

## **I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q. What is the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project?**

A. The I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project is a project to address flooding risk to Interstate-90 during floods larger than a 50-year recurrence interval. Due to impacts to people, homes, and the local and regional economy and transportation network that would result from closure of Interstate-90, the King County Flood Control District initiated a capital project to reduce this risk.

#### **Q. What is the South Fork Snoqualmie Corridor Plan?**

A. In 2007, the King County Flood Control District was established to provide a proactive, regional approach to address flood risks and improve King County's aging and inadequate flood protection facilities. Flooding and channel migration hazards expose the community to a high risk and cost resulting from damages to infrastructure and property. Additionally, flooding and channel migration hazards threaten public safety, cause costly damages, and in severe cases impact our regional transportation and economy. This corridor plan is needed to develop a prioritized set of capital projects to address risks along the corridor.

The South Fork Snoqualmie River Corridor Plan is a comprehensive planning effort funded by the King County Flood Control District that will identify and recommend a set of sequenced flood risk reduction projects along the lower six miles of the South Fork Snoqualmie River. The South Fork Snoqualmie River Corridor Plan will propose projects to be implemented to reduce flood risks.

#### **Q. What is the relationship between the South Fork Snoqualmie Corridor Plan and the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project?**

A. The risk of Interstate-90 flooding was identified during the analysis for the South Fork Snoqualmie Corridor Plan. In response a new project, the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project was created by the King County Flood Control District in 2014. The I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project is a stand-alone project that will move forward concurrently with the South Fork Snoqualmie River Corridor Plan. The corridor plan and the I-90 project will be complementary to each other.

#### **Q. Why is this project important?**

A. The I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project is a King County Flood Control District priority because of the potential for significant impact to people, homes, the City of North Bend, and the regional economy and local and regional transportation network resulting from closure of Interstate-90. Flooding of Interstate-90 would have a significant impact to homes, businesses, and public safety and could last for 24 to 60 hours, costing the regional economy an estimated \$14 to \$17 million. This flooding could also lead to damage of the Interstate requiring repairs, further exacerbating impacts.

**Q. What is the timeline for implementation of the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project?**

A. The current timeline for the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project can be found online at the project website. As of September 2015, the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project timeline is as follows:

- Concept Development Phase                      Start July 2014
- Alternatives Analysis Phase                      Start May 2015
- Select Preferred Alternative                      Winter 2016
- Target Construction Phase                      2017-2018

**Q. What solutions (concepts) have been considered to reduce flood risk?**

A. A range of solutions are being considered to address the flooding risk including: large drainage tunnels under I-90, construction of additional levees along I-90, raising existing levees, setting levees back from the river, gravel management, raising I-90, modifying the I-90 Bridge over the South Fork Snoqualmie River, and constructing regional flood control facilities upstream. After detailed analysis of flooding patterns, geomorphology, critical areas and feasibility, many of these concepts were eliminated from further consideration due to insufficient risk reduction, unacceptable off-site impacts or due to high risk construction techniques.

**Q. What alternatives are currently being considered to reduce flood risk?**

A. Alternatives currently being considered to address the flood risk to I-90 include gravel management, levee setbacks, and modifications to flood infrastructure in the Clough Creek neighborhood.

**Q. Has a flood control solution (preferred alternative) to address I-90 flood risk been selected?**

A. No, the King County Flood Control District is scheduled to select a preferred alternative in early 2016.

**Q. If a preferred alternative has not been selected, why have some properties been acquired?**

A. Early technical analysis indicated a levee setback would be a viable flood risk reduction solution and the project team began acquisition discussions with property owners in the levee setback area. These discussions resulted in one property being purchased by the County from a willing seller. As a result of community input, further property acquisition is on hold until a preferred alternative solution is selected by the King County Flood Control District.

**Q. What is the status of further buyouts?**

A. Depending on the preferred alternative selected by the King County Flood Control District, further acquisitions may or may not be needed. At this time all further property acquisitions are on hold until a preferred alternative has been selected by the King County Flood Control District.

**Q. How will these projects be paid for and how much had been budgeted?**

A. The King County Flood Control District funds these projects through a countywide property tax levy. As part of its 6-year Capital Improvement Projects Budget, the King County Flood Control District has allocated \$19.5 million for the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project. This budget may be adjusted as needed after selection of a preferred alternative.

**Q. How can I receive more information about the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project?**

A. The website for the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project is the clearinghouse for information about the project. The website has links for ways the community can stay involved, dates of scheduled community meetings, documents, frequently asked questions, and project timelines. To receive new communications regarding the project please subscribe with your email address on the website.

Project Website

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wlr/sections-programs/river-floodplain-section/capital-projects/si-view-levee-setback-i-90.aspx>

**Q. Where should I send questions, concerns, and feedback?**

A. Please send questions, concerns, feedback and suggestions on the project to:

Clint Loper, Snoqualmie River Basin Supervisor  
River and Floodplain Management Section  
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
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