



# King County Flood Management Plan

Partner Planning Committee

Meeting #7 – July 18, 2023

# Meeting Agenda (10:30 – 12:30)

Topic	Time	Speaker	Affiliation
Welcome and Introductions	10:30 – 10:35		
Public Comment	10:35 – 10:45		
Discussion: Flood Plan Policies	10:45 – 11:15		
Presentation and Discussion: Action Plan and Activities	11:15 – 11:35	Spencer Easton	Environmental Science Associates
Presentation and Discussion: Evaluation Criteria	11:35 – 12:20	Spencer Easton	Environmental Science Associates
Wrap Up	12:20 – 12:30		

## Meeting Objectives:

- To collect input on the draft Flood Plan Policies.
- To provide updates on the planned approach to organizing the action plan and receive feedback.
- To provide information on potential evaluation criteria for flood plan actions.
- To collect input on evaluation criteria.

# Partner Planning Committee process



**Legend**

★ = current topic

Committee Input

External to Committee



# Opportunity for Public Comment



# Flood Plan policies

What We've Done	Objectives for Today	What Happens Next
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collected input from the Partner Planning Committee on the 2006 Flood Plan policies.</li><li>• Collected input from the Internal Planning Committee on the 2006 policies and new draft policies.</li><li>• Drafted updated Flood Plan policies with County staff input.</li><li>• Collected input from the Coordinating Committee on draft policies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss major concerns, gaps, key topics, and broad revisions to the draft policies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collect input from the Internal Planning Committee on the draft policies.</li><li>• Revise draft policies based on partner input.</li></ul>

# Policy revisions

## 2006 Policies

- High-level vision statements, detailed standards and operations, and specific guidance for decision-making
- 47 policies
- Categories:
  - General
  - Floodplain land use
  - Structural & nonstructural projects
  - Channel maintenance
  - Flood warning and emergency response
  - Funding

## Draft 2024 Policies

- High-level vision statements and general guidance for decision-making
- 22 policies
- Categories:
  - Equity
  - Natural systems
  - Multiple benefits
  - Climate change
  - Land use and regulatory compliance
  - Integrated floodplain management

# Discussion

- Are there key issue areas not addressed by the draft policies?
- Are there major concerns about the content of any of the policies?
- Do these policies effectively reflect the goals and principles of the Flood Plan?
- Are any policies unclear in their intent or application?

Please enter comments about minor wording revisions and additions in the chat or send in a follow-up email to [jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov) or [seaston@esassoc.com](mailto:seaston@esassoc.com).

# Action plan development

What We've Done	Objectives for Today	What Happens Next
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collected input on potential solutions in topic-specific workshops.</li><li>• Presented information on types of actions and an initial action plan approach to the Partner Planning Committee.</li><li>• Collected input from the Partner Planning Committee on types of activities that should be included in the action plan.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present a revised approach to the action plan.</li><li>• Collect input and answer questions about the revised approach.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner Planning Committee will provide input on actions.</li><li>• Internal Planning Committee will provide input on actions.</li><li>• Staff will use input to develop a draft action plan.</li></ul>



# Summary of actions input

## Preventive

Vegetation management, sediment management/removal, sea level rise studies, flood mapping and modelling, stricter floodplain development regulations

## Property protection

Structure relocation, mitigation incentives, financial assistance, property acquisition, retrofits

## Public information

Property risk disclosure, educational outreach, promote flood insurance



*Before home elevation, 2015*



*Home elevated, 2021*

# Summary of actions input

## Nature-based solutions

Protect headwater wetlands, floodplain restoration, urban green infrastructure

## Structural projects

South Park berm, road elevation, increasing stormwater storage and pumping capacity

## Emergency services

Provide emergency kits, improved intergovernmental response



*Lower Russell Levee setback, floodplain reconnection, 2022*



*Downey Farmstead Restoration Project, 2023*

# Input about Action Plan structure

- Include actions throughout the county—incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- All priority needs and actions should be called out together.
- Reflecting activities led by entities other than King County in a separate location (i.e., an appendix) suggests they are of lesser importance.

# Scoping actions for the flood plan

- The flood plan will characterize flood risk countywide and aims to promote coordinated implementation of actions to reduce flood risk throughout King County.
- The plan will identify existing mechanisms in place to address aspects of flood risk reduction (e.g., stormwater plans, WRIA plans, FCD capital investment strategies, etc.).
- For CRS purposes, King County must identify projects and programs it is committing to (mostly in unincorporated King County) – this will be the Action Plan.

# Scoping actions for the flood plan

- In addition to King County's commitments, the plan will identify programmatic and capital actions that may be implemented by other entities to address flood risks countywide.
  - Helps identify comprehensive need.
  - Promotes coordinated implementation of actions.
  - Must be consistent with flood plan goals, objectives, and policies.
  - Will not obligate other entities to take certain actions.
- Combined with King County's Action Plan, this will constitute the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy

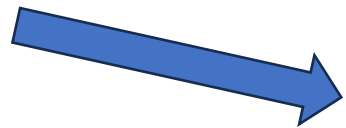
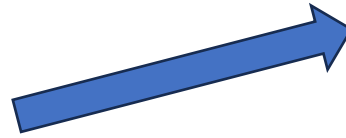
# Flood plan organization

Topics include:

Overview of flooding in King County

Overview of flood risk reduction tools and strategies

Comprehensive mitigation strategy



Summary of flood risks in unincorporated and incorporated King County.

The types of actions that were considered and those that are most appropriate for addressing identified flood risk.

Activities that can be taken by different entities to address identified flood risks throughout King County. Will include activities for which King County has decision-making and budgetary authority (the Action Plan).

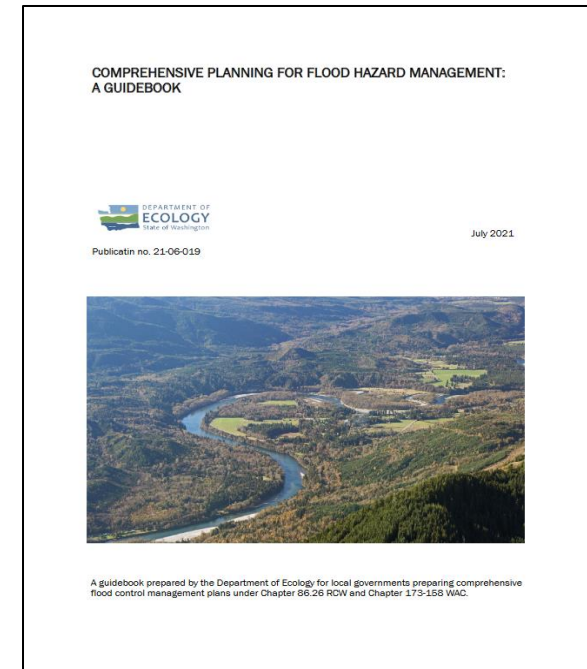


# Evaluation criteria

What We've Done	Objectives for Today	What Happens Next
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduced the concept of evaluation criteria.</li><li>• Discussed impacts and benefits of different types of actions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss possible options and approaches to evaluation criteria.</li><li>• Solicit input from committee on criteria.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss options and approaches to evaluation criteria with the Internal Planning Committee.</li><li>• Flood plan team will continue to work on evaluation criteria.</li><li>• Continue to solicit input from this committee on actions as plan development continues.</li></ul>

# Evaluation of actions

- Actions are evaluated for their appropriateness for addressing flood risks.
- **Washington State Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Planning Guidebook** and the **CRS Coordinator's Manual** provide guidance on evaluating strategies for an action plan.





# Two types of actions in the Flood Plan

- Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy
  - Will not obligate other entities to take certain actions.
  - Must be consistent with flood plan goals, objectives, and policies.
  - Evaluation criteria will be used to screen actions for inclusion in the Flood Plan.
  - Not meeting the evaluation criteria doesn't mean other jurisdictions can't pursue these actions, it only means they may not be included in this Flood Plan.
- King County's Action Plan (subset of Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy)
  - King County's implementation commitments.
  - Your input on criteria King County should consider is welcome during today's discussion.
  - The Partner Planning Committee will have the opportunity to review and provide comments on the actions included in the county's Action Plan prior to completion of the Draft Flood Plan.

# Draft evaluation criteria for Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy

- Compatibility with the goals and objectives of the Flood Plan, including:
  - Promote awareness
  - Engage communities
  - Integrated floodplain management
  - Resilient, viable communities & economies
  - Regional collaboration
  - Improve access to resources
  - Prevent new risks
- Compatibility with other King County plans and commitments
- Environmental impact
- Impact on people (displacement, social or cultural impacts, loss of access to resources or services, visual impacts, direct costs to residents)
- Benefits (including potential to support multiple benefits)
- Effectiveness/suitability
- Resilience/adaptive capacity

# Breakout Rooms

- We will split into 3 breakout rooms for 15 minutes, then reconvene to discuss as a full group.
- In your breakout room, please consider the following questions:
  - Should only actions on an adopted CIP be included? How should new ideas/new actions be incorporated into the process?
  - Do the draft evaluation criteria work for screening appropriate and effective actions to include in the Flood Plan?
  - Are the criteria too restrictive? Not restrictive enough?
  - Would any be challenging to apply to certain actions or action types?
  - Should the criteria be weighted? What items are most important? Is there anything that should automatically preclude a project from being included?
  - What factors would you suggest King County consider in evaluating actions for inclusion in the King County Action Plan?

# Group Discussion

- What did you hear in your group that surprised you?
- What did you hear in your group that you agree with?
- Which criteria require more discussion or changes?
- Which criteria are most important to keep?
- Comments or questions on how these criteria should be applied?

# Next steps

- Next meeting: September 19, 2023 – 10:30-12:30
- Contact us:
  - Jason Wilkinson, [jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov)
  - Spencer Easton, [seaston@esassoc.com](mailto:seaston@esassoc.com)
- Website:
  - [www.kingcounty.gov/floodplan](http://www.kingcounty.gov/floodplan)