

SB 283 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 02/27/17

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$4,179,00 from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for the Reedsport levee project. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the Reedsport levee system
- Inability of the City of Reedsport to finance needed upgrades
- State return on investment
- General Fund allocation versus capital construction application process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Reedsport, incorporated in 1919, is situated on the central Oregon coast in Douglas County at the intersection of U.S. 101 and Oregon Highway 38. It is located near the confluence of the Umpqua, Smith and Scholfield rivers. The city's levee system was designed and installed more than 45 years ago by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide flood protection to the city's lower areas, which include residential areas and the city's historic commercial district. In the event of a major weather event, without the levee system much of Reedsport would be severely flooded by the Umpqua River, as would portions of U.S.Highway 101 and State Highway 38.

As it ages, the levee system has settled, dropping in elevation to the point that portions of it no longer meet USACE specifications. Senate Bill 283 appropriates \$4,179,000 from the General Fund to accomplish raising low segments of the levee, as well as increasing wall depth and improving pumping stations for interior drainage.