

Senate Bill 33

Implementation of the Oregon Resilience Plan

Report to the 77th Legislative Assembly dated October 1, 2014

From the Governor’s Task Force on Resilience Plan Implementation

In accordance with Senate Bill 33, this report presents the Governor’s Task Force on Resilience Plan Implementation (ORTF) recommendations on implementation of the Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP). The ORP, dated February 2013, presented more than 140 recommendations aimed at reducing risk and improving recovery for the next Cascadia earthquake. The ORTF studied these and other recommendations, including those specified in SB 33, and brought forward the most critical to be implemented in the 2015-17 biennium. For the eight categories listed below, we recommend:

A. Oversight

1. The State establish a Resilience Policy Advisor to the Governor. This requires a specific appointment, with defined responsibilities. We recommend that this position be appointed by, and report directly to, the Governor. The ORTF considers it essential that the State establish ongoing, long-term, statewide resilience oversight; it is not sustainable, practical, or good government to attempt to establish resilience through a series of temporary, unfunded, volunteer committees.

B. Transportation

1. Additional revenue be identified to complete the most critical backbone routes identified in ODOT’s Seismic Options Report within a decade, and the complete program by 2060. The funding source should be ongoing and pay as you go, rather than financed through bonding, to provide resources for all phases over the course of several decades. Research would be incorporated into the program to ensure the most current technology and efficient methods are applied.
2. The State conduct a thorough inventory and assessment of transit, air and marine port, and rail assets.

C. Land Use

1. Per the process defined in OAR 632-005, the DOGAMI Governing Board adopt the “L” line from the most recent tsunami hazard maps, redefining the inundation zone for construction as defined in ORS 455.446 and 455.447.
2. In advance of formal statewide adoption as described in the preceding item, local governments adopt the latest version of tsunami hazard maps and analyses in comprehensive plan policies and development code regulations.
3. New funding of \$5 million be made available by the State through existing programs for resilience planning by the coastal communities most at risk of severe impacts from a tsunami.
4. The Urban Reserve Rules (OAR 660-021) be revised to make them more useful for recovery planning prior to a tsunami.

D. Energy

1. The OPUC require energy providers it regulates conduct seismic assessments of its regulated facilities. Furthermore, we recommend the OPUC allow cost recovery for prudent investments related to assessments and mitigation of vulnerabilities identified during those assessments.
2. In order to further reduce vulnerability, the State establish a public-private partnership to mitigate and evaluate diversification of locations for storing liquid fuels, and identification of new liquid fuel energy corridors.

E. Critical Facilities and Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP)

1. DOGAMI be funded with up to \$20 million to update and enhance the statewide inventory and provide preliminary evaluation of critical facilities.
2. The OBDD/IFA Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) be funded with a minimum initial amount of \$200 million in the next biennium, and that funding continue to the program in each subsequent biennium with a similar or higher level of funding.
3. As demolition costs for unsafe buildings can be prohibitive to local jurisdictions, “seismic rehabilitation” is defined to include demolishing unsafe (based on construction and/or location) structures: (ORS 455.020, 455.390, 455.395 and 455.400, OAR 123-051-0200).
4. Rules governing SRGP eligibility be modified to allow grant dollars to be used toward replacement facilities (as opposed to solely rehabilitation) for projects that must be moved out of a tsunami inundation zone.

F. Research

1. The State establish a research initiative that would provide \$1 million annually for research aimed at improving Oregon’s earthquake resilience. The initiative would be administered by DOGAMI and would provide 1:1 matching funds to the State’s public universities for state-, federal- or industry-funded earthquake research.
2. A formal center of excellence for resiliency research and initiatives not be established.

G. Training and Education

1. Funding OEM at \$500,000 to lead a process for the 2015-17 biennium, in partnership with key stakeholders, of developing and disseminating improved educational materials for agencies, businesses, and the public, including: a) Revising and standardizing information provided to the public and businesses to recommend an emergency preparedness goal of at least two weeks; b) Training and education specifically relating to disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation for decision-makers in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors; c) Supporting education, training, and related professional development for emergency managers, consistent with but beyond standard FEMA dissemination. This may include programs offered through institutions of higher education, conferences and other special events, and programs provided by professional associations; d) Establishing an electronic clearinghouse of educational and technical information for emergency responders and planners, technical specialists, workplaces, and the general public.
2. Funding the Department of Education at \$500,000 for the 2015-17 biennium to lead a process of adopting standardized educational content and associated resources for K-12, applicable to the entire State as well as for specific hazard areas (e.g., coastal communities), and to establish an electronic clearinghouse for curriculum and supporting resources.
3. Business Oregon, in partnership with OEM, strongly encourages continuity assessment and planning for all businesses.

H. Water/Wastewater

1. Water providers complete a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan as part of the existing requirement for periodic updates to water system master plans.
2. Wastewater agencies complete a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan as part of periodic updates to facility plans.
3. Firefighting agencies, water providers, and emergency management agencies to establish joint standards for use in planning the firefighting response to a large seismic event.

This is the required two-page report to the legislature. This report can be found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/Resilience-Taskforce.aspx>