



Clatsop County

County Manager's Office

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February 9, 2024

Review Committee
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant Program- Track 1

Dear Review Committee:

Clatsop County is supportive of the Columbia River Estuary Flood Adaptation Partnership submitted by the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, to NOAA's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (Track 1) grant program. Clatsop County is a key collaborator in the project as this proposal grew out of a Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development NOAA Fellow project that used community engagement in four locations in the County to conduct asset mapping and to begin the conversation about what type of nature based and grey infrastructure projects will be needed in the future to protect local communities across the County.

The Columbia River Estuary Flood Adaptation Partnership has come from this outreach work and is designed to further the conversations and develop a resiliency action plan that can identify how to help communities and ecosystems along the lower Columbia River estuary adapt to current and future flood impacts from sea level rise and other compound flooding. We are particularly interested in the team's proposed objective to evaluate projects to improve flood conditions using both infrastructure improvements as well as solutions grounded in restoration or nature-based solutions.

Statement of Commitment

Clatsop County has reviewed the application on February 7, 2024, and fully commits to executing the activities described within to accelerate resilience actions in the Columbia Estuary and plan for our County's most pressing challenges. We commit to:

- Participating in the Columbia River Estuary Flood Adaptation Partnership advisory committee to discuss public outreach efforts, modeling outcomes, and proposed projects and land use planning recommendations.
- Participating in the public outreach workshops in Youngs Bay and Cathlamet Bay.
- Working with the Project Team to provide feedback and recommendations for the final action plan and report of the project which will include potential projects and land use planning recommendations for partnering jurisdictions.

Clatsop County has been a member of the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, a bi-state council of governments, since CREST's founding, almost 50 years. We work closely with CREST on land use planning projects, have a good understanding of their ongoing habitat restoration projects and their work as a key facilitator in the Columbia River Estuary. We look forward to working closely to address the coming challenges of sea level rise and growing compound flooding.

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Significant developments within Clatsop County, including the City of Warrenton, are protected by dikes and levees, many of which were constructed 80 to 100 years ago. Many of these dikes are no longer accredited and many of the districts which once maintained these facilities are no longer active. This project will provide Clatsop County with invaluable information that will help to focus project development priorities and direct public discussions about infrastructure protection and resiliency.

Clatsop County believes the proposed community engagement and coordination, flood modeling, and adaptation project planning for the likely effects of current and future flood impacts along the lower Columbia River estuary will assist local jurisdictions in addressing sea level rise and compound flooding impacts into the future both through land use planning recommendations and on-the-ground projects. We look forward to collaborating in this work and using the results to improve resiliency throughout the County.

We are pleased to be a key collaborator of the project and encourage you to fully fund the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kujala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Kujala, Chair
Board of County Commissioners