

42nd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference October 1- 3, 2025





Coastal Resiliency: How a CAH Can Provide Community Refuge

Erik Thorsen, MBA, Columbia Memorial Hospital Michelle Checkis, MBA, ZGF Architects LLP



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Describe a Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structure's role in a vulnerable community
- 2. Describe a strategy for designing a tsunami-resilient hospital.
- 3. Identify synergies between a vertical evacuation structure and a critical access hospital.
- 4. Learn how to navigate funding systems and leverage partnerships from local to federal levels to realize a complex project.

SPEAKERS:



Astoria, OR



Michelle Checkis, AIA ZGF Architects

Portland, OR

Astoria, Oregon







Columbia Memorial Hospital

Independent Critical Access Hospital Governed by Community Board



Enjoying More Than 13 Years Collaboration with OHSU

Comprehensive Cancer Center with OHSU



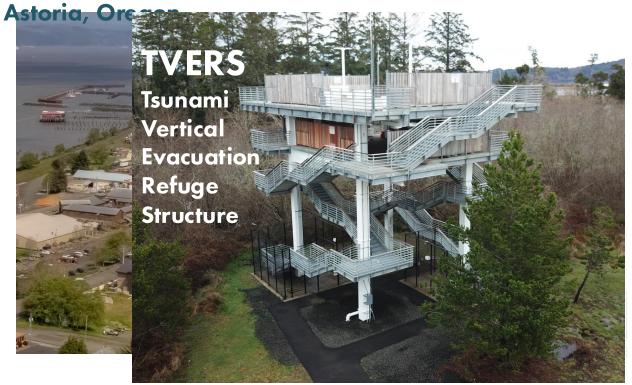
Planetree Gold-Certified

The Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) shares perspectives and helps speak for patients in hospital decision-making.









TOKELAND TSUNAMI VERTICAL EVACUATION TOWER

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Rognlin's constructed the first free-standing vertical tsunami evacuation tower in the United States. With capacity for more than 400 people, the tower is intended to provide refuge for Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe members as well as residents in the neighboring community in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that triggers a tsunami.

CLIENT Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

PROJECT COMPLETION 2022

\$2,670,000,00





Columbia Memorial Hospital



SITE HAZARDS



















Great Coastal Gale of 2007

Landslide Inventory



Due Diligence Timeline





1977 - CMH built on current site

2008-2010 - Investigation 10+ years ago to alternate sites

2014 – Acquired John Warren Field, built CMH Field

2017 – 2019 - State of Oregon focuses on Coastal Hospitals Preparing for Cascadia Report

2018 – DOGAMI Site Visit

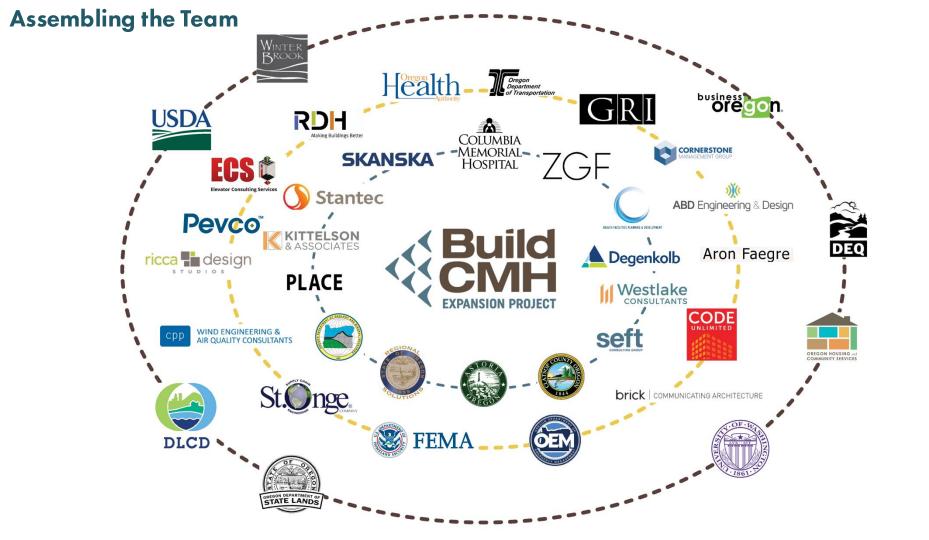
2018 – 2019: CMH Board further studies alternate sites

- Key Consideration CAH Status and reinvestigate alternate sites
 - Should we relocate to Warrenton?
 - Do we remain a critical access hospital?

2021 to Present - Engagement with ZGF Architects and Degenkolb Engineers

 Additional Geotechnical and Resiliency Studies Including Utility Study, Site Survey and Landslide Risk Analysis

CMH can best serve its community in-place

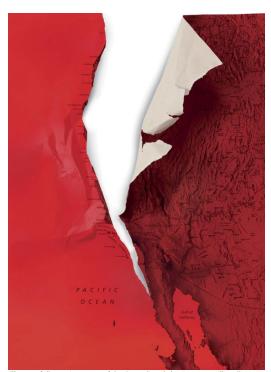


ANNALS OF SEISMOLOGY

THE REALLY BIG ONE

By Kathryn Schulz

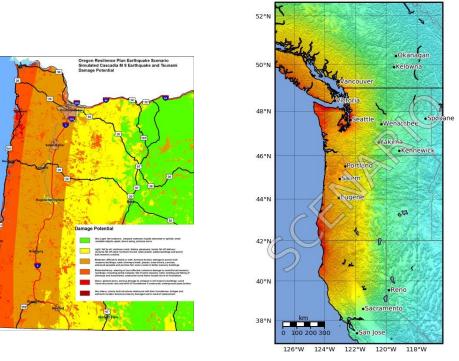
July 13, 2015



The next full-margin rupture of the Cascadia subduction zone will spell the worst natural disaster in the history of the continent, outside of the 2010 Haiti earthquake.



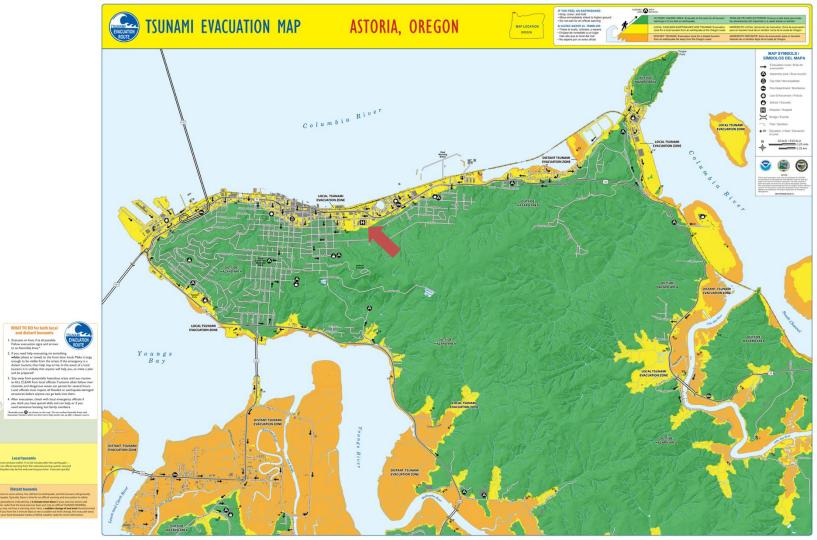
Macroseismic Intensity Map USGS ShakeMap: M9.0 Cascadia, median ground motions Jan 26, 1700 00:00:00 UTC M9.0 N36.00 W126.00 Depth: 0.0km ID:CSZM9_median_nohyp



SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
DAMAGE	None	None	None	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/heavy	Heavy	Very heavy
PGA(%g)	<0.0066	0.0795	0.954	4.99	8.76	15.4	27	47.4	>83.2
PGV(cm/s)	<0.0028	0.0383	0.524	3.03	6.48	13.9	29.6	63.4	>136
INTENSITY	- I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	DX.	X+

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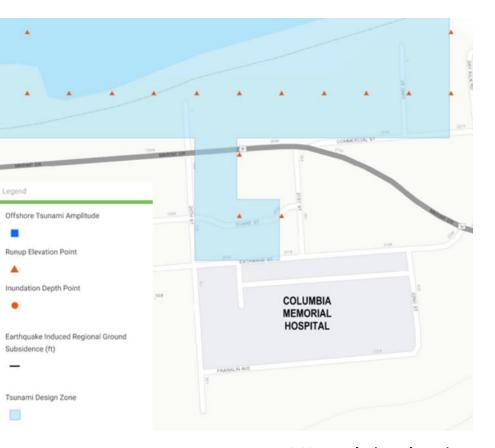
★ Epicenter



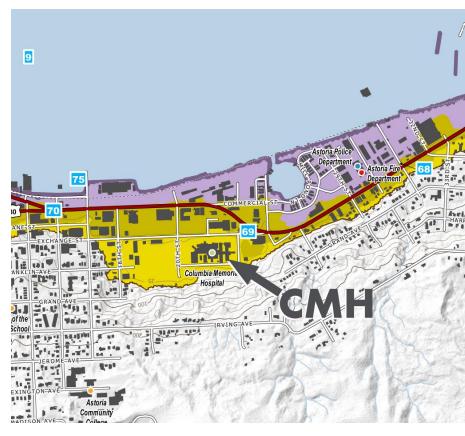
WHAT TO KNOW about tsunamis

flecent research supports that trussants have struck the Oregon coast on a regular basis. They can occur any time, day on night. Typical wave heights from trussans occurring in the Paulic Ocean over the last 500 years have been 20 45 feet of the shortlers. However, bocusse of fusal conditions a few waves may have been much higher — an insuch as 100 feet.

Inundation Zone per Current Building Code



DOGAMI XL Inundation Zone Design Model

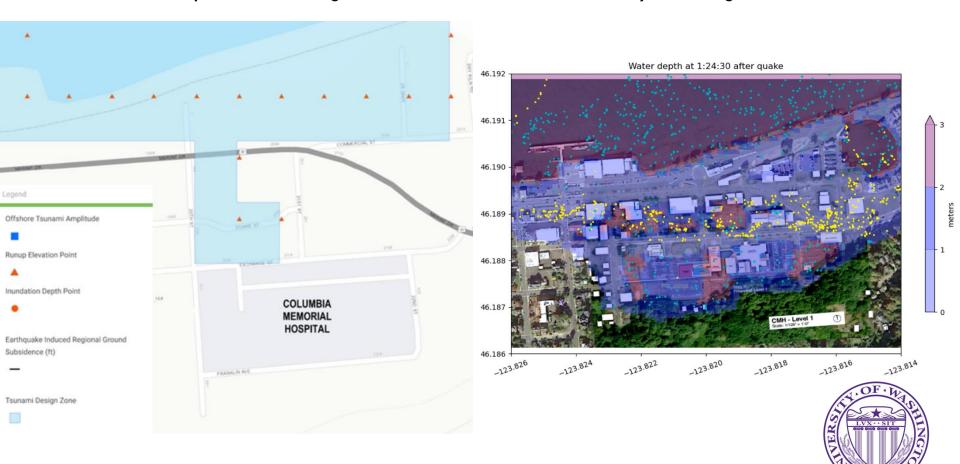


30' Inundation Elevation

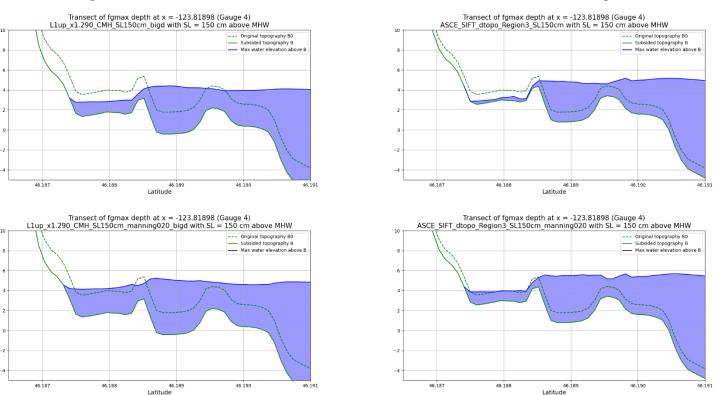
38' Inundation Elevation

Inundation Zone per Current Building Code

University of Washington Model



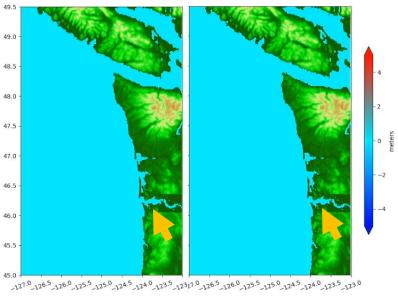
L1up_x1.290_CMH

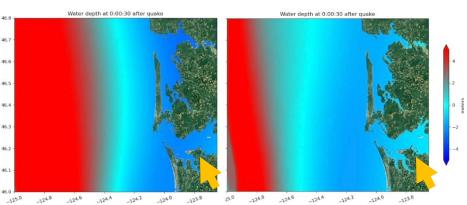


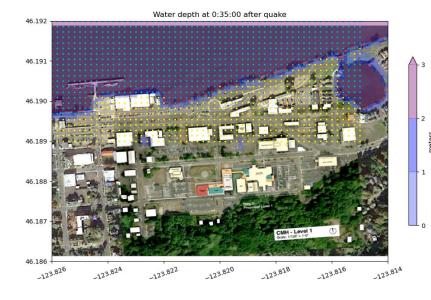
ASCE_SIFT_Region3

Figure 17: **Transect D.** Maximum flow depth along a north-south transect at longitude -123.81898, passing through Gauge 4. See Section 7 for discription of the four simulations shown.











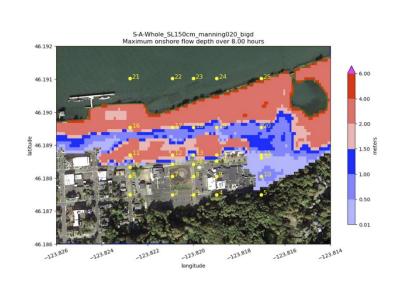
Resilience-Based Design Framework Tsunami Hazard Levels

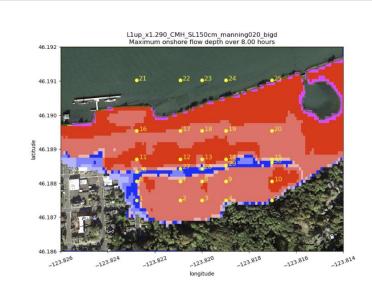
Extreme Event

1/500-1/700 probability (<10% chance over 50 years) 1/2500 probability (2% chance in 50 years)

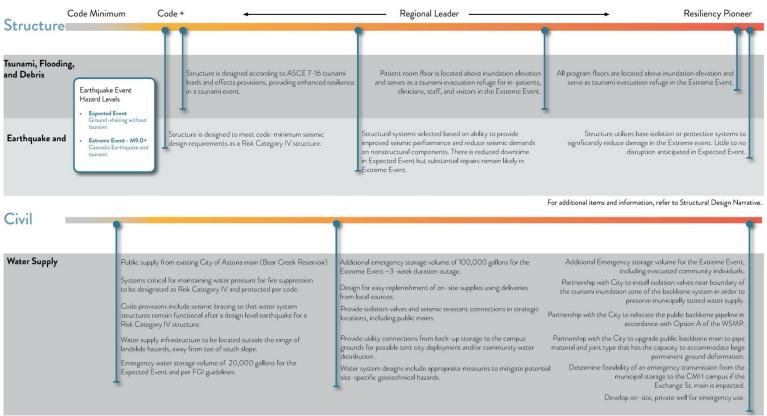
Immediate Occupancy Post-Event

Life Safety Performance



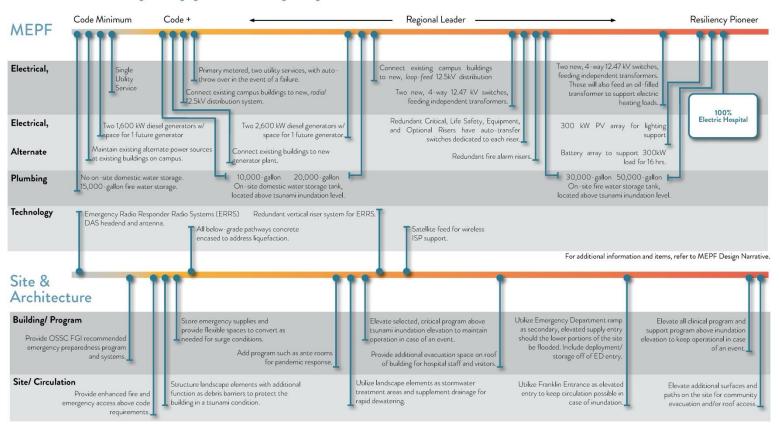


1 Resiliency Opportunity Spectrum



For additional information and items, refer to Civil Design Narrative.

1 Resiliency Opportunity Spectrum

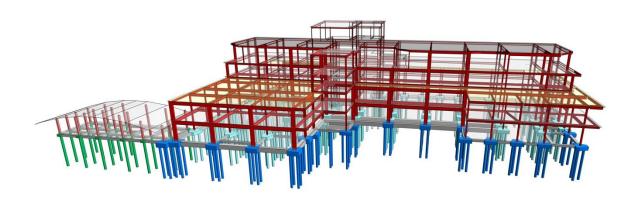


Healthcare Resiliency Synergies











Resiliency-Based	Performance	e Objectives
	-	

Timeline	Expected Event	Extreme Event
At time of alarm	Evacuation from vulnerable structures	Evacuation from vulnerable structures
Wave arrives	Minimal water inundation on CMH Expansion site	Site is inundated
"All Clear"	L1, including ED, can be occupied after event	L1 remains inundated

End of Event

Site Evacuation

needed to connect to 18th **Event Effect**

Project Performance

Community

Astoria Community and surrounding area heavily impacted

Loss of utilities

Life Safety + Occupiable Spaces after event

Route to Franklin less affected, some debris clearing may be

Debris clearing will be required for evacuation

Life Safety, Patient Stabilization,

and Evacuation

	,	
Utility / System	Expected Event	Extreme Event
Project Performance	Life Safety + Occupiable Spaces after event	Life Safety and Evacuation
	Code-level earthquake event without tsunami inundation, liquefaction occurs	Code-level earthquake event with tsunami inundation, liquefaction and scouring occurs
Structural System	Structure is expected to sustain little damage and inspections may be completed while the building remains occupied. Operations are minimally impacted due to the structural inspection process.	Structure is expected to maintain ability to function as a tsunami safe refuge. In the event of tsunami inundation, building inspections will be required and repairs to foundations, floor slabs, finishes, and other Level 1 components can be expected.

Utility will be impacted, generators will be required to support

refugees and evacuation

Generators are expected to remain operational and below-grade

storage tank is likely to remain intact.

Utility will be impacted, water access reduced to what is stored on

site. "Code Drv"

Utility will be impacted, communications maintained via Emergency

Radio Communications Center

O2 Tank Farm connection anticipated to be impacted

Supply reduced to enlarged gas storage upstairs in building.

Utility will be impacted, generators will be required to maintain a

reduced level of systems operation.

Generators and below-grade storage tank are expected to

remain operational and support emergency power needs for the

hospital.

Utility will be impacted, water access reduced to what is stored on

site. "Code Drv"

Utility will be impacted, communications maintained via Emergency

Radio Communications Center

Tank Farm connection may be impacted

Reduced to enlarged gas storage upstairs in building.

Normal Power

Generators

Water/Wastewater

Telecommunications.

Medical Gases

Resiliency-Based Performance Objectives

Design



Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis

Third Edition

FEMA P-646 / August 2019







Guidance for
Designing Health and
Residential Care Facilities
that Respond and Adapt to
Emergency Conditions

FGI EMERGENCY CONDITIONS COMMITTEE





2 EMERGENCY ENTRY

3 CAREGIVER ENTRY

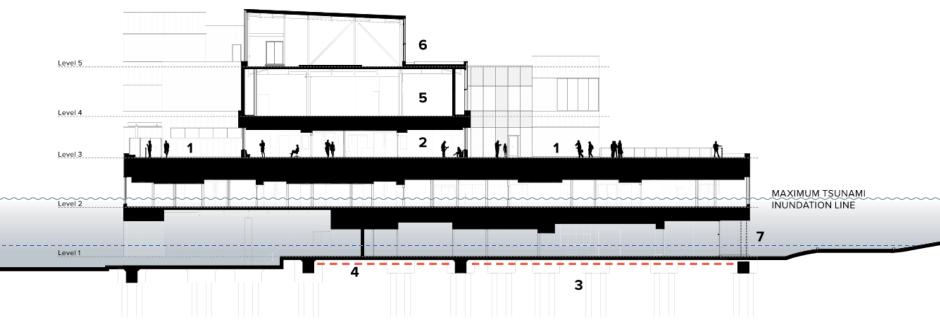
4 HEALING GARDEN

5 WELLNESS TRAIL

6 COURTYARD GARDEN



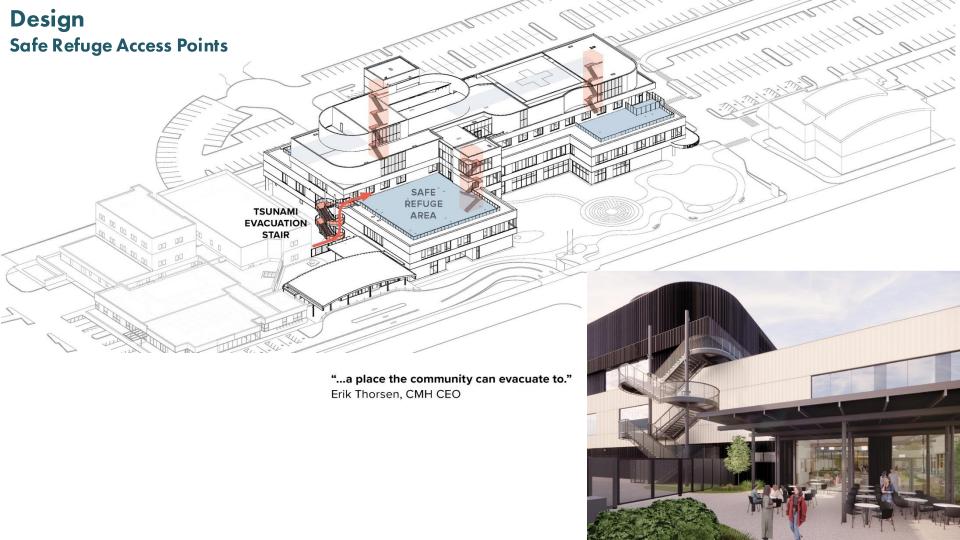
DesignSection North-South



Safe Refuge Areas can protect up to 1,900 people

- 3 Deep pile foundations and grade beams support the building from liquefaction and scouring on unstable fill soils
- Mechanical and electrical systems located on upper floors keep critical systems operational during a natural disaster
- 7 Stronger L1 Columns for debris impact and hydrodynamic loads

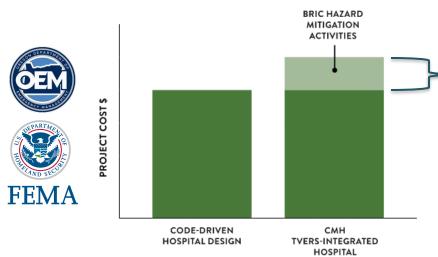
- 2 Acute Care Patient Rooms are located above the tsunami inundation line
- 4 Subgrade utilities supported from bottom of structural slab on grade to allow facility to come back online more quickly post-event
- 6 Helipad located on the roof for emergency access in any scenario







BRIC Funding



BRIC Premium:

7% of total CMH Expansion project

BRIC Grant: \$21 Million - Awarded 2022
Cancelled April 2025

\$15M -Federal share 70%

\$6M – Non-federal share, 30% local match

(2% of project budget)



Project Budget & Funding

Project Budget*	
Architect/Engineer	\$ 19,000,000
Professional Services & Other	5,500,000
Building Construction	242,000,000
Furniture/Fixtures/Equipment	26,000,000
Owner Contingency	7,500,000
Total	\$300,000,000

Secured Funding*	Currently 95.6% Funded
New CMH Debt 67%	\$ 200,000,000
CMH Cash Reserves 24%	72,000,000
State of Oregon 2%	6,000,000
Capital Campaign & Grants 2.6%	8,000,000
Potential Funding Sources*	
Restoration of FEMA BRIC Grant	\$15,000,000
Additional Grants & Philanthropy	2,000,000
Additional CMH Cash Reserves	\$13,000,000 - \$15,000,000



Funding Process/BRIC Restoration





Letters of Support

US Senator Jeff Merkley

US Senator Ron Wyden

US House Representative Suzanne Bonamici

Representative Suzanne Weber of Oregon

Representative Cyrus Javadi of Oregon

Regional Solutions Team (Oregon), including:

- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- · Oregon Health Authority
- Business Oregon
- · The Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac)

Clatsop County

Clatsop County Sheriff

City of Astoria

City of Warrenton

Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce (AWACC)

Seaside City Council Member Tita Montero

Astoria School District

Clatsop Community College

Lifeflight

Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)

Patrick Corcoran, previous Oregon State University and

Oregon Sea Grant agent, with a focus on Coastal Natural Hazards

Professional Staff at Columbia Memorial Hospital

Medix

Pacific Power

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20510

December 8, 2022

Administrator Deanne Criswell Federal Emergency Management Agency 500 C Street, SW. Washington, DC 20472

RE: Request for Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) funding for Columbia Memorial Hospital Resiliency Project

Dear Administrator Criswell:

Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a full-service, 25-bed, critical access, not-for-profit, Level IV trauma center located in the small, rural, coastal town of Astoria, Oregon. CMH serves a substantial portion of Oregon's North Coast, and the CMH campus is designated as critical infrastructure in Clatsop County's FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

However, the current single-story CMH campus is well within the tsunami intendation zone, on liquefiable soils, and is not sciencially safe. Accordingly, the hospital is at significant risk of earthquake and tsunami impacts from a Cascadia Subduction Zone carthquake. There is a critical need to invest in resilient infrastructure so that CMH can continue to rerovide services for patients, staff, and any on-site visitors in theig

CMH is requesting funding through the BRIs construct an expansion that integrates climate design. In addition to securing continued can funding will allow CMH to meet new healths demand for healthcare services in a medically

Thank you for your full and fair consideration have any questions regarding this project, ple office at 503-816-4509, Fritz Graham at 503office, or Espen Swanson in Congresswoman





800 Exchange St., Suite 410 Astoria, OR 97103 (503) 325-1000 phone / (503) 325-8325 fax www.co.clatsop.or.us

December 29, 2022

Administrator Deanne Criswell Federal Emergency Management Agency 500 C Street, SW. Washington, DC 20472

RE: Request for Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) funding for Columbia Memorial Hospital Resiliency Project

Dear Administrator Criswell:

Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a fall-service, 25-bed, critical access, not-for-profit, Level IV trauma center located in Astoria, Oregon at the estuary were the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean meet along the North Coast of Oregon. The Pacific Northwest coastine is at significant risk of earthquake and susmani impacts from the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the CMH campus is identified as within the tsusmai immadation zone by the State of Oregon.

CMH is proposing to expand the current hospital facility to support the growing need for services in the community and plans to integrate a Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structure (TVERS) into the construction of the hospital expansion. This will allow for hospital patients, caretakers, staff, visitors, and the public to evacuate vertically from a Cascadia-generated Sunami.

I fully support this FEMA BRIC funding request for the resiliency cost premiums necessary to integrate the Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structure (TVERS) in the new hospital expansion.

Sincerely,

lianne Thompson

Lianne Thompson Vice-Chair, Clatsop County Commissioner

Commitment to Project

- CMH remains 100% committed to resiliency goals
- No changes in design too late in the process
- Will find the \$ from other sources or will self fund
- Foundation construction underway







BuildCMH Team and Project Benefits





CMH Board's vision and commitment to community

City Astoria
Clatsop County
State and Federal Elected
Officials

Key Consultants

ZGF Architects

Degenkolb Engineers

SEFT Consulting

University of Washington

Will be region's first Tsunami
Vertical Evacuation Structure
Can provide safe refuge for
up to 1,900
patients/residents

Will be the most resilient hospital located on the Oregon Coast.

A model for other coastal communities

Allows CMH to meet its Mission of service to the community during a natural disaster, winter storm, or power outage.

