

**PASSED**

**IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY  
STATE OF OREGON**

**ORDER 01-12-12-16**

**(IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING  
(AN EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING  
(TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM  
(THE STATE OF OREGON TO DEAL  
(WITH POTENTIAL FLOODING  
(PROBLEM IN THE THURSTON  
(COMMUNITY.**

**WHEREAS**, ORS 401.015(2) provides that responding to emergencies is a County responsibility unless 1) the response is beyond the capability of the County, 2) the County fails to act, or 3) the emergency involves two or more counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the McKenzie River has breached or destroyed portions of flood control structures built in the 1950s and 1960s along a mile stretch of the river upstream from the Thurston community; and

**WHEREAS**, the McKenzie River is attempting to cut a new channel across agricultural land into the Cedar Creek basin of Thurston, east of Springfield in at least two places, and has cut away a significant portion of an existing portion of the existing rip-rap wall revetment; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued erosion of the revetments increases the potential for flooding in the urbanized area of Thurston and east Springfield, although how significant the flooding would be is unknown at this time without further study and analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of repairing the breaches is much less if done now than to wait for a total failure and have the main channel of the river reach the Cedar Creek basin and risk significant property damage in the downstream urbanized areas caused by future high water events; and

**WHEREAS**, Lane County is not financially able to provide the expert analysis to determine the seriousness of this potential flooding threat to residents of Thurston and East Springfield, nor is it within the financial capacity of the residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the return of traditional rainfall and the temperature control project at Cougar Dam will likely contribute to higher flows and thus the potential of further damage to the flood control structures on the Matthews and Gossler properties, on which are located the above-mentioned revetments; and


**WHEREAS**, the County has initially responded but concludes that the emergency is beyond its capability, nor therefore

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Lane County Board of Commissioners has determined that an emergency is occurring in the Cedar Creek area of the McKenzie River and has

determined that they do not have the authority or the local resources to respond to the situation, and it is further

**ORDERED** that Lane County requests, pursuant to ORS 401.055, that the Governor declare an emergency so that state assistance may be immediately released in the form of technical assistance from the State of Oregon and/or a designated federal agency or agencies to properly analyze the problem and explore possible solutions as warranted .

**DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2001

  
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Date 12-12-01 lane county

  
**OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL**