

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The 2013 Glossary of Terms is an addendum to the 2006 Flood Plan glossary consisting of either new concepts, or terms that have been updated since the 2006 Flood Plan was adopted (refer to the 2006 Flood Plan for a more inclusive glossary).

Advisory Committee. A committee consisting of representatives of cities that have historically experienced significant flooding, representatives of the Suburban Cities Association, representatives of areas that are major revenue contributors, and a member from an Unincorporated Area Council. The Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (see Board of Supervisors) on flood control project planning and funding allocation.

Appurtenances. Machinery, appliances, or auxiliary structures attached to a main structure for the purpose of enabling the main structure to function, but not considered an integral part of the main structure.

Base Flood Elevation. The computed elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood; the elevation that is the basis of the insurance and floodplain management requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Base flood elevations are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps and on flood profiles.

Basin Technical Committee. Committees consisting of city staff from jurisdictions in each of the following major river basins: Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish Rivers; Cedar/Sammamish Rivers; Green/Duwamish River; and White River. Basin technical committees provide information to King County Water and Land Resources Division to assist in the development of the annual capital program and provide annual recommendations to the Advisory Committee (see Advisory Committee). They ensure that basin-scale issues and technical information are factored into the King County Flood Control District's decision-making processes.

Board of Supervisors. A board consisting of all members of the Metropolitan King County Council and responsible for developing the King County Flood Control District's plan for funding maintenance and repairs of flood protection infrastructure.

Corridor. The area of a river and surrounding lands that is essential to the storage and conveyance of floodwaters and is integral to natural riverine processes. A river corridor is a larger geographic area that includes one or more river segments (see River Segment), which are made up of one or more river reaches (see River Reach).

Cultural Resources. A range of sites, structures, buildings, landscapes, districts and objects that are significant in history, prehistory, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture. Cultural resources include traditional cultural properties, which are places that are significant for historic and ongoing cultural purposes to Indian tribes and other groups, and both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. Prehistoric archaeological resources date to the period prior to written historical records (pre-1850, before Euro-American contact). Historic archaeological resources in King County are generally considered to date from 1850, when Euro-Americans arrived, through 50 years before the present date. Also called historic resources and historic properties.

Executive Committee. Four members of the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (see Board of Supervisors) elected by the Board to develop policy recommendations for consideration by the full Board and to oversee day-to-day business of the Flood Control District.

Flood Protection Elevation. An elevation 3 feet above the base flood elevation.

Lahar. A rapidly flowing mixture of rock debris and water, sometimes referred to as a mudflow, which originates on the slopes of a volcano and typically flows along a river valley.

Large Wood. Large pieces of wood including logs, pieces of logs, root wads of trees, and other large chunks of wood that are in or partially in the channel or floodplain of rivers and streams. The term does not include rooted, standing vegetation. Large wood can stabilize streambeds and riverbanks, provide cover and refuge for fish, and create complex in-stream habitat by forming pools, regulating sediments, and dispersing stream energy.

Moderate Channel Migration Hazard Area. A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps that lies between the severe channel migration hazard area and the outer boundary of the channel migration zone.

River Reach. A length of river through which similar physical or geomorphic conditions persist.

River Segment. An area of river and adjacent land within which the presence, type and extent of flood hazards are similar. A river segment is made up of one or more river reaches (see River Reach).

River and Floodplain Management Section. A section within King County's Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and funded by the King County Flood Control District and Inter-County River Improvement Fund, to conduct the following activities:

- Structural capital improvement projects
- Relocation and elevation projects
- Maintenance and monitoring
- River planning
- Flood hazard education
- Flood warning and emergency response
- Complaint response and enforcement
- Interlocal coordination.

Severe Channel Migration Hazard Area. A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, that includes the present channel. The total width of the severe channel migration hazard area equals one hundred years times the average annual channel migration rate, plus the present width. The average annual channel migration as determined in the technical report, is the basis for each Channel Migration Zone map.

Sediment. Mineral and rock materials that are eroded, transported and deposited by rivers, in sizes that range from clay and silt through sand and gravel to cobble and boulders. Sediment may also include waterlogged organic debris.

Sedimentation. The deposition of sediment.

Setback Levee. A levee that is set away from a river in a manner to allow the river channel to migrate, increasing the connection between the river and floodplain to accommodate a floodplain that can store and convey flood flows.

Solid waste. All materials discarded, including garbage, recyclables and organics.

Special waste. Wastes that require special handling and waste clearance before disposal because of legal, environmental, public health or operational concerns, such as industrial wastes, asbestos-containing materials, contaminated soil, treated biomedical wastes, treatment plant grit and vacuum truck wastes, and other miscellaneous materials.

Special Flood Hazard Area. The term used by FEMA to describe areas with a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Such areas are required to be regulated by communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and owners of structures in a Special Flood Hazard Area are required to purchase flood insurance for those structures.

Sub-Regional Opportunity Fund. A fund consisting of 10 percent of the King County Flood Control District's annual levy proceeds that is made available to jurisdictions throughout the District on a proportional basis, based on assessed valuation. Eligible activities include flood control and stormwater improvements, as well as watershed management activities such as habitat conservation.