



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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Memorandum

Date: May 24, 2023

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

From: Rebecca Esau, Director
Bureau of Development Services

RE: Bureau of Development Services Ordinance to Authorize Intergovernmental Agreements to allow building-related Stranded Workers who are unable to report to normal work locations due to an emergency that disrupts communication and transportation routes to work in the jurisdiction where they are stranded.

The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has prepared an ordinance authorizing a Stranded Worker Agreement (SWAG) specifically for building-related staff who can complete Building Safety Evaluations (BSEs) but also includes administrative permitting staff, permitting software support, and facility maintenance technicians. BSEs are licensed architects, building inspectors, and engineers who are trained in ATC-20 (a method for evaluating buildings for safety after earthquakes) and credentialed by a state program such as CalOES SAP, OrSAP, or WAsafe. These qualified, trained staff will be deputized by the jurisdiction they are stranded in to evaluate our buildings so that we know they are safe to re-occupy.

Background

The SWAG was developed as part of the Regional Building Damage Assessment Project (RBDAP – a project managed by the BDS emergency manager) as a tool to enhance our coordination and response to an earthquake. The RBDAP SWAG identifies how the system works including notifications, reimbursements, and liability and is accompanied by an SOP. The RBDAP SWAG will be maintained by staff from the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (housed at PBEM).

During the initial signatory process, we are working within the 5 RDPO counties (Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, Clark, Clackamas) to authorize the Stranded Worker agreement at the county, municipality, and special district level where qualified staff are employed. Many jurisdictions will have staff working outside the RDPO area; the agreement is written so that other jurisdictions can be included in the agreement.