



**Levee Ready Columbia
Washington, D.C. Meetings & Visit Summary
April 13 – 15, 2016**

Wednesday, April 13

11:30a.m.	Gary Waxman, <i>General Attorney Water and Power Branch</i> Office of Management and Budget	3:00p.m.	Mark Kramer, <i>Acting Deputy Chief NWD RIT</i> Juliet Rosa Angela Dunn Jeff Jensen Mark Hanson
1:30p.m.	Eric Hansen, <i>Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Management and Budget)</i> Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works		US Army Corps of Engineers

Thursday, April 14

OR Congressional Districts and Levee Cities

1st District: Bonamici

- SIDIC
- Rainier
- Scappoose
- Warrenton

2nd District: Walden

- Pendleton
- Milton Freewater

3rd District: Blumenauer

- Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts (LRC)

4th District: DeFazio

- Springfield
- Reedsport

5th District: Schrader

- Tillamook



9:00a.m.	Senator Merkley Constituent Coffee	2:00p.m.	Malcolm McGeary <i>Legislative Aide</i> Office of Senator Ron Wyden
10:30a.m.	Kirby Garrett, <i>Legislative Assistant</i> Office of Rep. Greg Walden (OR-02)	3:00p.m.	Liz Cooney, <i>Director of Pacific Northwest Policy</i> <i>Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure</i> Ryan Seiger, <i>Staff Director/Senior Counsel Sub-Committee on Water Resources and Environment</i> Office of Rep. Peter DeFazio
11:30a.m.	Stephanie Philips, <i>Senior Legislative Assistant</i> Office Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)	4:30p.m.	Drew Johnston, <i>Director</i> DC Office of Oregon Governor Kate Brown
1:00p.m.	Tim Dykstra, <i>Professional Staff</i> Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy & Water		

Friday, April 15

8:45a.m.	Anna Schartner, <i>Legislative Assistant</i> Office of Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler	11:00a.m.	Zach Stokes, <i>Legislative Assistant</i> Office of Representative Kurt Schrader
9:30a.m.	Becca Ward and Peter Narby, <i>Infrastructure Team</i> Office of Senator Jeff Merkley	12:15p.m.	Sarah Round, <i>Legislative Assistant</i> Office of Congresswoman Bonamici

General Summary:

- ***Ask: Select the Portland Metropolitan Levee System Project as a General Investigations New Starts project in the USACE FY17 work plan.***
- *Strong support continues in Washington to advance a new start feasibility study in the FY17 work plan,*
- *The Corps, OMB and ASA all provided guidance on how to be viewed more favorably in a highly competitive process.*
- *MCDD, with the help of Levee Ready Columbia will be taking a number of strategic steps over the coming months to build a stronger and more urgent case for the FY17 work plan.*
- *Key messages on how to improve General Investigation New Starts project description:*
 - *Be clear in message and purpose.*

- *Communicate that the sponsor is being effective in currently maintaining and operating the levee – active in PL84-99 (USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program).*
 - *While we haven't had a recent flood event, we did have the '96 scare—a near flood that was prevented by excellent management. This needs to be communicated.*
- *There is concern with restudying projects that have existing federal systems. Need to describe how the condition has changed in the project area that has increased the system's risk profile (performance risk drivers).*
 - *Make a clear case for changes that have occurred within the drainage districts since the levees were built. In the past 30 years, the Airport Way Urban Renewal Area (URA) was created and almost fully developed. It reduced the amount of potential residential area and was an outgrowth of state and city land use policy. It has been an extremely successful URA. Similar efforts have occurred in Gresham and Troutdale.*
- *What are the change conditions in engineering and what are the change conditions in economics that have increased the system's risk profile?*
- *Explain that the levee system protects the entire economic hub for the state and the region.*
- *Explain the concerns about the existing levee conditions, such as the RR embankment, without engineering terminology.*
- *Avoid using the term “deficiency”, instead focus on ‘risk drivers’.*
- *Differentiate our ask from our responsibilities with staying within PL84-99.*
- *Everyone, at both the agency and congressional delegation level, was highly encouraging and believed we should work in collaboration with the USACE Portland District to request being selected as a GI New Starts in the USACE FY17 work plan again. It takes a couple of rounds for projects and the local community to connect with the decision makers.*
- *The federal process is long and arduous. Do not wait for the federal government to fix system if you are aware of risk drivers / deficiencies – need to address these at a local / regional / state level.*
- *Thanked congressional members for their letter of support for the FY16 work plan ask. Congressional members understood the project well and were more than happy to lend their support to this year's federal ask.*
- *Invited members and staffers to take a boat tour of the levee system in August 2016 while they are out of session.*
- *Connected with members that we have not involved before, particularly Beutler and Walden. Reception was warm and staffers understood how the project impacted residents in their districts.*

