

Executive Summary
Multnomah County Drainage District #1
USACE WRRDA Project Proposal
December 2, 2014

1. **Non-Federal Project Sponsor:** Multnomah County Drainage District #1 (MCDD).
2. **Proposal Type:** Feasibility Study.
3. **Project Purpose:** The Feasibility Study would determine the appropriate level of authorization for the consolidated levee system in the Columbia Corridor. The four districts (Peninsula Drainage District #1, Peninsula Drainage District #2, Multnomah County Drainage District #1, and Sandy Drainage Improvement Company) are currently governed independently but are managed by MCDD. However, all four districts are currently in the process of exploring the potential of consolidation. Additionally, none of the districts are currently authorized to the same design level and flood event on the Columbia River. It is time to re-evaluate the existing level of authorization as the value of the properties and economic development opportunities within the levee system have changed over the past few decades and in light of the potential impacts of consolidation, climate change and the Columbia River Treaty. Along with all other alternatives to achieve the desired level of protection, the study would also consider physical modifications to the system protecting the study area. For example, as identified in the Peninsula Drainage District #1 Levee Engineering Assessment, the railroad embankment that runs along the western perimeter of the district does not meet certification requirements for FEMA accreditation. Any alternative selected to address this deficiency will result in a modification to the existing USACE authorized project and result in an extensive permitting and planning process.
4. **Project Study Cost Estimate:** \$3 million.
5. **Anticipated Monetary and Non-Monetary Benefit:**
 - a. **Protection of Human Life and Property:** 7,500 residents and nearly 13,000 acres of land amounting to over \$5 billion in assessed property.
 - b. **Improvement to Transportation:** Protection of Interstate 5 between Oregon and Washington, multiple local freight routes (Marine Drive and Columbia Blvd.), the Portland International Airport, the regional Troutdale Airport, and multiple recreational facilities.
 - c. **National Economy:** 10% of jobs in Multnomah County, over \$5 billion in assessed property, and nearly 20% of all land available for large lot industrial development in the region. The region is the 2nd fastest growing export economy among the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the country.
 - d. **Environment:** The leveed area provides habitat for over 175 bird species, a variety of fish and other mammals. Endangered or threatened species include the Western Painted Turtle and the Streaked Horned Lark.
 - e. **National Security Interests:** The Portland International Airport, Interstate 5, and the Columbia South Shore Well Field (27 wells provide a backup water source for 800,000 Oregonians).
6. **Existing Local Support:** City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro, Port of Portland, USACE Portland District, FEMA Region X, Columbia Corridor Association, East Columbia & Bridgeton Neighborhood Associations, Oregon Governor's Regional Solutions Team, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and Oregon Fish & Wildlife.
7. **Non-Federal Project Sponsor Financial Ability:** The Districts have a total annual operating budget of \$11.4 million and have demonstrated the ability to partner with other non-federal agencies to acquire additional funding for levee improvement projects (\$1.4 million Infrastructure Finance Authority loan) and \$249,208 with the USACE through the Planning Assistance to States Program.
8. **Letters of Support:** Letters of support will be sent later in December as a separate attachment.