



Coastlines

April 2016

Our new Operations Center will re-purpose an existing building (upper left) and will add two additional buildings to the site.

Building for the Future

Groundbreaking for the new facility north of Newport is set for next month; contractors welcome to bid

According to Dr. Chris Goldfinger, Professor of Marine Geology at Oregon State University, the Oregon Coast is due for an earthquake: "There have been 41 earthquakes of 8.0 to 9.2 magnitude in the past 10,000 years," he says. "If [one] happened today, it could have a devastating impact." On average, major earthquakes happen here about every 240 years or so – and the last one was in 1700. Keeping this startling fact in mind, Central Lincoln's board and staff are quite focused on disaster readiness.

more effective planning. A former plumbing supply building on the property will be remodeled, rather than torn down, to save money.

"I can't emphasize enough how critical this facility will be to Central Lincoln's ability to restore power after an earthquake or major disaster," says Debra Smith, Central Lincoln's General Manager. "Without it, getting power flowing again to our customers could be delayed for months."



Our substation, communications, and meter operations serve our entire District from this facility in the South Beach neighborhood of Newport. Unfortunately, this location, which was built after World War II, is in the tsunami inundation zone.

A facilities consultant recently reviewed each of our buildings, and our South Beach facility was determined to be highly vulnerable in the event of a tsunami or earthquake, putting employees, vehicles, key equipment, and materials at risk. Our communications, meter, and substation crews serve the entire District from this location. The consultant concluded all of our operations housed in South Beach must be relocated.

Following an extensive search for an available site that was large enough, geologically sound, and on high ground, our board of directors voted to purchase a group of adjoining properties in the northern part of Newport. A design team went to work, proposing energy-efficient space that will be 10% smaller than our existing facility in South Beach, due to

The new Operations Center project will cost an estimated \$27.7 million. A contract manager/general contractor, Lease Crutcher Lewis, will manage the project, and is hoping qualified subcontractors (small and large) will bid on portions of work that will begin next month, and continue through August of next year. Lease Crutcher Lewis is encouraging licensed and bonded subcontractors in construction, excavation, concrete, electrical, plumbing, metal fabrication, sheet metal, flashing, flooring, tile, drywall, painting, finish carpentry, landscaping, and related fields to bid. Those interested may email Project Manager Tanner Perrine at tanner.perrine@lewisbuilds.com or by calling him at 503-969-0202. Lease Crutcher Lewis has significant experience constructing buildings for the utility industry.



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We also looked at our other District facilities, assessing vulnerability. Fortunately, our Florence location is not in the tsunami inundation zone, but is not as efficient as we would like; we may need to reconfigure it in the future.

Our Reedsport locations are at risk. Reedsport is nine "river miles" from the Pacific Ocean, and may or may not be affected by a tsunami event. But, this city is located on the Umpqua River, and has been vulnerable in the past, experiencing some flooding due to capacity issues and the age of the city's stormwater systems.

Reedsport officials have developed an 1,800-page Reedsport Resiliency Plan, and are pursuing funding to support various Plan initiatives, which include replacing 50-year-old pumps for flood control. "We have a '100 year flood' every ten years or so, but due to the city's levee system we have been protected,"

says City Manager Jonathan Wright. Central Lincoln supports the city's efforts, including a tsunami evacuation drill last month, and stormwater systems upgrades.

Because damage from earthquakes and tsunamis can vary tremendously, it would be impossible to plan for every potential loss – roads and bridges may collapse, and key transportation routes may be devastated. We are reviewing every portion of our District – all ten cities and the areas around them – to determine the most strategic locations for emergency supplies and materials.

We want to be as prepared as possible to serve you after a disaster. "We've been encouraging our customers to be ready for evacuation, and for sheltering in place in case of a major emergency," says Debra. "We can't emphasize it enough: The question isn't 'if' a disaster happens. It's 'when.'"



Getting ready to "Walk the Blue Line" Last month, City Manager Jonathan Wright led a "walkout drill" following tsunami evacuation routes shown by permanent blue lines. The drill was held on the fifth anniversary of the deadly Japanese Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Jonathan (lime green vest, far left) was joined by residents; state, county, and city officials, and our Reedsport Customer Service Representatives, and their supervisor, Irene King.

Central Lincoln Bonds Sell Out in One Day

Standard & Poor's assigns us a AA- bond rating

As is common in our industry, Central Lincoln sold electric system revenue bonds to finance the Operations Center project. Such a sale requires bonds to be rated, and after reviewing detailed financial information and economic indicators for the Central Coast, Standard & Poor's gave Central Lincoln a "AA-" rating. S&P noted the rating was "uniquely high" for a rural utility, and cited Central Lincoln's very conservative financial management as the lead factor in achieving such a rating.



Large pension funds and institutional investors responded enthusiastically, placing orders for \$130 million, when just \$30 million in Central Lincoln bonds were for sale. Our bonds quickly sold out the day they went on sale last month. The cost of this critical new facility to residential customers will ramp up to about \$2 a month, starting next year.



Do We Have Your Correct Phone Numbers?

If there's an outage, we will need the right number for you!

We know you hate outages – we do, too! If your power goes out, and you call our outage line (1-866-484-3783) to let us know about your loss of power or other power issues, our computerized system will try to find the phone number you are calling from. This will tell our dispatchers where there's an issue immediately.

BUT, if we don't have the number you are calling from in our system, the computer won't be able to locate you, and dispatch will have to call you back to find out where you are. In an event of a large outage, or many outages (during a storm as an example), they may not have time to try to call you back!

Please email us at info@clpud.org to update your contact number or numbers in our system--we can enter up to three per customer. **And a reminder– we NEVER call customers about past due bills. If anyone calls you about an overdue bill claiming to be from Central Lincoln, you are being scammed. Please hang up on the caller.**