



**Primary Election • May 17, 2016**



## Summary

- When the public calls 911 for help, Washington County's emergency communications system is used to dispatch first responders countywide.
- Communications equipment in the system is reaching the end of serviceable life and buildings and towers need room for growth and more strengthening for earthquakes and other hazards.





## Summary (Continued)

- Voter-approved bonds would pay for \$77 million in capital costs for emergency and 911 facilities, including:
  - Converting the existing system to current technology
  - Improving countywide coverage by installing more towers
  - Strengthening facilities for earthquakes, storms and other emergencies
  - Providing for efficient expansion of the 911 center and emergency response facilities
  - Replacing approximately 3,000 analog radios currently used by first responders countywide.
- Projected levy rate is not expected to exceed 8¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. Estimated cost for an average county home = \$20 in the first year.\* Levy period would be less than 21 years.

\* Average assessed value for residential property in FY 2016-17 is \$255,408



# What is the emergency communications system?

The system is comprised of radio equipment, towers and buildings, radios, fire station alerting systems, and other technology.

The system allows first responders to:

- Coordinate
- Request backup
- Get aid to victims





# Who uses the emergency communications system?

- Banks Fire District No. 13
- City of Banks
- City of Beaverton
- City of Cornelius
- City of Durham
- City of Forest Grove
- City of Gaston
- City of Hillsboro
- City of North Plains
- City of Sherwood
- City of Tigard
- City of Tualatin
- Cornelius Fire Department
- Forest Grove Fire & Rescue
- Gaston Rural Fire District
- King City
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- Washington County
- Washington County Fire District No. 2
- Also usage by partner agencies such as:
  - Hospitals
  - Life Flight Network
  - MetroWest Ambulance
  - School districts
  - Public works departments/agencies
- The system is operated by the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA)



## Why does the system need to be updated?

- Changes in emergency communications technology
- Growing demand for emergency services
- Need to improve reliability during major disasters





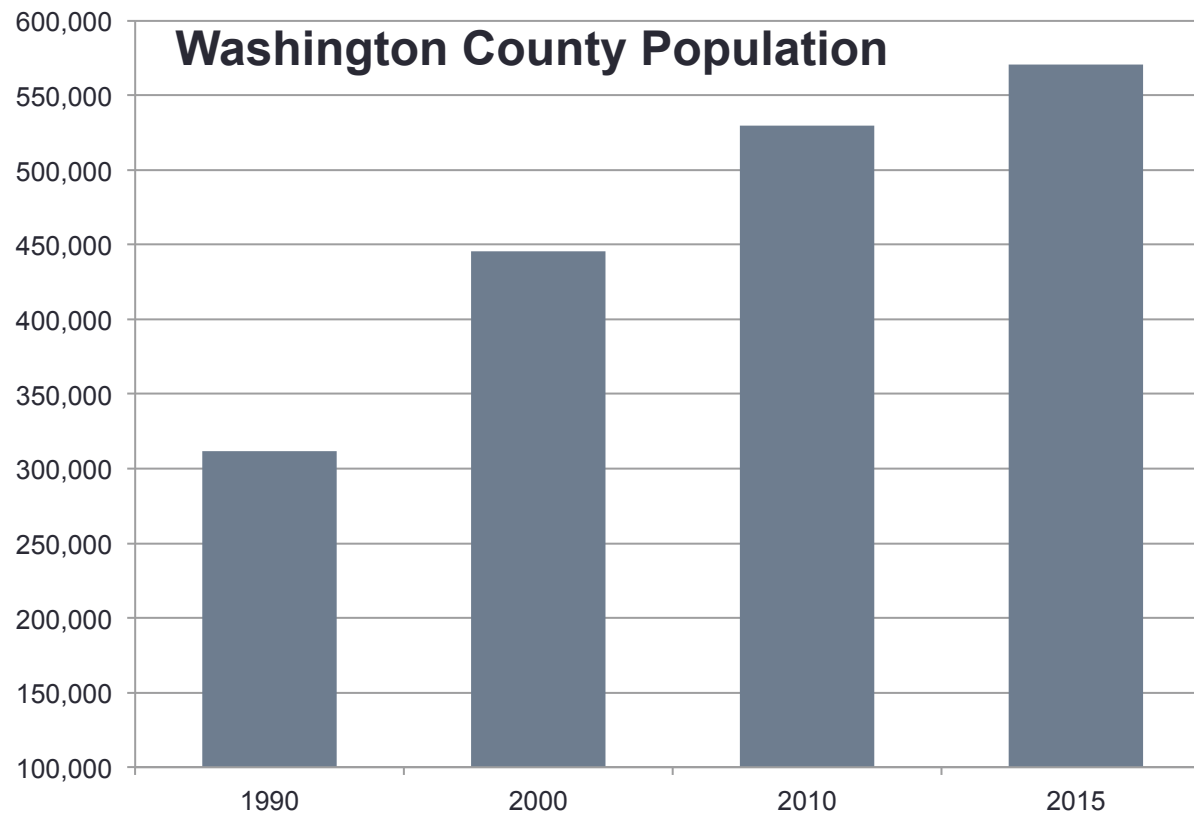
## Changes in emergency communications technology

- Nationwide focus on interoperability since 9/11 terror attack
  - Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy also underscored this need
- Transition to digital standard for interoperability and efficient use of radio spectrum
  - encryption and data transmission capability
  - improved capability for simultaneous two-way conversations
  - prioritization of calls
  - withstands severe storms





## Growing demand for emergency services

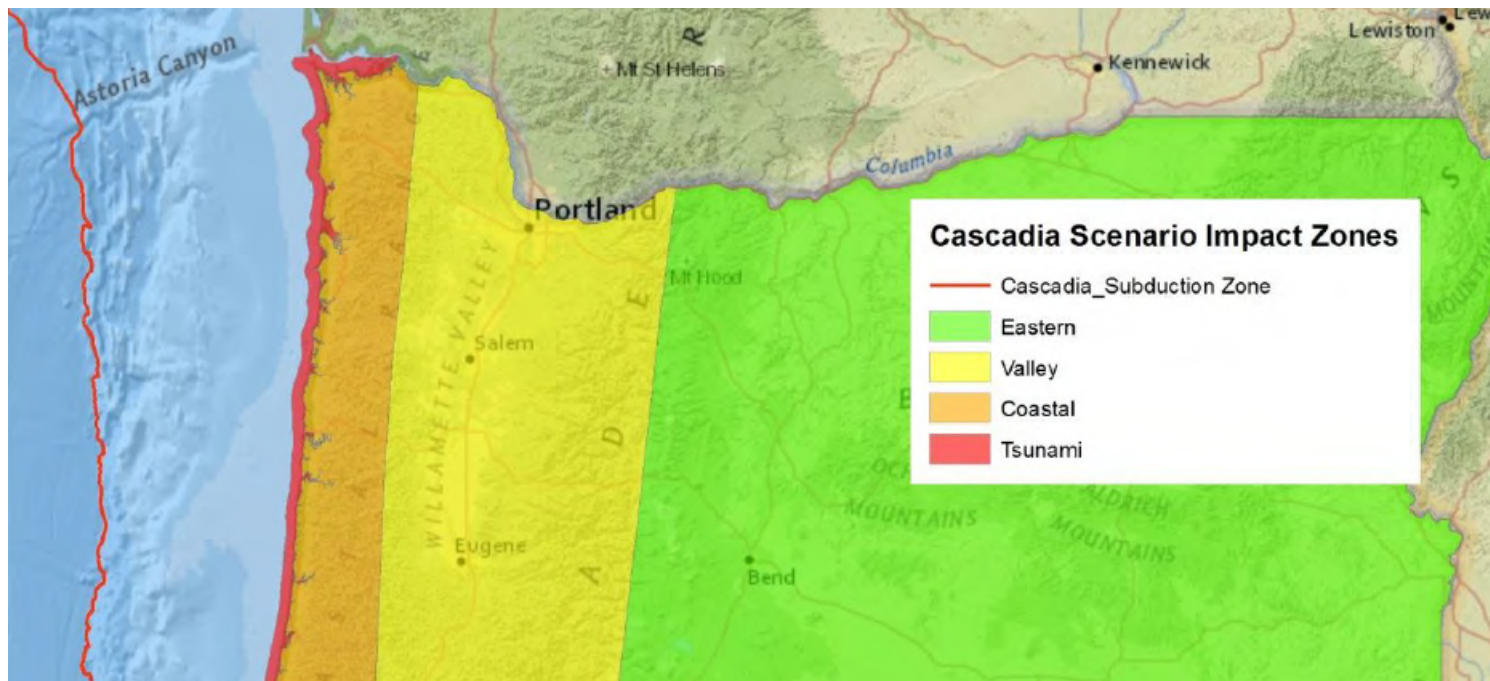


**Sources:** PSU Population Research Center, U.S. Census Bureau





# Risk of Earthquakes: Cascadia Subduction Zone



Impact zones for the magnitude 9.0 Cascadia earthquake scenario. Damage will be extreme in the Tsunami zone, heavy in the Coastal zone, moderate in the Valley zone, and light in the Eastern zone. **Source:** The Oregon Resilience Plan, Reducing Risk and Improving Recovery for the Next Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami, Report to the 77th Legislative Assembly, Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC), February 2013.



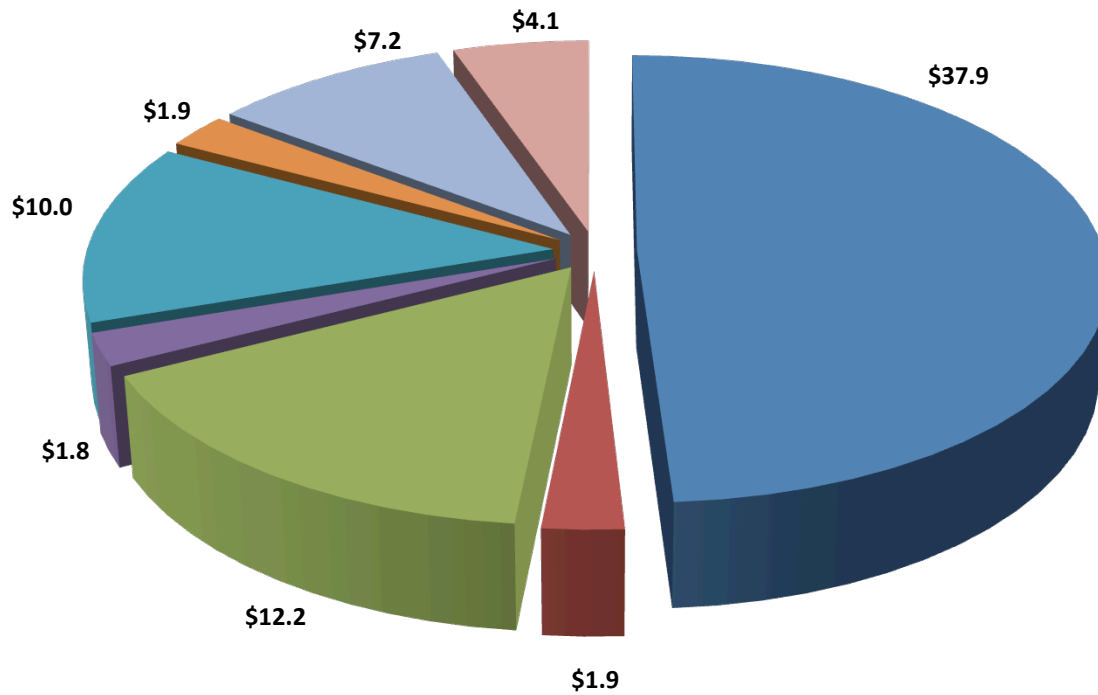
## Project Goals

- Convert existing system to current technology
- Improve countywide coverage by installing more towers
- Strengthen facilities for earthquakes, storms and other emergencies
- Provide for efficient expansion of the 911 center and emergency response facilities
- Replace approximately 3,000 analog radios used by first responders



# Expenditure Plan

(in millions of dollars)



- Radio Infrastructure
- Issuance Costs & Misc. Comm. Equip.
- Radios for First Responders
- Fire Station Alerting
- Earthquake Retrofit & Other Bldg. Improvements
- Console Equipment
- Contingency
- Communication System Refresh/Upgrade

**Project Total = \$77 million**



## Summary of Proposal

### 21-Year Bond Measure for Emergency Communications System Replacement

21-year Estimated Expenditures	\$77 million
Estimated 1st-year Levy Amount	\$4.6 million
Cost per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Est. not to exceed 8 cents
Est. 1st-year Cost for Avg. Residential Property*	\$20
Estimated 1st-year Cost per Month	\$1.70

\* Average assessed value for residential property in FY 2016-17 is \$255,408



More information at:

<http://wcemergencycommunications.blogspot.com>

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This information was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432. (ADV. 16-004)