

Tsunami: Emergency managers work with the Navy on supply landing locations

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Designating beach landing spots in advance is beneficial because it tells the federal government where it makes sense to drop off supplies, said Jenny Demaris, the emergency manager in Lincoln County.

It's important, for example, to drop off public works equipment in a place like Lincoln City — connected to Highway 18, which has been marked as a priority road to clear for supplies — instead of a more isolated town like Waldport.

“Not only are we planning for individual communities, but I'm planning for the central part of the coast,” Demaris said.

In Clatsop County, beaches in Seaside and Gearhart, as well as Camp Rilea, have been identified as potential jumping off points to help the northern part of the county and Clatsop Plains. Cannon Beach and Arch Cape have also been proposed because they are in parts of the county that will likely be isolated after a disaster.

To a certain extent, the county can only make an educated guess as to what would make a good beach landing. No one is entirely sure what the coastline will look like after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The USS Portland pulls into the Port of Astoria in April. The Navy will likely be critical in getting supplies to the coast after a disaster.

“We don't know what it's going to look like — true. But working with (the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries) we

can get closer to what that answer is,” Brown said. “It's less about location on the beach and more about proximity to communities.”

In February, the Navy will evaluate Clatsop County's beaches. A drill is scheduled at Camp Rilea in June to test out the operation. Eventu-

ally, the project will expand to the entire coastline.

“The end goal is that our community will recover, rebuild and carry on,”

Demaris said. “So having all this planning in place makes sure that my little communities on the beautiful coast will survive.”

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Tiffany Brown, Clatsop County emergency manager

City Hall: Officials schedule meeting with managers of RV Park in March

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preliminary conclusions that “there are no known soil or geologic conditions on the site that preclude the developing the property as an elementary school.”

The engineer suggested that the school building would need to be supported on timber piles driven at least 40 to 50 feet into underlying clay soils. The exact type and depth of the foundations would need to be determined when the building location and floor elevation is selected.

Issues surrounding City Hall have been documented for more than a decade.

Renovation plans to fix problems with air ventilation and structural defects have been drawn up, but shelved due to high costs and lack of feasibility.

In December, a Portland-based architecture firm, evaluated the benefits and downsides of each location.

Options ranged from Gower Street sites estimated at \$14.5 million and \$16 million, and options at the South Wind site, at a projected cost of more than \$27 million.

The Gower Street options include both one-story and two-story designs, but is predicted to be able to withstand only a “medium” scenario tsunami.

High costs associated with construction and purchasing rights of way at South Wind drive a cost almost double alternatives, although infrastructure upgrades at the site



City of Cannon Beach

This site near the RV Park owned by the city is being eyed as a possible option for a new city hall.

for a City Hall at South Wind could be the catalyst for other development, including a new school.

The Spruce Street site, located near the public works building and the cell tower, would necessitate tree removal and a change of use for a trail reserve. This could lead to “blowback”

from the public, Mayor Sam Steidel said.

“I remember when we created that reserve, there was a lot of concern about how committed the city would stay in keeping that,” Steidel said.

The RV site is the latest site to enter the discussion. But council members recalled a 1990s study by the Seaside School District that determined that the site, then under consideration for relocation of Cannon Beach Elementary School, failed to meet geotechnical standards for a new building.

“It makes sense to look at the RV Park area,” councilor Mike Benefield said. “It's a worthwhile exercise.”

“My take it would be to take it as far as we can without spending any money,” Steidel said.

A meeting with Escape Lodging, managers of the RV Park for the city, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6.

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