

1101 Purpose: It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed:

- .1 To protect human life and health;
- .2 To minimize expenditure of public money and costly flood control projects;
- .3 To minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- .4 To minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- .5 To minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains; electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets, and bridges located in areas of special flood hazard;
- .6 To help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of areas of special flood hazard so as to minimize future flood blight areas;
- .7 To ensure that potential buyers are notified that property is in an area of special flood hazard;
- .8 To ensure that those who occupy the areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions;
- .9 To participate in and maintain eligibility for flood insurance and disaster relief.

1102 Methods of Reducing Flood Losses: In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance includes methods and provisions for:

- .1 Restricting or prohibiting development which is dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- .2 Requiring that development vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the

time of initial construction;

- .3 Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;
- .4 Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage;
- .5 Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or may increase flood hazards in other areas.

1103 Definitions: Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage.

- .1 “APPEAL” means a request for a review of the interpretation of any provision of this ordinance or a request for a variance.
- .2 “AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING” means a designated Zone AO, AH, AR/AO or AR/AH on a community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.
- .3 “AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD OVERLAY” means the land in the flood plain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Designation on maps always includes the letters A or V.
- .4 “BASE FLOOD” means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the “100-year flood.” Designation on maps always includes the letters A or V.
- .5 “BASE FLOOD EVELATION” means the elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood.
- .6 “BASEMENT” means any area of the building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

- .7     “BELOW-GRADE CRAWL SPACE” means an enclosed area below the base flood elevation in which the interior grade is not more than two feet below the lowest adjacent exterior grade and the height, measured from the interior grade of the crawlspace to the top of the crawlspace foundation, does not exceed 4 feet at any point.
- .8     “BREAKAWAY WALL” means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces, without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system.
- .9     “BUILDING” See “Structure”.
- .10    “CRITICAL FACILITY” means a facility for which even a slight chance of flooding might be too great. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency response installations, installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste.
- .11    “DEVELOPMENT” means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations located within the area of special flood hazard.
- .12    “ELEVATED BUILDING” means for insurance purposes, a nonbasement building which has its lowest elevated floor raised above ground level by foundation walls, shear walls, post, piers, pilings or columns.
- .13    “FLOOD OR FLOODING” means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
- (1)    The overflow of inland or tidal waters, and/or
  - (2)    The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.
  - (3)    Mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flooding as defined in paragraph (a)(2) of this definition and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces

of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.

- .14 “FLOOD ELEVATION STUDY” means an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards.
- .15 “FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)” means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
- .16 “FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY (FIS)” See “Flood Elevation Study”
- .17 “FLOODPLAIN OR FLOOD PRONE AREA” means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source. See “flood or flooding.”
- .18 “FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR” means the community official designated by title to administer and enforce the floodplain management regulations.
- .19 “FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT” means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventative measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, and floodplain management regulations.
- .20 “FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS” means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as floodplain ordinance, grading ordinance, stormwater and erosion control ordinance) and other application of police power. The term describes such state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.
- .21 “FLOOD PROOFING” means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents.

- .22 "FLOODWAY" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. Also referred to as "Regulatory Floodway."
- .23 "FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE" means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, and does not include long term storage or related manufacturing facilities.
- .24 "HAZARDOUS MATERIAL" means the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality defines hazardous materials to include any of the following:
- (1) Hazardous waste as defined in ORS 466.005;
  - (2) Radioactive waste as defined in ORS 469.300, radioactive material identified by the Energy Facility Siting Council under ORS 469.605 and radioactive substances defined in ORS 453.005
  - (3) Communicable disease agents as regulated by the Health Division under ORS Chapter 431 and 433.010 to 433.045 and 433.106 to 433.990;
  - (4) Hazardous substances designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended;
  - (5) Substances listed by the United States EPA in section 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 302 – Table 302.4 (list of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities) and amendments;
  - (6) Material regulated as a Chemical Agent under ORS 465.550;

- (7) Material used as a weapon of mass destruction, or biological weapon;
  - (8) Pesticide residue;
  - (9) Dry cleaning solvent as defined by ORS 465.200(9).
- .25 “HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE” means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.
- .26 “HISTORIC STRUCTURE” means any structure that is:
- (1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
  - (2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
  - (3) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or
  - (4) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
    - a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
    - b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
- .27 “LETTER OF MAP CHANGE” means an official FEMA determination, by letter, to amend or revise effective Flood

Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies. The following are categories of LOMCs:

- (1) “Conditional Letter of Map Amendment (CLOMA)”: A CLOMA is FEMA’s comment on a proposed structure or group of structures that would, upon construction, be located on existing natural ground above the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood elevation on a portion of a legally defined parcel of land that is partially inundated by the base flood.
- (2) “Conditional Letter of Map Revisions (CLOMR)”: A CLOMR is FEMA’s comment on a proposed project that would, upon construction, affect the hydrologic or hydraulic characteristics of a flooding source and thus result in the modification of the existing regulatory floodway, the effective base flood elevations, or the special flood hazard area.
- (3) “Conditional Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (CLOMR-F)”: A CLOMR-F is FEMA’s comment on a proposed project that would, upon construction, result in a modification of the special flood hazard area through the placement of fill outside the existing regulatory floodway.
- (4) “Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)”: An official amendment, by letter, to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) based on technical data showing that an existing structure, parcel of land or portion of a parcel of land that is naturally high ground, (i.e., has not been elevated by fill) above the base flood, that was inadvertently included in the special flood hazard area.
- (5) “Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)”: A LOMR is FEMA’s modification to an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM), or both. LOMRs are generally based on the implementation of physical measures that affect the hydrologic or hydraulic characteristics of a flooding source and thus result in the modification of the existing regulatory floodway, the effective base flood elevations, or the SFHA. The LOMR officially

revises the FIRM or FBFM, and sometimes the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, and, when appropriate, includes a description of the modifications. The LOMR is generally accompanied by an annotated copy of the affected portions of the FIRM, FBFM, or FIS report.

- (6) “Letter of Map Revision base on Fille (LOMR-F)”: A LOMR-F is FEMA’s modification of the special flood hazard area shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) based on the placement of fill outside the existing regulatory floodway.
- (7) “PMR”: A PMR is FEMA’s physical revision and republication of an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report. PMRs are generally based on physical measures that affect the hydrologic or hydraulic characteristics of a flooding source and thus result in the modification of the existing regulatory floodway, the effective baes flood elevations, or the special flood hazard area.

- .28 “LOWEST FLOOR” means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building’s lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.
- .29 “MANUFACTURED DWELLING” means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "manufactured dwelling" does not include a "recreational vehicle" and is synonymous with “manufactured home”.
- .30 “MANUFACTURED DWELLING PARK OR SUBDIVISION” means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured dwelling lots for rent or sale.
- .31 “MEAN SEA LEVEL” means for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 or other datum, to which Base Flood Elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map are referenced.



- .32 "NEW CONSTRUCTION" for floodplain management purposes, means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by Columbia County and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.
- .33 "RECREATIONAL VEHICLE" means a vehicle which is:
- (1) Build on a single chassis;
  - (2) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
  - (3) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
  - (4) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.
- .34 "REGULATORY FLOODWAY" See "Floodway".
- .35 "SHEET FLOW AREA" See "Area of shallow flooding".
- .36 "START OF CONSTRUCTION" Includes substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days from the date of the permit. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured dwelling on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of

construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

- .37 "STRUCTURE" for floodplain management purposes, means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured dwelling.
- .38 "SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE" means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to it's before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
- .39 "SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT" means reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:
- A. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
  - B. Any alteration of a "historic structure," provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."
- .40 "VARIANCE" means a grant of relief by Columbia County from the terms of a flood plain management regulation.
- .41 "VIOLATION" means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in this ordinance is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.
- .42 "WATER DEPENDENT" means a structure for commerce or

industry which cannot exist in any other location and is dependent on the water by reason of intrinsic nature of its operations.

- .43 “WATER SURFACE ELEVATION” means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, or other datum, of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

1104 GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- .1 Lands to which this ordinance applies: This zone shall apply to all areas of special flood hazards within the jurisdiction of Columbia County.
- .2 Basis for Establishing the Special Flood Hazard Areas
- A. The special flood hazard areas identified by the Federal Insurance Administrator in a scientific and engineering report entitled “The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Columbia County, Oregon and Incorporated Areas, dated November 26, 2010, with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The FIS and FIRM panels are on file at Columbia County, Department of Land Development Services, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051, located in the Columbia County Courthouse Annex building.
- .3 Coordination with State of Oregon Specialty Codes
- A. Pursuant to the requirement established in ORS 455 that Columbia County administers and enforces the State of Oregon Specialty Codes, Columbia County does hereby acknowledge that the Oregon Specialty Codes contain certain provisions that apply to the design and construction of buildings and structures located in special flood hazard areas. Therefore, this ordinance is intended to be administered and enforced in conjunction with the Oregon Specialty Codes.
- .4 Compliance and Penalties for Noncompliance:
- A. Compliance: All development within special flood hazard areas is subject to the terms of this ordinance and required

to comply with its provisions and all other applicable regulations.

- B. Penalties for Noncompliance: No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. Violations of the provisions of this ordinance by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor infraction subject to the penalties and citations found in the Columbia County Enforcement Ordinance with authority from Oregon Revised Statutes 153.005 to 153.064. Nothing contained herein shall prevent Columbia County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

.5 Abrogation and Severability:

- A. Abrogation: This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance and another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.
- B. Severability: This ordinance and the various parts thereof are hereby declared to be severable. If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of the Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

.6 Interpretation: In the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions shall be:

- A. Considered as minimum requirements;
- B. Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and
- C. Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under state statutes.

.7 Warning and Disclaimer of Liability

- A. Warning: The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages.
- B. Disclaimer of Liability: This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of Columbia County, any officer or employee thereof, or the Federal Insurance Administrator for any flood damages that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

1105 ADMINISTRATION:

- .1 Designation of the Floodplain Administrator: The Columbia County Land Development Services Director, and their designee, is hereby appointed to administer, implement, and enforce this ordinance by granting or denying development permits in accordance with its provisions. The Floodplain Administrator may delegate authority to implement these provisions.
- .2 Duties and Responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator: Duties of the floodplain administrator, or their designee, shall include, but not be limited to:
  - A. Permit Review
    - 1. The permit requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied;
    - 2. All other required local, state, and federal permits have been obtained and approved.
    - 3. Review all development permits to determine if the proposed development is located in a floodway. If located in the floodway assure that the floodway provisions of this ordinance in section 1106.2(D) are met; and

4. Review all development permits to determine if the proposed development is located in an area where Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is available either through the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) or from another authoritative source. If BFE data is not available then ensure compliance with the provisions of sections 1106.1(G); and
  5. Provide to building officials the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) applicable to any building requiring a floodplain development permit.
  6. Review all development permit applications to determine if the proposed development qualifies as a substantial improvement as defined in section 1103.
  7. Review all development permits to determine if the proposed development activity is a watercourse alteration. If a watercourse alteration is proposed, ensure compliance with the provisions in section 1106.1(A).
  8. Review all development permits to determine if the proposed development activity includes the placement of fill or excavation.
- B. Information to be Obtained and Maintained: The following information shall be obtained and maintained and shall be made available for public inspection as needed:
1. Obtain, record, and maintain the actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basements) and all attendant utilities of all new or substantially improved structures where Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is provided through the Flood Insurance Study (FIS), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), or obtained in accordance with section 1106.1(G).
  2. Obtain and record the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the natural grade of the building site for a structure prior to the start of construction and the placement of any fill and ensure that the requirements of sections 1106.2(D) and 1105.2(A)(2) are adhered

to.

3. Upon placement of the lowest floor of a structure (including basement) but prior to further vertical construction, obtain documentation, prepared and sealed by a professional licensed surveyor or engineer, certifying the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basement).
4. Where base flood elevation data are utilized, obtain As-built certification of the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basement) prepared and sealed by a professional licensed surveyor or engineer, prior to the final inspection.
5. Maintain all Elevation Certificates (EC) submitted to Columbia County;
6. Obtain, record, and maintain the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure and all attendant utilities were floodproofed for all new or substantially improved floodproofed structures where allowed under this ordinance and where Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is provided through the FIS, FIRM, or obtained in accordance with section 1106.1(G).
7. Maintain all floodproofing certificates required under this ordinance;
8. Record and maintain all variance actions, including justification for their issuance;
9. Obtain and maintain all hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed as required under section 1106.2(D).
10. Record and maintain all Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage calculations and determinations as required under section 1105.2(D).
11. Maintain for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this ordinance.

C. Requirement to Notify Other Entities and Submit New Technical Data

1. Community Boundary Alterations: The Floodplain Administrator shall notify the Federal Insurance Administrator in writing whenever the boundaries of the community have been modified by annexation or the community has otherwise assumed authority or no longer has authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for a particular area, to ensure that all Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) accurately represent the community's boundaries. Include within such notification a copy of a map of the community suitable for reproduction, clearly delineating the new corporate limits or new area for which the community has assumed or relinquished floodplain management regulatory authority.
2. Watercourse Alterations: adjacent communities, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Insurance Administration. This notification shall be provided by the applicant to the Federal Insurance Administration as a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) along with either:
  - i. A proposed maintenance plan to assure the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of the watercourse is maintained; or
  - ii. Certification by a registered professional engineer that the project has been designed to retain its flood carrying capacity without periodic maintenance.
  - iii. The applicant shall be required to submit a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) when required under section 1105.2(C)(3). Ensure compliance with all applicable



requirements in sections 1105.2(C)(3) and 1106.1(A).

3. Requirement to Submit New Technical Data: A community's base flood elevations may increase or decrease resulting from physical changes affecting flooding conditions. As soon as practicable, but not later than six months after the date such information becomes available, a community shall notify the Federal Insurance Administrator of the changes by submitting technical or scientific data in accordance with Section 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sub-Section 65.3. The community may require the applicant to submit such data and review fees required for compliance with this section through the applicable FEMA Letter of Map Change (LOMC) process.

The Floodplain Administrator shall require a Conditional Letter of Map Revision prior to the issuance of a floodplain development permit for:

- i. Proposed floodway encroachments that increase the base flood elevation; and
- ii. Proposed development which increases the base flood elevation by more than one foot in areas where FEMA has provided base flood elevations but no floodway.

An applicant shall Notify FEMA within six (6) months of project completion when an applicant has obtained a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA. This notification to FEMA shall be provided as a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

The applicant shall be responsible for preparing all technical data to support CLOMR/LOMR applications and paying any processing or application fees associated with the CLOMR/LOMR.

The Floodplain Administrator shall be under no obligation to sign the Community Acknowledgement Form, which is part of the CLOMR/LOMR application,

until the applicant demonstrates that the project will or has met the requirements of this code and all applicable state and federal laws.

- D. Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage Assessments and Determinations: Conduct Substantial Improvement (SI) (as defined in section 1103) reviews for all structural development proposal applications and maintain a record of SI calculations within permit files in accordance with section 1105.2(B). Conduct Substantial Damage (SD) (as defined in section 1103) assessments when structures are damaged due to a natural hazard event or other causes. Make SD determinations whenever structures within the special flood hazard area (as established in section 1104.2) are damaged to the extent that the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

.3 Establishment of Development Permit:

- A. Floodplain Development Permit Required: A development permit shall be obtained before construction or development begins within any area horizontally within the special flood hazard area established in section 1104.2. The development permit shall be required for all structures, including manufactured dwellings, and for all other development, as defined in section 1103, including fill and other development activities.
- B. Application for Development Permit: Application for a development permit may be made on forms furnished by the Floodplain Administrator and may include, but not be limited to, plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing the nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the area in question; existing or proposed structures, fill, storage of materials, drainage facilities, and the location of the foregoing. Specifically the following information is required:
1. In riverine flood zones, the proposed elevation (in relation to mean sea level), of the lowest floor (including basement) and all attendant utilities of all new and substantially improved structures; in accordance with the requirements of section

1105.2(B).

2. Proposed elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any non-residential structure will be floodproofed.
  3. Certification by a registered professional engineer or architect licensed in the State of Oregon that the floodproofing methods proposed for any non-residential structure meet the floodproofing criteria for non-residential structures in section 1106.2(C)(3).
  4. Description of the extent to which any watercourse will be altered or relocated.
  5. Base Flood Elevation data for subdivision proposals or other development when required per sections 1105.2(A) and 1106.1(F).
  6. Substantial improvement calculation for any improvement, addition, reconstruction, renovation, or rehabilitation of an existing structure.
  7. The amount and location of any fill or excavation activities proposed.
- .4 Variance Procedure: The issuance of a variance is for floodplain management purposes only. Flood insurance premium rates are determined by federal statute according to actuarial risk and will not be modified by the granting of a variance.
- A. Conditions for Variances:
1. Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood level, in conformance with the provisions of sections 1105.3(A)(3) and (5), and 1105.3(B). As the lot size increases beyond one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing a variance increases.
  2. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination

that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.

3. Variances shall not be issued within any floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
4. Variances shall only be issued upon:
  - i. A showing of good and sufficient cause;
  - ii. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant;
  - iii. A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing laws or ordinances.
5. Variances may be issued by a community for new construction and substantial improvements and for other development necessary for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that the criteria of section 1105.3(A)(2) – (4) are met, and the structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.

B. Variance Notification:

1. Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the Base Flood Elevation will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance and that such construction below the base flood elevation increases risks to life and property. Such notification and a record of all variance actions, including justification for their issuance shall be maintained in accordance with section 1105.2(B).

1106 PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION:

- .1 General Standards: In all special flood hazard areas, the following standards shall be adhered to:
  - A. Alteration of Watercourses: Require that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse is maintained. Require that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse to ensure that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished. Require compliance with sections 1105.2(C)(2) and 1105.2(C)(3).
  - B. Anchoring:
    1. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.
    2. All manufactured dwellings shall be anchored per section 1106.2(C)(4).
  - C. Construction Materials and Methods:
    1. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.
    2. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.
  - D. Utilities and Equipment:
    1. Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer, and On-Site Waste Disposal Systems:
      - i. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system.

- ii. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharge from the systems into flood waters.
- iii. On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding consistent with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

2. Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Other Equipment: Electrical, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and other equipment and service facilities shall be elevated at minimum 1-foot above the base flood level or shall be designed and installed to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components and to resist hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of flooding. In addition, electrical, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and other equipment and service facilities shall:

- i. If replaced as part of a substantial improvement shall meet all the requirements of this section.
- ii. Not be mounted on or penetrate through breakaway walls.

E. Tanks:

- 1. Underground tanks shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement under conditions of the base flood.
- 2. Above-ground tanks shall be installed at minimum 1-foot above the base flood level or shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement under conditions of the base flood.
- 3. When elevated on platforms, the platforms shall be

cantilevered from or knee braced to the building or shall be supported on foundations that conform to the requirements of the State of Oregon Specialty Code.

F. Subdivision and Partition Proposals and Other Proposed Developments:

1. All new subdivision and partition proposals and other proposed new developments (including proposals for manufactured dwelling parks and planned unit developments), greater than 5 acres in size shall include within such proposals, Base Flood Elevation data.
2. All new subdivision and partition proposals and other proposed new developments (including proposals for manufactured dwelling parks and planned unit developments), shall:
  - i. Be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.
  - ii. When possible, be designed to provide a building pad area on each lot or parcel that is outside of the SFHA.
  - iii. Have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
  - iv. Have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

G. Use of Other Base Flood Data: When Base Flood Elevation data has not been provided in accordance with section 1104.2 the local floodplain administrator shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any Base Flood Elevation data available from a federal, state, or other source, in order to administer section 1106. All new subdivision and partition proposals and other proposed new developments (including proposals for manufactured dwelling parks and planned unit developments) must meet the requirements of section 1106.1(F).

Flood Elevations shall be determined for development proposals that are in any A zone that does not have an established base flood elevation. Development proposals located within a riverine unnumbered A Zone shall be reasonably safe from flooding; the test of reasonableness includes use of historical data, high water marks, FEMA provided Base Level Engineering data, and photographs of past flooding, etc... where available. Historical floods of record in Columbia County occurred in 1894, 1933, 1948, 1956, 1964, 1972, 1974, 1987, 1996, 2007, 2011, and 2017.

Structures in unnumbered A zones shall be elevated at minimum 1-foot above the historical high water mark or at least two feet above highest adjacent grade, whichever is higher.

- H. Structures Located in Multiple or Partial Flood Zones: In coordination with the State Oregon Specialty Codes:
1. When a structure is located in multiple flood zones on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) the provisions for the more restrictive flood zone shall apply.
  2. When a structure is partially located in a special flood hazard area, the entire structure shall meet the requirements for new construction and substantial improvements.
- I. Critical Facilities: Construction of new critical facilities including but not limited to schools, hospitals, and fire stations, shall be, to the extent possible, located outside the limits of the special flood hazard area. Construction of new critical facilities shall be permissible within the SFHA only if no feasible alternative site is available. Critical facilities constructed within the SFHA shall have the lowest floor elevated three (3) feet above Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or to the height of the 500-year flood, whichever is higher. Access to and from the critical facility shall also be protected to the height utilized above. Floodproofing and sealing measures must be taken to ensure toxic substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Reference Critical Facility definition in Section 1103.



- .2 Specific Standards for Riverine (Including All Non-Coastal) Flood Zones ( A1-A30, AH, and AE): These specific standards shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements in addition to the General Standards contained in section 1106.1 of this ordinance.
- A. Flood Openings: All new construction and substantial improvements with fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor (excluding basements) are subject to the following requirements. Enclosed areas below the Base Flood Elevation, including crawl spaces shall:
1. Be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters;
  2. Be used solely for parking, storage, or building access;
  3. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed all of the following minimum criteria:
    - i. A minimum of two openings;
    - ii. The total net area of non-engineered openings shall be not less than one (1) square inch for each square foot of enclosed area, where the enclosed area is measured on the exterior of the enclosure walls,
    - iii. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
    - iv. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they shall allow the automatic flow of floodwater into and out of the enclosed areas and shall be accounted for in the determination of the net open area.
    - v. All additional higher standards for flood openings in the State of Oregon Residential

Specialty Codes Section R322.2.2 shall be complied with when applicable.

B. Garages:

1. Attached garages may be constructed with the garage floor slab below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in riverine flood zones, if the following requirements are met:
  - i. If located within a floodway the proposed garage must comply with the requirements of section 1106.2(D).
  - ii. The floors are at or above grade on not less than one side;
  - iii. The garage is used solely for parking, building access, and/or storage;
  - iv. The garage is constructed with flood openings in compliance with section 1106.2(A) to equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the automatic entry and exit of floodwater.
  - v. The portions of the garage constructed below the BFE are constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
  - vi. The garage is constructed in compliance with the standards in section 1106.1; and
  - vii. The garage is constructed with electrical, and other service facilities located and installed so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of the base flood.
2. Detached garages must be constructed in compliance with the standards for appurtenant structures in section 1106.2(C)(6) or non-residential structures in section 1106.2(C)(3) depending on the square footage of the garage.

- C. For Riverine (Non-Coastal) Special Flood Hazard Areas with Base Flood Elevations: In addition to the general standards listed in section 1106.1 the following specific standards shall apply in Riverine (non-coastal) special flood hazard areas with Base Flood Elevations (BFE): Zones A1-A30, AH, and AE.
1. Before Regulatory Floodway: In areas where a regulatory floodway has not been designated, no new construction, substantial improvement, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.
  2. Residential Construction:
    - i. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated at minimum 1-foot above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE);
    - ii. Enclosed areas below the lowest floor shall comply with the flood opening requirements in section 1106.2(A).
  3. Non-Residential Construction:
    - i. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or other non-residential structure shall:
      - a. Have the lowest floor, including basement elevated at minimum 1-foot above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE);  
Or,
      - b. Together with attendant utility and

- sanitary facilities, be floodproofed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;
- c. Have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy.
  - d. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting provisions of this section based on their development and/or review of the structural design, specifications and plans. Such certifications shall be provided to the Floodplain Administrator as set forth section 1105.2(B).
- ii. Non-residential structures that are elevated, not floodproofed, shall comply with the standards for enclosed areas below the lowest floor in section 1106.2(A).
  - iii. Applicants floodproofing non-residential buildings shall be notified that flood insurance premiums will be based on rates that are one (1) foot below the floodproofed level (e.g. a building floodproofed to the base flood level will be rated as one (1) foot below).
  - iv. Applicants floodproofing non-residential buildings shall supply a maintenance plan for the entire structure to include but not limited to: exterior envelop of structure; all penetrations to the exterior of the structure; all shields, gates, barriers, or components designed to provide floodproofing protection to the structure; all seals or gaskets for shields, gates, barriers, or components; and, the location of all shields, gates, barriers, and components, as well as all

associated hardware, and any materials or specialized tools necessary to seal the structure.

- v. Applicants floodproofing non-residential buildings shall supply an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the installation and sealing of the structure prior to a flooding event that clearly identifies what triggers the EAP and who is responsible for enacting the EAP.

4. Manufactured Dwellings:

- i. New or substantially improved manufactured dwellings supported on solid foundation walls shall be constructed with flood openings that comply with section 1106.2(1);
- ii. The bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam shall be at minimum 1-foot above Base Flood Elevation(BFE);
- iii. New or substantially improved manufactured dwellings shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement during the base flood. Anchoring methods may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors (Reference FEMA's "Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas" guidebook for additional techniques), and;
- iv. Electrical crossover connections shall be a minimum of twelve (12) inches above Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

5. Recreational Vehicles: Recreational vehicles placed on sites are required to:

- i. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
- ii. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the

site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions; or

- iii. Meet the requirements of section 1106.2(C)(4), including the anchoring and elevation requirements for manufactured dwellings.

6. Appurtenant (Accessory) Structures: Relief from elevation or floodproofing requirements for residential and non-residential structures in Riverine (Non-Coastal) flood zones may be granted for appurtenant structures that meet the following requirements:

- i. Appurtenant structures located partially or entirely within the floodway must comply with requirements for development within a floodway found in section 1106.2(D).
- ii. Appurtenant structures must only be used for parking, access, and/or storage and shall not be used for human habitation;
- iii. In compliance with State of Oregon Specialty Codes, appurtenant structures on properties that are zoned residential are limited to one-story structures less than 200 square feet, or 400 square feet if the property is greater than two (2) acres in area and the proposed appurtenant structure will be located a minimum of 20 feet from all property lines. Appurtenant structures on properties that are zoned as non-residential are limited in size to 120 square feet.
- iv. The portions of the appurtenant structure located below the Base Flood Elevation must be built using flood resistant materials;
- v. The appurtenant structure must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of

the base flood.

- vi. The appurtenant structure must be designed and constructed to equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls and comply with the requirements for flood openings in section 1106.2(A);
- vii. Appurtenant structures shall be located and constructed to have low damage potential;
- viii. Appurtenant structures shall not be used to store toxic material, oil, or gasoline, or any priority persistent pollutant identified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality unless confined in a tank installed in compliance with section 1106.1(E).
- ix. Appurtenant structures shall be constructed with electrical, mechanical, and other service facilities located and installed so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of the base flood.

7. Below-Grade Crawl Spaces:

- i. The building must be designed and adequately anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy. Hydrostatic loads and the effects of buoyancy can usually be addressed through the required flood openings stated in Section 1106.2(A). Because of hydrodynamic loads, crawlspace construction is not allowed in areas with flood velocities greater than five (5) feet per second unless the design is reviewed by a qualified design professional, such as a registered architect or professional engineer. Other types of foundations are recommended for these areas.
- ii. The crawlspace is an enclosed area below the

Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and, as such, must have openings that equalize hydrostatic pressures by allowing the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters. The bottom of each flood vent opening can be no more than one (1) foot above the lowest adjacent exterior grade.

- iii. Portions of the building below the BFE must be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage. This includes not only the foundation walls of the crawlspace used to elevate the building, but also any joists, insulation, or other materials that extend below the BFE. The recommended construction practice is to elevate the bottom of joists and all insulation above BFE.
- iv. Any building utility systems within the crawlspace must be elevated above BFE or designed so that floodwaters cannot enter or accumulate within the system components during flood conditions. Ductwork, in particular, must either be placed above the BFE or sealed from floodwaters.
- v. The interior grade of a crawlspace below the BFE must not be more than two (2) feet below the lowest adjacent exterior grade.
- vi. The height of the below-grade crawlspace, measured from the interior grade of the crawlspace to the top of the crawlspace foundation wall must not exceed four (4) feet at any point. The height limitation is the maximum allowable unsupported wall height according to the engineering analyses and building code requirements for flood hazard areas.
- vii. There must be an adequate drainage system that removes floodwaters from the interior area of the crawlspace. The enclosed area should be drained within a reasonable time after a flood event. The type of drainage system will



vary because of the site gradient and other drainage characteristics, such as soil types. Possible options include natural drainage through porous, well-drained soils and drainage systems such as perforated pipes, drainage tiles or gravel or crushed stone drainage by gravity or mechanical means.

- viii. The velocity of floodwaters at the site shall not exceed five (5) feet per second for any crawlspace. For velocities in excess of five (5) feet per second, other foundation types should be used.

D. Floodways: Located within the special flood hazard areas established in section 1104.2 are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of the floodwaters which carry debris, potential projectiles, and erosion potential, the following provisions apply:

- 1. Prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless:
  - i. Certification by a registered professional civil engineer is provided demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge; Or,
  - ii. A community may permit encroachments within the adopted regulatory floodway that would result in an increase in base flood elevations, provided that a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) is applied for and approved by the Federal Insurance Administrator, and the requirements for such revision as established under Volume 44 of the Code of

Federal Regulations, section 65.12 are fulfilled.

- iii. If an encroachment proposal resulting in an increase in Base Flood Elevation meets the following criteria:
  - a. Is for the purpose of fish enhancement,
  - b. Does not involve the placement of any structures (as defined in section 2.0) within the floodway,
  - c. Has a feasibility analysis completed documenting that fish enhancement will be achieved through the proposed project,
  - d. Has a maintenance plan in place to ensure that the stream carrying capacity is no impacted by the fish enhancement project,
  - e. Has approval by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the equivalent federal or state agency, and
  - f. Has evidence to support that no existing structures will be negatively impacted by the proposed activity;

Then an approved CLOMR may not be required prior to approval of a floodplain permit

- 2. If the requirements of section 1106.2(D)(1) are satisfied, all new construction, substantial improvements, and other development shall comply with all other applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of section 1106.

- E. Standards for Shallow Flooding Areas: Shallow flooding areas appear on FIRMs as AO zones with depth designations or as AH zones with Base Flood Elevations. For AO zones the base flood depths range from one (1) to

three (3) feet above ground where a clearly defined channel does not exist, or where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is usually characterized as sheet flow.

For both AO and AH zones, adequate drainage paths are required around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

1. Standards for AH Zones: Development within AH Zones must comply with the standards in sections 1106.1, 1106.2, and 1106.2(E)(1).
2. Standards for AO Zones: In AO zones, the following provisions apply in addition to the requirements in sections 1106.1 and 1106.2(E)(1):
  - i. New construction and substantial improvement of residential structures and manufactured dwellings within AO zones shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated at minimum 1-foot above the highest grade adjacent to the building, or at minimum 1-foot above the Base Flood Elevation depth number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), whichever is higher, or at least three (3) feet above highest adjacent grade if no depth number is specified. For manufactured dwellings the lowest floor is considered to be the bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam.
  - ii. New construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures within AO zones shall either:
    - a. Have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated at minimum 1-foot above the highest grade adjacent to the building, or at minimum 1-foot above the Base Flood Elevation depth number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), whichever is higher, or at least two (2) feet above highest adjacent

grade if no depth number is specified; or

- b. Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be completely floodproofed to at minimum 1-foot above the highest grade adjacent to the building or at minimum 1-foot above the Base Flood Elevation depth number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), whichever is higher, or a minimum of two (2) feet above the highest adjacent grade if no depth number is specified, so that any space below that level is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. If this method is used, compliance shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect as stated in section 1106.2(C)(3)(i)(d).
- iii. Recreational vehicles placed on sites within AO Zones on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) shall either:
  - a. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
  - b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions; or
  - c. Meet the elevation requirements of section 1106.2(E)(2)(i), and the anchoring and other requirements for manufactured dwellings of section 1106.2(C)(4).

Proposed Text

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- iv. In AO zones, new and substantially improved appurtenant structures must comply with the standards in section 1106.2(C)(6).
- v. In AO zones, new and substantially improved appurtenant structures must comply with the standards in section 1106.2(C)(6).