The Columbia Corridor Levee System
Context and Current Challenges

Presented by:
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Local Operations, Regional Significance

- 40% of Port of Portland facilities
  - 12 Million tons of goods move through Facilities

- $5.3 billion in assessed property value
  - Across four cities

- Columbia South Shore Well Field
  - Backup water supply for Portland and other jurisdictions

- 10% of jobs in Multnomah County
  - Majority in industrial, manufacturing, and transport.
US government Role

*We are the local sponsor for the Columbia River levees, which were built and are maintained according to national standards.*

- **Flood Control Act of 1936**
  - First general flood control bill. Establishes cost sharing between federal and local governments and gives USACE clear role in flood control.

- **Flood Control Act of 1950**
  - Authorizes improvements to existing projects across the nation, including Columbia Corridor.

- **National Flood Insurance Act of 1968**
  - Creates the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP levee standards created in 1986.
Federal Levee Oversight

Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Flood Insurance Program

| Cities voluntarily participate in the program. | P1 & P2 Status: Accredited, not certified | MCDD & SDIC Status: Accredited, Certification expires in 2017 | USACE plays a limited and defined role. |

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# NFIP Roles & Responsibilities

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| Federal     | • Implementation of NFIP  
               • Floodplain mapping and flood risk mitigation promotion  
               • Monitoring maintenance of federally authorized projects |
| State       | • FEMA funded employee coordinates NFIP within Oregon  
               • Technical support for communities during mapping          |
| County      | • NFIP Participating Community for unincorporated Multnomah Co  
               • Sets & enforces land use code, including floodplain ordinances |
| City        | • NFIP Participating Communities (some in CRS)  
               • Sets & enforces land use code, including floodplain ordinances |
| Drainage District | • Responsible for ongoing levee maintenance within USACE program,  
                         which has some overlap with NFIP Levee Requirements |
Project Status

**PHASE 1**
Investigate Current Condition of Levees

**PHASE 2**
Design and Finance Repairs

**PHASE 3**
Implement Repairs

**PHASE 4**
Certify & Submit Documentation
Accreditation Challenges

Currently there is no identified governance form to tackle accreditation.

• The Cities are the participating community in NFIP. Cities set and enforce land use code and floodplain ordinances. The County handles this role for unincorporated parts of Multnomah County.

• The Drainage Districts maintain the levees and are responsible for meeting United States Army Corps of Engineer standards. The Drainage Districts lack the regulatory authority and financial capabilities to pursue accreditation solely.

How do we work together to achieve accreditation?
Oregon Solutions Process

• This is one way the region is collaborating towards a resolution for accreditation.

• Governor Kitzhaber designated Columbia Corridor Levee Accreditation as an Oregon Solutions project in October of 2013, giving the project statewide priority.
Additional Resources:

www.floodsmart.gov
http://www.mcdd.org/levee-accreditation/

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