

## **Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines**

### **GOAL 7: AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL HAZARDS**

**To protect people and property from natural hazards.**

#### **A. NATURAL HAZARD PLANNING**

1. Local governments shall adopt comprehensive plans (inventories, policies and implementing measures) to reduce risk to people and property from natural hazards.

2. Natural hazards for purposes of this goal are: floods (coastal and riverine), landslides,<sup>1</sup> earthquakes and related hazards, tsunamis, coastal erosion, and wildfires. Local governments may identify and plan for other natural hazards.

#### **B. RESPONSE TO NEW HAZARD INFORMATION**

1. New hazard inventory information provided by federal and state agencies shall be reviewed by the Department in consultation with affected state and local government representatives.

2. After such consultation, the Department shall notify local governments if the new hazard information requires a local response.

3. Local governments shall respond to new inventory information on natural hazards within 36 months after being notified by the Department of Land Conservation and Development, unless extended by the Department.

#### **C. IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon receiving notice from the Department, a local government shall:

1. Evaluate the risk to people and

property based on the new inventory information and an assessment of:

a. the frequency, severity and location of the hazard;

b. the effects of the hazard on existing and future development;

c. the potential for development in the hazard area to increase the frequency and severity of the hazard; and

d. the types and intensities of land uses to be allowed in the hazard area.

2. Allow an opportunity for citizen review and comment on the new inventory information and the results of the evaluation and incorporate such information into the comprehensive plan, as necessary.

3. Adopt or amend, as necessary, based on the evaluation of risk, plan policies and implementing measures consistent with the following principles:

a. avoiding development in hazard areas where the risk to people and property cannot be mitigated; and

b. prohibiting the siting of essential facilities, major structures, hazardous facilities and special occupancy structures, as defined in the state building code (ORS 455.447(1)

(a)(b)(c) and (e)), in identified hazard areas, where the risk to public safety cannot be mitigated, unless an essential facility is needed within a hazard area in order to provide essential emergency response services in a timely manner.<sup>2</sup>

4. Local governments will be deemed to comply with Goal 7 for coastal and riverine flood hazards by adopting and

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<sup>1</sup> For "rapidly moving landslides," the requirements of ORS 195.250-195.275 (1999 edition) apply.

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<sup>2</sup> For purposes of constructing essential facilities, and special occupancy structures in tsunami inundation zones, the requirements of the state building code - ORS 455.446 and 455.447 (1999 edition) and OAR chapter 632, division 5 apply.

implementing local floodplain regulations that meet the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

#### **D. COORDINATION**

1. In accordance with ORS 197.180 and Goal 2, state agencies shall coordinate their natural hazard plans and programs with local governments and provide local governments with hazard inventory information and technical assistance including development of model ordinances and risk evaluation methodologies.

2. Local governments and state agencies shall follow such procedures, standards and definitions as may be contained in statewide planning goals and commission rules in developing programs to achieve this goal.

#### **GUIDELINES**

##### **A. PLANNING**

1. In adopting plan policies and implementing measures to protect people and property from natural hazards, local governments should consider:

- a. the benefits of maintaining natural hazard areas as open space, recreation and other low density uses;
- b. the beneficial effects that natural hazards can have on natural resources and the environment; and
- c. the effects of development and mitigation measures in identified hazard areas on the management of natural resources.

2. Local governments should coordinate their land use plans and decisions with emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs.

##### **B. IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Local governments should give special attention to emergency access when considering development in identified hazard areas.

2. Local governments should consider programs to manage stormwater runoff as a means to help address flood and landslide hazards.

3. Local governments should consider nonregulatory approaches to help implement this goal, including but not limited to:

- a. providing financial incentives and disincentives;
- b. providing public information and education materials;
- c. establishing or making use of existing programs to retrofit, relocate, or acquire existing dwellings and structures at risk from natural disasters.

4. When reviewing development requests in high hazard areas, local governments should require site-specific reports, appropriate for the level and type of hazard (e.g., hydrologic reports, geotechnical reports or other scientific or engineering reports) prepared by a licensed professional. Such reports should evaluate the risk to the site as well as the risk the proposed development may pose to other properties.

5. Local governments should consider measures that exceed the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) such as:

- a. limiting placement of fill in floodplains;
- b. prohibiting the storage of hazardous materials in floodplains or providing for safe storage of such materials; and
- c. elevating structures to a level higher than that required by the NFIP and the state building code.

Flood insurance policy holders may be eligible for reduced insurance rates through the NFIP's Community Rating System Program when local governments adopt these and other flood protection measures.