

OVERVIEW

The Columbia Corridor encompasses 12,000 acres on the south shore of the Columbia River in the Portland, Oregon Metropolitan area. Four drainage districts (Districts) manage a federal flood control system. This system includes approximately 27 miles of levees and 45 miles of ditches and sloughs drained by 13 pump stations. The four drainage districts (the Districts) are: Peninsula Drainage District #1 (PEN 1), Peninsula Drainage District #2 (PEN 2), Multnomah County Drainage District #1 (MCDD), and Sandy Drainage Improvement Company (SDIC). MCDD acts as the administrative manager for all four.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY VITALITY

The flood control system operated by the Districts protects portions of four cities, Portland International Airport, an Air National Guard Base, a regional Expo Center, three interstate highways, thousands of homes, regional recreation facilities, wetlands, and a drinking water well system serving 800,000 Oregonians. The area is also home to \$5.5 billion in property value, hundreds of businesses and ten percent of Multnomah County's employment base. The activity in the Columbia Corridor is a cornerstone in the regional and statewide economy.

PROJECTS***Levee Improvement Program:***

The Levee Improvement Program is a consortium of local, regional, and state government agencies and business, community, and environmental organizations working to ensure the Columbia Corridor continues to benefit from a high quality flood protection system. Currently, all levees in the Districts are accredited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). However, certification recently expired in PEN 1 and PEN 2 and is scheduled to expire in MCDD and SDIC by 2017, putting accreditation, and thus the economic future of the region at risk. The Districts are also active in the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP). Recent inspections of the levees highlighted areas of concern that will need to be addressed to ensure the levees continue to provide adequate public safety. The Levee Improvement Program exemplifies the kind of local partnership that is worthy of federal support.

General Investigations - New Start:

In December 2014, the Districts responded to USACE's request pursuant to Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 (79 FR 45430). It was determined that Section 7001 of WRRDA was not required by USACE to conduct the proposed study. The USACE Portland District is now conducting a Section 216 Study. This new start feasibility study will determine the appropriate level of protection for a consolidated levee system in the Columbia Corridor. The Districts fully support this study. A study of this magnitude will not be possible without federal support.

System Wide Improvement Framework:

The Districts may soon enter into a System Wide Improvement Framework to address areas of concern identified during inspection. Continued partnership with USACE will allow the Districts to develop a capital improvement plan to align strategic future investments with the priorities identified in that SWIF.

Waters of the State:

The Districts rely on a system of pump stations and internal ditches and sloughs to keep properties dry year round. Federal restrictions on the management of these water bodies have increased the burden on the Districts and are impinging on their ability to provide flood control. Reconsideration of these regulations could allow the Districts to better balance flood protection responsibilities with other local, state, and federal goals.

Biological Opinion:

NOAA Fisheries and FEMA will soon release a biological opinion (BiOp) regarding FEMA's continued administration of the NFIP in Oregon. Depending on the BiOp, future development within the Columbia Corridor may be hindered. Relocating this commercial and industrial development would negatively impact the economic development potential, especially in the traded sector, which is critical component of the regional economy.

CONCLUSION: FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP IS CRITICAL

Local, regional, and state partners are prioritizing the Districts flood protection system. Federal assistance would ensure the Districts and their partners can continue to protect the assets in the Columbia Corridor.

Multnomah County Drainage District #1

Reed Wagner • Executive Director

1880 NE Elrod Drive • Portland, Oregon • 97211

(503) 281-5675 • www.mcdd.org

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR - VICINITY MAP & DISTRICT INFORMATION



	PEN 1	PEN 2	MCDD	SDIC	Total
Acreage	986	1,612	8,591	1,550	12,739
Property Value	\$129,358,350	\$649,668,760	\$4,275,034,380	\$428,273,530	\$5,482,335,020
Miles of Levee	5.1	5.5	12.5	4.2	27.3

