on a timeline and in a manner that will prevent the area from being designated on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps as a "Significant Flood Hazard Area."
- Create transparency in the process, so that residents and property owners are kept informed and are provided with opportunities for input and involvement.
- Meet USACE standards to stay in the Corps' Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

During the FY 2016 budget process, a Budget Note was adopted placing \$500,000 in the General Fund Contingency to support analysis of potential deficiencies within the Columbia River levee system.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

\$500,000 has been earmarked in General Fund contingency for initial analysis which will be requested via BudMod-DCS-04-16.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

Failure to achieve timely levee accreditation particularly for Pen 1 & 2 by FEMA may result in a re-mapping of flood prone areas behind the levees as a "Significant Flood Hazard Area". Consequently, flood insurance rates for properties affected would increase. Additionally, the safety of people and property would be in jeopardy in the event of a significant high water event if the levee system were to fail.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

The Project team is comprised of Multnomah County, Federal Emergency Management Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) Oregon: Governor's Office, Department of Environmental Quality, Land Conservation and Development, METRO, Port of Portland, Cities of Portland, Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village, Audubon Society, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Multnomah County Drainage District, Peninsula Drainage Districts Nos. 1 & 2, Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Co., Sandy Drainage Improvement Co., Jubitz, Bridgeton Neighborhood Association, and East Columbia Neighborhood Association. Staff from these partner agencies serve on the project's Communications Committee, which prepares information for the project website, the news media and to share at public events. A new website and public outreach plan will be launched later this year.

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**Required Signature**

**Elected Official  
or Department/  
Agency Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved."*