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**Brookings-Harbor wins additional \$3M from state for seismic safety
upgrades to middle and high school**

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The Brookings- Harbor School District will receive a nearly \$3 Million in new seismic rehabilitation grants from the state to retrofit the Brookings-Harbor High School gymnasium and Azalea Middle School, as announced by Business Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority on April 21, 2017.

- Brookings Harbor School District-Azalea Middle School - \$1,498,200
- Brookings Harbor School District-Brookings Harbor HS Gym - \$1,499,800

The program provides funding for construction work on schools and other critical public buildings to better prepare the structures to withstand a major earthquake. The grants come a year after the district won an initial nearly \$1.5 million Seismic Rehabilitation Grant (\$1,499,600) to retrofit Kalmiopsis Elementary School. Major construction work on the elementary school project will take place this summer.

"Ensuring every community in the state, particularly in rural regions, has safe community gathering places and emergency response infrastructure will be key to Oregon's recovery from a significant seismic event," Governor Brown said in press release from the Governor's Office. "While this may seem to be a daunting task, we're making steady progress, through a concerted and coordinated effort by communities, individuals, businesses, and as a state, toward building more resilient Oregon."

"These grants provide a tremendous boost to the school district and community, with the first priority being safety," said, Superintendent Sean Gallagher, who has overseen multiple seismic retrofits in his career. "This is important because we live in an area of the state that has particular seismic hazards. In addition, our schools are emergency shelters for the community in case of disaster such as earthquake, tsunami or severe storm."

"Oregonians have been hearing about 'The Big One' for so many years, many may have grown tone-deaf and complacent. But our emergency planners are telling us 'It's real, and it's coming!'" said State Senator Ted Ferrioli in the release from the Governors Office. "Communities need to prepare by making sure schools have been seismically retrofitted so they won't 'pancake' during a large quake. These buildings must survive, not only to protect children, but so they'll be available to serve as emergency operations centers, field hospitals, rendezvous points for families, and places where community response can be coordinated. Then we must also turn our attention to police stations, fire halls and ambulance centers from which 'First Responders' are dispatched."

"After a big shake, want to make sure that the kids have a safe passage to get out," said Brookings-Harbor School District Maintenance Director Jess Beaman. The retrofit work will include checking existing structure strength and flexibility and checking for particular hazards. It will likely result in rescuing or reinforcing building infrastructure, removing some large windows throughout the buildings, supporting heavy HVAC units and other large items such as the scoreboard in the gym, and making sure that brickwork is tied into the walls correctly. To do this will mean taking off and replacing the roof and many walls.

In total \$153.6 Million dollars was given out in 147 individual grants in the second round of funding from the state. Other south coast school districts and municipalities receiving grants from the second round of state funding include:

- Bandon School District-Bandon High School Gym - \$1,358,600
- Bandon School District-Harbor Lights Middle School - \$1,269,217
- Central Curry School District-Gold Beach High School - \$1,498,345
- Port Orford-Langlois School District-Pacific High School - \$1,499,410
- City of Brookings-Police and Fire Rescue - \$1,287,988

The district will open a request for proposals for the two new seismic safety projects soon. The district is currently working with Anderson Engineering and Surveying in partnership with ZCS Engineering on the design of the elementary school project and with Ausland Group of Grants Pass to serve as construction contractor at the elementary school.

Design and strategic planning for the high school and middle school projects will begin this summer. The construction phase of the middle and high school projects is expected to occur Summer 2018.

Brookings Harbor School District 17C: "Every Student Can Succeed."