

## **King County Flood District Advisory Committee Proposed Capital Project Evaluation Refinements**

### **2008 Capital Project Evaluation Overview**

Capital projects on the District's 10-year capital project list were evaluated and prioritized based on the following flood risk prioritization policies in the 2006 Flood Plan:

- Severity of flood and/or channel migration risk.
- Consequence if no action is taken to reduce flood risk.
- Urgency, a measure of how quickly an action needs to be taken in order to prevent a risk from growing worse.

The flood risk reduction benefits each proposed project were then evaluated by scoring responses to the following questions:

- What is the current land use at risk (i.e. critical public facilities, residential, etc)?
- How serious is the potential impact (i.e. human death or injury, loss of developed land use)?
- How extensive will the impact be (i.e. impacts felt outside the area of impact, city centers, several structures, etc)?
- How soon will the impact occur? (i.e. next major flood event).

### **Proposed Refinements for 2009**

The Basin Technical Committees are proposing refinements to the project evaluation process to make implementation opportunity factors more transparent to the Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors. Additional factors proposed for inclusion in the evaluation process, listed in order of relative weight, are as follows:

- **Project Readiness:** Maximum points when project is ready for construction or acquisition. For construction projects, landowner negotiations are in progress for any acquisitions that may be necessary, and/or design is complete and permits are in hand. For floodplain buyouts, appraisals are complete and landowner negotiations in progress.
- **Leveraging:** District funds are leveraged through cost-sharing agreements and grants with external partners.
- **Multi-Objective Floodplain Management:** Project is listed in an adopted plan for floodplain management objectives beyond flood protection.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Project provides permanent or low-maintenance solutions to flood problems.
- **Scale:** Project reduces flood problems throughout the river reach, rather than at a site-specific scale.
- **Programmatic Activities –** Jurisdiction maintains floodplain regulations that meet or exceed the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), participates in

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the NFIP Community Rating System, maintains an active CIP program and an active operations and maintenance program

The project evaluation process will then generate two separate scores: one for flood risk reduction benefits, and one for implementation opportunity. By evaluating projects against both sets of criteria, we will provide the Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors with more detailed information about capital projects and inform decisions about the most strategic way to sequence projects. A conceptual diagram showing how these results could be used to inform capital project prioritization is attached below. This diagram is not intended to imply clear and distinct thresholds between these categories.

Figure 1: Conceptual Diagram of Proposed Capital Project Evaluation Process

