Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW–CE, Lisa Kiefel
441 G Street NW.
Washington, DC 20314–1000

December 31, 2014

Dear Ms. Kiefel,

Multnomah County is writing in support of Multnomah County Drainage District's (MCDD) feasibility study proposal to be included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' annual report. All four of the levee systems that MCDD manages along North and Northeast Portland along the Columbia River are within Multnomah County's jurisdiction. Multnomah County has been heavily involved in the "Oregon Solutions" levee improvement project for the past year, as County Commissioner Jules Bailey is a co-convener for the process.

To date, the Oregon Solutions project has brought in over $1.6 million from state and federal sponsors and completed an initial engineering assessment in two of the four levee districts managed by MCDD. The successful collaboration is motivated by partners' shared recognition of the levee system's role in protecting lives and property, national security, economic prosperity, regional transportation, and environmental sustainability. The first phase of the Oregon Solutions process is nearly complete and focuses on identifying needed improvements and associated costs of repair. The second phase will focus on cost sharing, the regulatory approval process and other implementation issues.

Oregon Solutions partners are aware that in just the last 70 years, the levee system endured multiple high water events, many of which were above the 1-percent-annual-chance flood elevation. A review of local flood history provides a dramatic reminder of the levee system's significance. As land uses have changed over the past few decades, the levee system now protects the lives of residents and employees in addition to a multitude of structural assets and businesses that greatly impact the regional economy.

The engineering analysis completed to date has identified a significant issue in the levee system that MCDD's proposal is intended to address: the authorized level of protection varies across the system. Additionally, remedies for a deficiency at the western edge of the system will result in a modification to an existing USACE authorized project. Finally, certification in two of the four

drainage districts managed by MCDD has already expired and the other two districts' certification will expire in 2017. Multnomah County has a pressing need to ensure that the districts can be re-certified and accredited as the resources behind the levee hold regional significance.

In short, Multnomah County would like to endorse MCDD's feasibility study proposal and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

X_____

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair

X_____

Jules Bailey
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1

X_____

Loretta Smith
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

X_____

Judy Shiprack
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 3

X_____

Diane McKeel
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 4