



Eugene Water & Electric Board

500 East 4th Avenue/Post Office Box 10148
Eugene, Oregon 97440-2148
541-685-7000
www.eweb.org

Senator Fred Girod
Representative Paul Holvey
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
May 1, 2019

RE: Support for capital investment in ShakeAlert and ALERTWildfire programs

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey:

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), Oregon's largest municipal utility, operates three hydroelectric facilities on and around the McKenzie River in Linn and Lane Counties in Oregon. Our hydroelectric facilities include three reservoirs at Carmen-Smith and two earthen canals at Leaburg and Walterville. EWEB also has four powerhouses and approximately twenty miles of high voltage transmission line in the McKenzie valley. All of these facilities could be significantly impacted by either an earthquake or wildfire. The potential effects of a large earthquake on EWEB infrastructure could also impact human health and life in the proximity of EWEB's facilities.

For these reasons, EWEB became an early supporter, adopter and advocate for the University of Oregon (UO) ShakeAlert program. EWEB currently has a ShakeAlert earthquake monitoring station located at our Leaburg hydroelectric facility and a second station at Carmen-Smith. These stations feed data into the Pacific Northwest seismic monitoring system. EWEB is also preparing to automate responses to warnings received from the ShakeAlert system. The signals from the ShakeAlert system currently sound audible alarms within EWEB's Trading Floor / Hydroelectric Control Center and at other EWEB facilities. EWEB anticipates using alarms of potentially strong shaking from the ShakeAlert system to cease power generation and drain or otherwise "make safe" water conveyance facilities. Ultimately, EWEB expects to automate responses to ShakeAlert warnings by using the alarms to trigger automatic control systems to initiate "make safe" actions at our facilities.

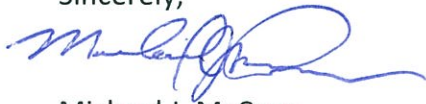
Similarly, all of EWEB's hydroelectric facilities are located in or adjacent to both public and private forestlands. Over the past five years, EWEB has experienced an increase in wildfire risk and impact due to both climate change and persistent drought. Last summer, EWEB was forced to cease hydroelectric power generation at Carmen-Smith due to wildfire activity for the first time since the project became operational in 1963.

EWEB views both the ShakeAlert and ALERTWildfire programs to be necessary and vital to the safe continued operation of our hydroelectric facilities. By investing in sensors for the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning, cameras for ALERTWildfire, and telemetry to allow real-time communication, Oregon will be advancing a multi-hazard approach to disaster response and mitigation that will support ongoing clean hydroelectric energy production in our rural areas.

EWEB asks that you support the Governor's proposal for a \$12MM capital investment in the ShakeAlert and ALERTWildfire programs. This investment will achieve three important goals: (1) complete the buildout of ShakeAlert in Oregon by 2023, (2) develop a more robust data communications backbone that supports both ShakeAlert and ALERTWildfire, and (3) install ALERTWildfire cameras in fire prone regions throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael J. McCann
Electric Generation Manager