



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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February 14, 2007

Governor Theodore Kulongoski  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Kulongoski and members of the Legislative Assembly:

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) is pleased to provide you with this summary report of the accomplishments for 2005 and 2006.

Our summary report also highlights on-going projects and areas of concern and opportunities for the legislature for the 2007 session. The Magnitude 9.1 subduction zone earthquake near Sumatra two years ago and the loss of over 280,000 lives from the quake and resulting tsunami graphically point out the damage that subduction zone quakes pose. This potential earthquake emphasizes the critical ongoing need for legislative support to begin the implementation of Ballot Measures 15 and 16 passed in November 2002. These ballot measures provided for the issuance of General Obligation (GO) Bonds for the seismic rehabilitation of public education buildings (Measure 15) and public safety buildings (Measure 16). During the 2005 Session, measures SB-2 (Statewide Seismic Needs Assessment), SB-3 (Grant Program for Seismic Rehabilitation), SB-4 (Seismic Bond Administration), SB-5 (Issuance of Bonds), and SB-557 (Tsunami Warning) were passed.

An example of work that has occurred during the 2005-2006 biennium is the initial seismic evaluation and cataloging of Oregon's K-12 public schools and critical emergency facilities as required by SB-2 that will be complete in June 2007. We have been briefed by the staff of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and are impressed with the quality and breadth of their endeavors. Work to implement SB-3, SB-4, SB-5, and SB-557 has met with varying degrees of success by the state agencies responsible for their implementation.

Concerning the likelihood of a catastrophic seismic event in Oregon, an increasing amount of scientific evidence shows that the earthquake and tsunami tragedy in the Indian Ocean Basin in 2004 is remarkably similar to what could occur along the Oregon coast with impacts reaching as far inland as the I-5 corridor. Improvements in seismic research in the last dozen years have determined that a Magnitude 9 subduction zone earthquake and destructive tsunami occurred along the Pacific Northwest on January 26, 1700. The tsunami from that quake destroyed many villages along the east coast of

Japan. The year 1700 subduction zone earthquake was at least the 18<sup>th</sup> in a series that has occurred every three to four hundred years over the past five millennia. All the available scientific evidence indicates that another one will occur at approximately the same interval...possibly in our lifetime. Reducing the potential damage to our coastal and inland communities is a long-term investment in Oregon's livability. We have a responsibility to prepare for earthquakes and find ways to educate our residents so that effective action can be taken.

During 2005 and 2006, the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission met 12 times. The meetings were held in Portland and Salem. At least one member of the public spoke at 11 of the meetings. During the 12 meetings we took the following actions:

- Discussed the legislative agenda that resulted in SB-2, SB-3, SB-4, SB-5 and supported the Tsunami legislation SB-557
- Monitored progress on the excellent work accomplished by DOGAMI on the implementation of SB-2. Worked with other agencies on SB-3, SB-4, SB-5 and SB-557
- Heard updates on the work of identifying the risks at Oregon's institutions of higher education. Including the retrofitting of buildings at OIT, OSU and PSU. Observed the strengthening of facilities at PSU
- Reviewed material relating to the tsunami warning of June, 2005
- Received detailed briefings on the Indonesian tsunami of December 2004 and hurricane Katrina so that we could use these as a basis on how to construct the preparation and recovery efforts in Oregon
- Received detailed information on earthquake insurance in Oregon
- Reviewed the earthquake emergency exercise known as Pacific Peril...which included participation by the western coastal states, Canada, and the US Navy
- Andre LeDuc and Krista Mitchell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pilot project on pre-disaster recovery planning for Cannon Beach. They work for the Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup at the University of Oregon
- Established subcommittees and developed bylaws

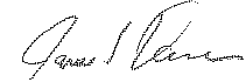
OSSPAC also developed legislative priorities on the following topics:

- Adding the secondary or consequential damages of earthquakes to the agenda for OSSPAC
- Notice to people entering school buildings about the results of the SB-2 assessments
- Requiring that insurers in Oregon make seismic insurance available either directly or indirectly
- Require that all construction contracts in Oregon recognize a catastrophic seismic event as a Force Majeure
- Make certain revisions to the Emergency Management Legislation for clarification of roles
- Discussion of funding sources for seismic mitigation

OSSPAC, made up of an equal balance of representatives from state government, the public interest, and stakeholder groups, is available to assist you and the legislature and

provide additional information in the biennium and during deliberations of the 2007 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Doane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

James L. Doane PE  
Chairperson

Ccc: Legislature

# **Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission**

## **Mission**

The mission of the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission shall be to reduce exposure to earthquake hazards in Oregon by:

- (a) Developing and influencing policy at the federal, state and local levels;
- (b) Facilitating improved public understanding and encouraging identification of risk;
- (c) Supporting research and special studies
- (d) Supporting appropriate mitigation; and
- (e) Supporting response and recovery.

The commission shall utilize and influence existing agencies and institutions in meeting its goals and is in no way intended to replace or compete with existing authorities relative to earthquakes. Emphasis shall be on coordination and linking of existing resources and authorities.

To improve public understanding of earthquake hazards, reduce such hazards and mitigate the possible effects of potentially damaging earthquakes, the commission shall review and advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly concerning all plans and proposals addressing seismic hazards in the areas of:

- (a) Any legislative proposals
- (b) Plans and proposals of statewide impact
- (c) Lists of recommendations for actions and potential rule changes specifically by state agency.

## **Background**

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC), otherwise known as the Earthquake Safety Commission, has the unique task of promoting public safety relating to earthquake awareness and preparedness through education, research, and legislation. The mission of OSSPAC is to positively influence decisions and policies regarding pre-disaster mitigation of earthquake and tsunami hazards, increase public understanding of hazard, risk, exposure, and vulnerability through education seminars, etc., and are responsive to the new studies and/or issues raised around earthquakes and tsunamis. OSSPAC's objectives are to increase or improve:

1. Earthquake awareness and education,
2. Earthquake risk information,
3. The earthquake safety of buildings and lifelines,
4. Geoscience and technical information, and
5. Emergency pre-disaster planning, response and recovery efforts.

OSSPAC is a well-rounded group of 18 individuals who represent a variety of interests concerned with the formulation of public policy regarding earthquake safety. It is made

up of six representatives of the public interest, six representatives of industries and stakeholders, and six representatives of government. The variety of interests helps direct the goals of the Commission for the benefit of all Oregon citizens. Commission members are appointed by the Governor.

### **Commission members and affiliations**

James Doane, Chair	(Stakeholder: utilities)
Gerry Williams, Vice Chair	C.E.M. Research (Public member)
Carl Farrington	(Stakeholder: multi-family housing)
Bert Kile	(Stakeholder: American Red Cross)
Diane Merten	(Public member)
Gene Miles	(Stakeholder: local government)
Autumn Rudisel	(Stakeholder: banking)
Mark Tyler	(Stakeholder: school district/community college/university)
Christine Valentine	DLCD (State agency: land conservation & development)
Yumei Wang	DOGAMI (State agency: geology & mineral industries)
Jay Wilson	OEM (State agency: emergency management)
Jason Atkinson	Senator (legislative assembly)
Peter Courtney	Senator (legislative assembly)
Rose Gentry	ODOT (State agency: transportation)
Ravi Mahajan	Building Codes Division (Stakeholder: building codes)
Tom Manning	Tillamook County Emergency Management (Public member)
Susan Steward	(Stakeholder: building owners)
Chris Thompson	(Stakeholder: structural engineer)

## **History of OSSPAC**

As a result of the Loma Prieta Earthquake in the Bay Area of California in 1989, Oregon residents wanted the State government to address the earthquake hazard and preparedness of the State. The Interagency Seismic Task Force was formed and recommended that a new state commission be formed in response to this need. Consequently, OSSPAC was formed as a result of Senate Bill 96 in 1991. Since this time, OSSPAC has worked toward improving public safety by increasing Oregon's awareness to earthquake hazards and by supporting earthquake education, research, and legislation.

During bimonthly meetings, Commission members and the public communicate and collaborate on public safety issues, many of which involve numerous stakeholders and state agencies. As examples, at these meetings, Oregon Emergency Management reported on the statewide earthquake exercises; Building Code Division discusses important building codes upgrades; the American Red Cross provides a summary of their shelter plans during disasters; DOGAMI shares earthquake research; City of Portland describes vulnerabilities in their water distribution system; the Department of Water Resources discusses their high-risk dams; and so on. At meetings, we engage stakeholders, provide feedback to agencies, present unresolved concerns, introduce new mitigation ideas and attempt to shape good policies.