

PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 2016

Weyerhaeuser Donates 80 Acres to Seaside School District

Seaside School District Superintendent Doug Dougherty is very pleased to announce that the Weyerhaeuser Company is donating a parcel of land for a new school campus that is located out of the tsunami inundation zone.

Dr. Dougherty shared, "Weyerhaeuser is generously donating 80 acres of land to Seaside School District to relocate its schools. We will own the property that meets the Oregon Department of Geology and Minerals Industries' (DOGAMI) safety recommendations prior to going out for a bond; a condition many community members requested."

He went on to clarify, "There are only four public K-12 schools in Oregon that are currently within the tsunami inundation zone. Weyerhaeuser understands that Seaside School District has three of these four schools and that there is no other suitable land available. A Cascadia earthquake off of our coast will cause large portions of these three antiquated schools to collapse and then be submerged by the Pacific Ocean. The average age of these schools is over 63 years and they have outlived their useful lives."

Seaside School District commissioned DOGAMI to conduct a comprehensive research study to verify a safe elevation to relocate the schools. The principal researchers from DOGAMI had three recommendations for Seaside School District; to relocate on land that is stable, will not liquefy during an earthquake, and is at least 80 to 100 feet in elevation. There is no land within the cities of Cannon Beach, Gearhart, or Seaside that can meet these specifications for relocating schools. Weyerhaeuser Company owned the only suitable property.

Weyerhaeuser allowed Seaside School District to study approximately 1,000 acres of hillside to the east and south of Seaside. Geotechnical engineers evaluated potential slide issues, conducted site core drillings, and also installed long-term monitoring equipment. Upon the analysis of the data, the engineers determined that the property directly east of Seaside Heights Elementary School contains the land that best meets the DOGAMI recommendations.

"We are a part of the coastal communities in which we operate. Helping the school district keep its students safe and out of harm's way is the right thing to do," said Jim Bunker, Senior Manager, Weyerhaeuser Company.

With the property secured, thanks to Weyerhaeuser, Seaside School District will now consider asking residents to support relocating its three schools out of the tsunami inundation zone through a bond measure on the November 2016 ballot. The District is in the process of gathering community feedback as they develop the new bond proposal.

For more information regarding Seaside School District and the Cascadia subduction zone, please refer to the following New Yorker article and OPB documentary video:

"The Really Big One" by Kathryn Schulz www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one

"Unprepared: An Oregon Field Guide Special" by Ed Jahn www.opb.org/television/programs/ofg/episodes/2701