



A NEW WAY OF MANAGING FLOOD RISK ALONG THE COLUMBIA: The Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District

Background

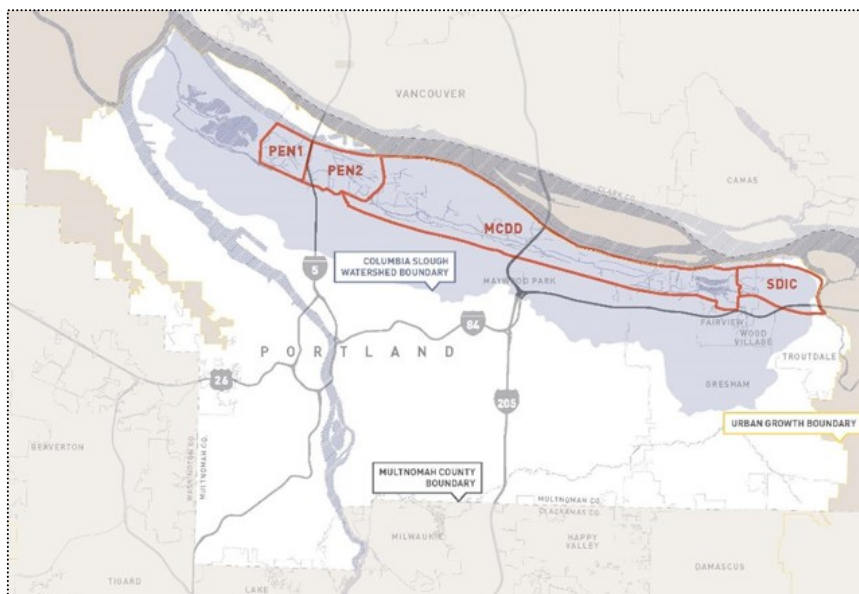
The Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District was created by the Oregon state legislature during the 2019 legislative session at the request of Levee Ready Columbia, a partnership of over twenty public, private, nonprofit, and neighborhood organizations working collaboratively to reduce the risk of flooding along the Columbia River in Multnomah County by modernizing the 27-mile levee and conveyance system that runs from North Portland through Gresham, Fairview, and Troutdale. This new special district was designed to be able to meet long-term flood safety needs in the region while allowing for improved environmental stewardship in the managed floodplain and a more equitable distribution of costs based on services and benefits received.

Purpose

From the authorizing legislation, Senate Bill 431, the "urban flood safety and water quality district is created for the purpose of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining works in order to: a) reduce the risk of flooding; b) protect people and property from flood risk; c) respond to flood emergencies; d) convey water for the purpose of flood safety; e) contribute to improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, floodplain restoration and landscape resilience; f) promote equity and social justice in all aspects of the district's operations; g) prepare for and adapt to the impact of climate change in relation to the managed floodplain; and h) provide the public with information regarding the cultural history of the territory in the managed floodplain."

Boundaries

The district boundary is tied to the Multnomah County Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) as set by Metro, which reflects the area where the greatest economic benefit is experienced due to the activity and infrastructure made possible by the levee system.



Oversight

The authorizing legislation calls for two different board configurations at different times. First, an initial 17-member board will be responsible for organizing the district and setting up a sustainable revenue structure. Once the revenue structures are in place, the initial board can call for the dissolution of the four existing drainage districts that currently manage the local flood safety infrastructure. At that point, the initial board will begin to transition to a permanent structure of 9 board members who are responsible for the ongoing oversight of the district.

The **Initial Board** will include representatives of:

12 governmental entities appointed by their respective governing bodies :

- the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale, & Wood Village;
- Metro Multnomah County, the Port of Portland; and
- the four drainage districts that manage the flood safety infrastructure along the Columbia River

5 community representatives appointed by the Governor:

- one resident of the managed floodplain;
- one owner or representative of a business within the managed floodplain;
- one representative of a nonprofit located in or connected with the managed floodplain;
- one representative of an environmental conservation organization; and
- one representative of an environmental justice organization

The **Permanent Board** will include 9 members, each serving four-year terms, including:

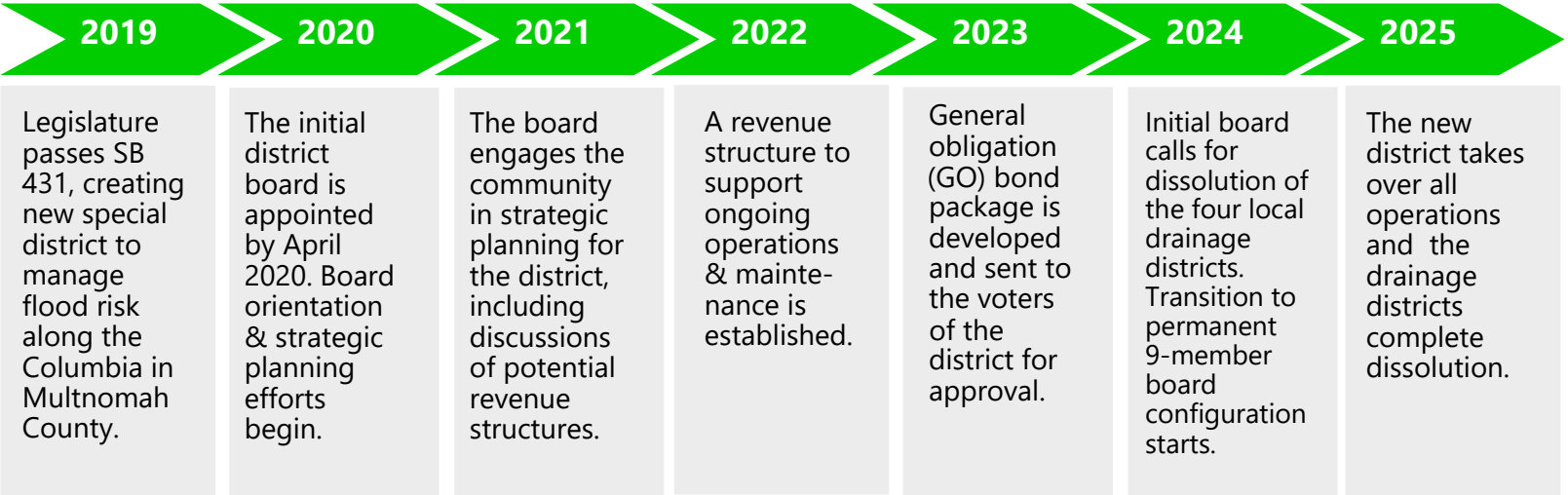
5 elected members:

- 4 individuals who are either residents, business owners, or the designee of a business owner from within the managed floodplain;
- 1 resident of urban Multnomah County; and

4 members appointed by the Governor:

- one representative of the Port of Portland
- one individual with expertise or interest in flood safety
- one individual with expertise or interest in environmental conservation
- one individual with expertise or interest in environmental justice

Estimated Timeline



Background

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From the authorizing legislation, "an urban flood safety and water quality district is created for the purpose of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining works in order to: (a) Reduce the risk of flooding; (b) Protect people and property from flood risk; (c) Respond to flood emergencies; (d) Convey water for the purpose of flood safety; (e) Contribute to improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, floodplain restoration and landscape resilience; (f) Promote equity and social justice in all aspects of the district's operations; (g) Prepare for and adapt to the impact of climate change in relation to the managed floodplain; and (h) Provide the public with information regarding the cultural history of the territory in the managed floodplain."

The initial board is made up of 17 appointed members. From the authorizing legislation, "the purpose of the initial district board is to organize the district and to develop, and approve or seek approval from the electors of, methods of funding the operations of the district." It is currently projected that this process will take about five years. Once the initial board has put a revenue structure in place, they will be able to call for the dissolution of the four existing drainage districts that manage the local levee system along the Columbia River. At that point, the board will begin to transition to a permanent configuration of 9-members (5-elected and 4-appointed) serving four-year terms.

Initial Board Member Responsibilities

Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District Board Members will be responsible for:

- Attending monthly board meetings.
- Establishing and advancing the mission, vision, and values of the agency.
- Naming and branding the district.
- Understanding the cultural and racial history of the region* and prioritizing, supporting, and investing in processes that engage historically marginalized and underrepresented communities in decision-making.
- Creating an organizational culture that prioritizes, supports, and invests in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Determining the agency's levels of service and programmatic functions, including:
 - Developing an understanding of relevant federal regulations and what must be done to comply and maintain eligibility for federal assistance through the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency*;
 - Reviewing the current drainage district operations, programs, and policies* and determining what should carry over to the new district and any added improvements;
 - Defining how the district will:
 - work with other governments and non-profit organizations to contribute to improved water quality, fish, and wildlife habitat, floodplain restoration, and landscape resilience;
 - prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
 - incorporate equity and social justice into all aspects of its operations;
 - provide the public with information regarding the cultural history of the managed floodplain; and
 - engage community members in the district's programs, events, and other relevant forums that promote awareness of flood risk and encourage participation in the agency's operations and decision-making processes.

- Running a transparent process to identify and establish sustainable revenue structures to fund the operational and capital needs of the district, including potentially:
 - Establishing a fee rate structure to fund operations of the district based on services or benefits received;
 - Prioritizing and securing funding for immediate capital needs; and
 - Ensuring the district has a modern capital improvement plan in place to inform short- and long-term capital needs.
- Establishing the policies and ordinances that are needed to support operations of the district.
- Complying with public records, public meetings, and all other relevant requirements for elected officials of a state special district*.
- Monitoring and managing financial resources, including reviewing annual financial statements and budgets, setting limits and guidelines, and approving major expenditures.
- Hiring the Executive Director.
- Serving on committees and taking on special assignments as needed.

** orientation and educational information will be provided for all board members*

Additional Information

The Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District's authorizing legislation is available online at bit.ly/sb431-enrolled and additional information about serving as a board member of a state special district is available through the Special Districts Association of Oregon's website at www.sdao.com.

For questions about the new district, please visit www.bit.ly/new-district or contact Levee Ready Columbia at leveeready@gmail.com. Information about the Governor's appointment process is available on the LRC website, and it can be accessed via the State of Oregon's site at bit.ly/oregon-appointments. For specific questions about the Governor's appointment process, please contact executive.appointments@oregon.gov.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE:

Join the Board of the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District

The initial board of the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District will be made up of 17 appointed members, including:

5 community representatives including:

- one resident of the managed floodplain
- one business owner or representative of a business located within the managed floodplain
- one nonprofit with expertise or interest related to the managed floodplain
- one representative of a nonprofit with expertise or interest in environmental conservation
- one representative of a nonprofit with expertise or interest in environmental justice

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BOARD?

To be considered for one of the Governor appointed positions, indicate your interest by:

1. completing the attached interest form;
2. gathering additional background information like a **resume**, a **statement of interest**, and **any endorsements*** you would like to submit; and
3. emailing your materials to executive.appointments@oregon.gov

**If you are seeking an appointment as a representative of a business, non-profit, or neighborhood, we recommend including a letter of nomination or endorsement as a part of your package.*

Questions?

For any questions related to the Governor's appointment process, please contact executive.appointments@oregon.gov or 503-378-6829.

For questions about the new special district, board roles and responsibilities, time commitments, etc. please refer to the accompanying materials or contact LRC staff at leveeready@gmail.com.

To read the authorizing legislation that created this new special district visit bit.ly/sb431-enrolled.



EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS INTEREST FORM



Please check if this is an application for
reappointment ☐

This form is an application for an Oregon Board or Commission. To complete your application packet, return this form to the Governor's Office, along with your resume, a statement of interest and a bio. You must be an Oregon resident to apply unless otherwise noted. Please contact the Executive Appointments office at (503) 378-6829 if you have any questions.

Options to Return Application Packet:

Mail: Executive Appointments, Office of the Governor 900 Court Street NE, Suite 254, Salem, OR 97301-4075

Email a PDF to: executive.appointments@oregon.gov

Note: This application is subject to the Public Records Act and may be disclosed upon request. Personal information will be redacted.

Board/Commission Appointment(s) Desired: (Please print or type)

(Board Name)

(Position)

(Board Name)

(Position)

(Board Name)

(Position)

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Preferred Name: _____ **(Ex: Thomas -> Tom)** **Title: (Mr. Ms. Dr.)** _____ **Suffix: (Jr., PhD)** _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **County (not USA):** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

State Senate District #: _____ **State House District #:** _____ **Federal Congressional District #:** _____

This is your residential voting district. Click here - <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/findyourlegislator/leg-districts.html> - or call your county elections office.

To better assist us in meeting our affirmative action objectives, we would appreciate information about your gender identity and background. This information is optional and is used for data collection only. Under state and federal law, this information may not be used to discriminate against you. Thank you for your participation.

Gender Identity: _____ **LBGTQ:** ☐ **Disability:** _____

Race/Ethnicity (Select One): African American/Black ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐
Caucasian/White ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐
Multi/Other ☐

REMINDER: A complete application packet contains an Interest Form and Executive Appointments Background Information form, as well as your resume, a statement of interest and a short bio.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Furnishing the following information is voluntary, but failure to provide the requested data may preclude selection for appointment. The Governor's Office considers the information on this page to have been submitted in confidence pursuant to ORS 192.502(4). The Governor's Office will not release this page for public inspection unless required to do so. Information submitted on this Interest Form will be maintained confidential to the extent permitted by the Oregon Public Records Law.

The Governor's staff and the Oregon State Police may conduct a background investigation to obtain information about you. Please provide the following information and sign below to permit the investigation to be conducted. For an appointment to a state board or commission you are expected to comply with all income tax laws.

I hereby authorize the Oregon State Police and the Governor's Office to request and review any and all records pertaining to me on file with the Department of Revenue, the Motor Vehicles Division, law enforcement agencies and past and present employers, employees, business associates, and acquaintances.

Signature (sign here) _____ **Date** _____

Legal Name and Home Address (no PO BOX):

_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last

Street		

City	State	Zip Code

Please provide a response to all questions

If your answer to any of the below questions is YES, please give full details on a separate sheet of paper

- a) Please provide any other names you have used or been known as: _____
- b) Are you legally authorized to work in the United States? Yes ☐ No ☐
- c) Have you been disciplined, terminated or asked to resign from a position by an employer within the past 10 years? Yes ☐* No ☐
- d) Have you EVER been convicted, arrested, detained, charged, indicted or summoned to answer for any criminal offense or violation (except minor traffic offenses with a fine of less than \$100.00)? Yes ☐* No ☐
- e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? Yes ☐* No ☐
- f) Have you ever held a professional license of any kind? Yes ☐* No ☐
- g) If you have held a professional license, have you ever had disciplinary action of any nature taken against you with regard to such license? Yes ☐* No ☐ N/A ☐
- h) If you are appointed, is there anything in your background, not covered by questions (a)-(g) above, that might reflect poorly on the State of Oregon or on the Board or Commission to which you have applied, if known publicly? Yes ☐* No ☐

Disclosure of the last four digits of your Social Security Number is voluntary. If provided, it may be used to verify your identity and to obtain your criminal history records, if any. Failure to provide your SSN for these purposes will delay processing your Interest Form.

Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____ Driver's License Number: _____ State: _____
Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Place of Birth: _____
Oregon Resident: Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, how long have you lived in Oregon? _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____