

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR THE  
STATE OF OREGON FOR GRANT COUNTY

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE )  
ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOOD DAMAGE ) COUNTY ORDINANCE  
PREVENTION PROVISIONS FOR THE )  
COUNTY OF GRANT, STATE OF OREGON, ) 2015-01  
REPEALING COUNTY ORDINANCE 88-02 )  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY )

WHEREAS Grant County adopted a Flood Insurance Study in 1978, revised May 18, 1982, with associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS Grant County must adopted an updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in order to maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program;

WHEREAS on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015, the Grant County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing to consider this Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance; discussed provisions and made a recommendation to the County Court for adoption of this ordinance;

WHEREAS the County Court of Grant County held a duly notice public hearing on December 16, 2015 and considered all evidence presented, including said Planning Commission Recommendation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY OF GRANT, STATE OF OREGON that the following provision be adopted as the FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE OF 2015, replacing and repealing all previous ordinances addressing flood damage prevention:

# FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

## SECTION 1.0

### AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES

#### 1.1 AUTHORIZATION

The State of Oregon has in ORS Chapter 197 delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, Grant County does ordain as follows:

#### 1.2 FINDINGS OF FACT

- (1) The flood hazard areas of Grant County are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health, and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- (2) These flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in areas of special flood hazards which increase flood heights and velocities and, when inadequately anchored, damage uses in other areas. Uses that are inadequately floodproofed, elevated, or otherwise protected from flood damage also contribute to the flood loss.

#### 1.3 STATEMENT OF 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; and,

- (8) To ensure that those who occupy the areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions.

#### 1.4 METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES

In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance includes methods and provisions for:

- (1) Restricting or prohibiting uses which are 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 uses 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 flood plains, 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.
- (6) Coordinating and supplementing the provisions of the state building code with local land use and development ordinances.

### **SECTION 2.0 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 and to give this ordinance its most reasonable application.

“APPEAL” means a request for a review of the interpretation of any provision of this ordinance or a request for a variance.

“AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING” means a designated AO, or AH Zone on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The base flood depths range from one to three feet; a clearly defined channel does not exist; the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate; and, velocity flow may be evident. AO is characterized as sheet flow and AH indicates ponding.

“AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD” 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.

“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.

“BASEMENT” means any area of the building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

“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

“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.

“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 or storage of equipment or materials located within the area of special flood hazard.

“ELEVATED BUILDING” means for insurance purposes, a non-basement building which has its lowest elevated floor raised above ground level by foundation walls, shear walls, post, piers, pilings, or columns.

“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.

“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.

“FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY” means the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the Flood Boundary-Floodway Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

“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 one foot.

“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 found at Section 5.2-1(2).

“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.”

“MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION” means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

“NEW CONSTRUCTION” means structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

“RECREATIONAL VEHICLE” means a vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis;
- (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

“START OF CONSTRUCTION” includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. 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 home 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.

“STRUCTURE” means a walled and roofed building including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.

“SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE” means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby 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.

“SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT” means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either:

- (1) Before the improvement or repair is started; or
- (2) If the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition, “substantial improvement” is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure.

The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) 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
- (2) Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.

“VARIANCE” means a grant of relief from the requirements of this ordinance which permits construction in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this ordinance.

“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 the intrinsic nature of its operations.

## **SECTION 3.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **3.1 LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES**

This ordinance shall apply to all areas of special flood hazards within the jurisdiction of Grant County.

### **3.2 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Insurance Administration in a scientific and engineering report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study for the Unincorporated areas of Grant County, Oregon," dated May 18, 1982, with accompanying Flood Insurance Maps (FIRM), Community Panel Nos 410074-0001-1200, dated May 1982, Panel No.s 175, 200, 375, 475, 575, 625, 650, 675, 700, 725, 925, 950 and 1100, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The Flood Insurance Study and accompanying FIRM Maps are on file at the Grant County Planning Department Office. The best available information for flood hazard area identification as outlined in Section 4.3-2 shall be the basis for regulation until a new FIRM is issued which incorporates the data utilized under section 4.3-2.

### 3.3 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. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

### 3.4 ABROGATION AND SEVERABILITY

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.

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.

### 3.5 INTERPRETATION

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

- (1) Considered as minimum requirements;
- (2) Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and,
- (3) Deemed neither to limit or repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

### 3.6 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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. This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of Grant County, any officer or employee thereof, or the Federal Insurance Administration, for any flood damages that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

## **SECTION 4.0 ADMINISTRATION**

### **4.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

#### **4.1-1 Development Permit Required**

A development permit shall be obtained before construction or development begins within any area of special flood hazard established in Section 3.2. The permit shall be for all structures including manufactured homes, as set forth in the "DEFINITIONS," and for all development including fill and other activities, also as set forth in the "DEFINITIONS."

#### **4.1-2 Application for Development Permit**

Application for a development permit shall be made on forms furnished by the Grant County Planning Department 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 may be required:

- (1) Elevation in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest floor (including basement) of all structures;
- (2) Elevation in relation to mean sea level of floodproofing in any structure;
- (3) Certification by a registered professional engineer or architect that the floodproofing methods for any nonresidential structure meet the floodproofing criteria in Section 5.2-2; and
- (4) Description of the extent to which a watercourse will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development.

### **4.2 DESIGNATION OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR**

The Grant County Planning Director, or other representative of the County, as shall be appointed by the County Court, is hereby appointed to administer and implement this ordinance by granting or denying development permit applications in accordance with its provisions.

#### 4.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR

Duties of the County Planning Director or other County Representative shall include, but not be limited to:

##### 4.3-1 Permit Review

- (1) Review all development permits to determine that the permit requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied.
- (2) Review all development permits to determine that all necessary permits have been obtained from those Federal, State, or local governmental agencies from which prior approval is required.
- (3) Review all development permits to determine if the proposed development is located in the floodway. If located in the floodway, assure that the encroachment provisions of Section 5.4 are met.

##### 4.3-2 Use of Other Base Flood Data (In A and V Zones)

When base flood elevation data has not been provided (A and V Zones) in accordance with Section 3.2, BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD, the local administrator shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State or other source, in order to administer Sections 5.2, SPECIFIC STANDARDS, and 5.4 FLOODWAYS.

##### 4.3-3 Information to be Obtained and Maintained

- (1) Where base flood elevation data is provided through the Flood Insurance Study, FIRM, or required as in Section 4.3-2, obtain and record the actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basements and below-grade crawlspaces) of all new or substantially improved structures, and whether or not the structure contains a basement.
- (2) For all new or substantially improved floodproofed structures where base flood elevation data is provided through the Flood Insurance Study, FIRM, or as required in Section 4.3-2:
  - (i) Verify and record the actual elevation (in relation to mean seal level), and
  - (ii) Maintain the floodproofing certifications required in Section 4.1-2(3).
- (3) Maintain for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this ordinance.

#### 4.3-4 Alteration of Watercourses

- (1) Notify 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.
- (2) Require that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse so that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished.

#### 4.3-5 Requirement to Submit New Technical Data

- (1) Notify FEMA within six months of project completion when an applicant had obtained a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA, or when development altered a watercourse, modified floodplain boundaries, or modified Base Flood Elevations. This notification shall be provided as a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).
- (2) The property owner shall be responsible for preparing technical data to support the LOMR application and paying any processing or application fees to FEMA.
- (3) 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.

#### 4.3-6 Interpretation of FIRM Boundaries

Make interpretations where needed, as to exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions). The person contesting the location of the boundary shall be given a reasonable opportunity to appeal the interpretation as provided in Section 4.4.

### 4.4 VARIANCE PROCEDURE

#### 4.4-1 Appeal Board

- (1) The Grant County Planning Commission shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this ordinance.
- (2) The Commission shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the County Representative in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance.
- (3) Those aggrieved by the decision of the Commission, or any taxpayer, may appeal such decision to the County Court.

- (4) In passing upon such applications, the Planning Commission shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this ordinance, and:
- (i) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
  - (ii) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
  - (iii) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
  - (iv) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
  - (v) The necessity to the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable;
  - (vi) The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or erosion damage;
  - (vii) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
  - (viii) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and flood plain management program for that area;
  - (ix) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
  - (x) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the flood waters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and,
  - (xi) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges.
- (5) Upon consideration of the factors of Section 4.4-1(4) and the purposes of this ordinance, the Planning Commission may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance.
- (6) The County Planning Director or other designated County Representative shall maintain the records of all appeal actions and report any variances to the Federal Insurance Administration upon request.

#### 4.4-2 Conditions for Variances

- (1) Generally, the only condition under which a variance from the elevation standard may be issued is 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, providing items (i-xi) in Section 4.4-1(4) have been fully considered. As the lot size increases the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.

- (2) Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, or restoration of structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties, without regard to the procedures set forth in this section.
- (3) Variances shall not be issued within a designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
- (4) Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
- (5) 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 as identified in Section 4.1-4(4), or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- (6) Variances as interpreted in the National Flood Insurance Program are based on the general zoning law principle that they pertain to a physical piece or property; they are not personal in nature and do not pertain to the structure, its inhabitants, economic or financial circumstances. They primarily address small lots in densely populated residential neighborhoods. As such, variances from the flood elevations should be quite rare.
- (7) Variances may be issued for nonresidential buildings in very limited circumstances to allow a lesser degree of floodproofing than watertight or dry-floodproofing, where it can be determined that such action will have low damage potential, complies with all other variance criteria except 4.4-2(1), and otherwise complies with Sections 5.1-1 through 5.1-3 of the GENERAL STANDARDS.
- (8) Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the structure will be permitted to be built with a lowest floor elevation below the base flood elevation and that the cost of flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.

## **SECTION 5.0 PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

### **5.1 GENERAL STANDARDS**

In all areas of special flood hazards, the following standards are required:

#### **5.1-1 Anchoring**

- (1) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure.
- (2) All manufactured homes must likewise be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement, and shall be installed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage. 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).

#### 5.1-2 Construction Materials and Methods

- (3) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.
- (4) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.
- (5) Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air-conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or otherwise elevated or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

#### 5.1-3 Utilities

- (1) All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
- (2) 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; and,
- (3) 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.

#### 5.1-4 Subdivision Proposals

- (1) All subdivision proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;
- (2) All subdivision proposals shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage;
- (3) All subdivision proposals shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood damage; and,
- (4) Where base flood elevation data has not been provided or is not available from another authoritative source, it shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed developments which contain at least 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less).

### 5.1-5 Review of Building Permits

Where elevation data is not available either through the Flood Insurance Study, FIRM, or from another authoritative source (Section 4.3-2), applications for building permits shall be reviewed to assure that proposed construction will be reasonably safe from flooding. The test of reasonableness is a local judgment and includes use of historical data, high water marks, photographs of past flooding, etc., where available. Failure to elevate at least two feet above grade in these zones may result in higher insurance rates.

### 5.1-6 AH Zone Drainage

Adequate drainage paths are required around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

## 5.2 SPECIFIC STANDARDS

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided (Zones A1-30, AH, and AE) as set forth in Section 3.2, BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD or Section 4.3-2, Use of Other Base Flood Data (In A and V Zones), the following provisions are required:

### 5.2-1 Residential Construction

- (1) New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation.
- (2) Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are prohibited, or shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must be either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - (i) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
  - (ii) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
  - (iii) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

### 5.2-2 Nonresidential Construction

New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated at or above the base flood elevation; or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall:

- (1) Be floodproofed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;
- (2) Have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy;
- (3) 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 subsection based on their development and/or review of the structural design, specifications and plans. Such certifications shall be provided to the official as set forth in Section 4.3-3(2);
- (4) Nonresidential structures that are elevated, not floodproofed, must meet the same standards for space below the lowest floor as described in 5.2-1(2);
- (5) Applicants floodproofing nonresidential buildings shall be notified that flood insurance premiums will be based on rates that are one foot below the floodproofed level (e.g. a building floodproofed to the base flood level will be rated as one foot below).

### 5.2.3 Manufactured Dwellings

- (1) Manufactured dwellings supported on solid foundation walls shall be constructed with flood openings that comply with 5.2-1(2) above;
- (2) The bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam in A zones, shall be at or above BFE;
- (3) The manufactured dwelling 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;
- (4) Electrical crossover connections shall be a minimum of 12 inches above BFE.

### 5.2-4 Recreational Vehicles

Recreational vehicles placed on sites are required to:

- (1) Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days; and
- (2) 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
- (3) Meet the requirements of 5.2-3 above and the elevation and anchoring

requirements for manufactured homes.

#### 5.2-5 Small Accessory Structures

Relief from elevation or floodproofing as required in 5.2-1 or 5.2-2 above may be granted for small accessory structures that are:

- (1) Less than 200 square feet and do not exceed one story;
- (2) Not temperature controlled;
- (3) Not used for human habitation and are used solely for parking of vehicles or storage of items having low damage potential when submerged;
- (4) Not used to store toxic material, oil or gasoline, or any priority persistent pollutant identified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality shall unless confined in a tank installed in compliance with this ordinance or stored at least one foot above Base Flood Elevation
- (5) Located and constructed to have low damage potential;
- (6) Constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
- (7) Anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of the base flood;
- (8) Constructed to equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the automatic entry and exit of floodwater. Designs for complying with this requirement must be certified by a licensed professional engineer or architect or
  - (i) Provide a minimum of two openings with a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding;
  - (ii) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above the higher of the exterior or interior grade or floor immediately below the opening;
  - (iii) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic flow of floodwater in both directions without manual intervention.
- (9) 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.

#### 5.2-6 Below-grade crawl spaces

Below-grade crawlspaces are allowed subject to the following standards as found in FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, *Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas*:

- (1) 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 openings stated in Section B below. 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.
- (2) 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.
  - (3) 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.
  - (4) 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.
  - (5) The interior grade of a crawlspace below the BFE must not be more than two (2) feet below the lowest adjacent exterior grade.
  - (6) 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.
  - (7) 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.
  - (8) velocity of floodwaters at the site should 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.

For more detailed information refer to FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01.

### 5.3 BEFORE REGULATORY FLOODWAY

In areas where a regulatory floodway has not been designated, no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's 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.

#### 5.4 FLOODWAYS

Located within areas of special flood hazard established in Section 3.2 are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters which carry debris, potential projectiles, and erosion potential, the following provisions apply:

- (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development unless certification by a registered professional civil engineer is provided demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- (2) If Section 5.4(1) is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of Section 5.0, PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION.
- (3) Projects for stream habitat restoration may be permitted in the floodway provided:
  - (i) The project qualifies for a Department of the Army, Portland District Regional General Permit for Stream Habitat Restoration (NWP-2007-1023); and,
  - (ii) A qualified professional (a Registered Professional Engineer; or staff of NRCS; the county; or fisheries, natural resources, or water resources agencies) has provided a feasibility analysis and certification that the project was designed to keep any rise in 100-year flood levels as close to zero as practically possible given the goals of the project; and,
  - (iii) No structures would be impacted by a potential rise in flood elevation; and,
  - (iv) An agreement to monitor the project, correct problems, and ensure that flood carrying capacity remains unchanged is included as part of the local approval.
- (4) Temporary structures placed in the floodway: Relief from no-rise evaluation, elevation or dry flood-proofing standards may be granted for a non-residential

structure placed during the dry season (June – October) and for a period of less than 90 days. A plan for the removal of the temporary structure after the dry season or when a flood event threatens shall be provided. The plan shall include disconnecting and protecting from water infiltration and damage all utilities servicing the temporary structure.

- (5) Temporary storage of goods and materials, not including hazardous materials, is allowed in the floodway for a period of less than 90 days within the dry season (June – October).

## 5.5 STANDARDS FOR SHALLOW FLOODING AREAS (AO ZONES)

Shallow flooding areas appear on FIRMs as AO zones with depth designations. The base flood depths in these zones range from 1 to 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. In these areas, the following provisions apply:

- (1) New construction and substantial improvements of residential structures and manufactured homes within AO zones shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest grade adjacent to the building, a minimum of one foot above the depth number specified on the FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified).
- (2) New construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures within AO zones shall either:
  - (i) Have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade of the building site, one foot or more above the depth number specified on the FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified); or
  - (ii) Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be completely flood proofed to or above that level 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 in section 5.2-2(3).
- (3) Require adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.
- (4) Recreational vehicles placed on sites within AO Zones on the community's FIRM either:
  - (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 5.5 above and the elevation and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes.

## 5.6 CRITICAL FACILITY

Construction of new critical facilities shall be, to the extent possible, located outside the limits of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (100-year floodplain). Construction of new critical facilities shall be permissible within the SFHA if no feasible alternative site is available. Critical facilities constructed within the SFHA shall have the lowest floor elevated three feet above BFE or to the height of the 500-year flood, whichever is higher. Access to and from the critical facility should also be protected to the height utilized above. Floodproofing and sealing measures must be taken to ensure that toxic substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Access routes elevated to or above the level of the base flood elevation shall be provided to all critical facilities to the extent possible.

TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE OF 2015.

ENACTMENT, EMERGENCY DECLARED: Whereas this ordinance and the provisions herein are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the County, to carry out those purposes set forth in Section 1.2 of this Ordinance and to continue compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and from the date of approval by the County Court.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015.

COUNTY COURT

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Judge Scott W. Myers

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Commissioner Boyd Britton

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Commissioner Chris B. Labhart