

Senate Bill (SB) 379 Line Advisory Committee

Consensus Report

August 5, 2013

Introduction

On June 24, 2013, on the request of its Governing Board (the Board), the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) convened an advisory committee with the goal of compiling recommendations to the Board about the best or most suitable SB 379 tsunami inundation line based on the current available tsunami inundation science.

The advisory committee consisted of:

- Onno Husing, Lincoln County Planning Department, representing OCZMA
- Lisa Phipps, representing DOGAMI's Governing Board
- Jay Raskin, representing the public
- Althea Rizzo, representing Oregon Emergency Management
- Lauren Woolley, representing the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; and
- Kent Yu, representing the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Staffing the meeting were:

- George Priest, DOGAMI's Tsunami Hazard Specialist
- Laura Stimely, DOGAMI Tsunami Hazards Geologist
- Carol DuVernois, DOGAMI Executive Support and
- Andree Pollock, Assistant Director of the Geologic Survey and Services Program

Findings

After a presentation by George Priest outlining the state of tsunami inundation modeling science and the work being done by California on tsunami probabilistic mapping, the committee discussed a number of issues including the need for a new line, how DOGAMI handles consultations and grants exceptions, and whether or not the current line was adequate to meet coastal communities' needs. Based on this discussion the committee found:

- The current authoritative paper maps, with their hand drawn lines, no longer meet communities' needs. Current digital mapping and tools better serve the public.
- Probabilistic mapping should occur once costs are more reasonable. Until then, the current tsunami inundation mapping conducted by DOGAMI is adequate.
- XL and XXL events are too unlikely to be useful in limiting construction of essential facilities.
- L events cover 95% of scenarios and is the best line for requiring a consult with DOGAMI.

Although this meeting was focused on the actual SB 379 line, the group felt more clarity is needed around how DOGAMI implements the rules and when exceptions apply. Specifically, what the exceptions are; should they be tightened up; and should there be a stronger role for DOGAMI, such as following up to make sure that recommendations/plans are actually being followed versus the effort being a paper exercise.

- DOGAMI should prepare a white paper detailing the history of its recommendations associated with the SB 379 line.

Recommendations

The committee reached consensus on the following recommendations to the Board.

1. Given changes in the science of tsunami inundation modeling and lidar-derived elevation maps, the current SB 379 line and maps no longer meet the needs of coastal communities and should be replaced.
2. The Board should consider using the large earthquake event, and the associated inundation mapped on current DOGAMI Tsunami Inundation Maps, for a revised SB 379 line.