

Lower Tolt River Corridor Plan, Jan. 15, 2015 Public Meeting

Summary of Public Comments (x3 indicates 3 people said similar thing)

Verbal remarks during Q&A at public meeting:

Existing Conditions – flooding and habitat

Concerns about SPU dam in terms of releases, warnings about releases, negative impacts on flooding (x5)

Concern about 2009 flood – why did flows change so quickly, why were provisional flows downgraded later - 40-year event seems too small, was the worst we've ever seen (x4)

Concern re: erosion and overtopping of Tolt River Rd at and upstream of San Souci (x2)

Goals and objectives moving forward

County should consider global warming in future analysis

County should add goal to corridor study to improve recreational uses along the river (e.g., trails, boater use)

Potential actions moving forward

Concerns about County forcing people to sell their property – that fair market value undervalues properties (and doesn't capture people's connection to place), that County will force people to sell rather than build a new levee to protect homes upstream of San Souci (x3)

Concern that once County buys properties they can be re-developed (x2)

Concerns about maintenance and illegal activity on County owned properties (x2)

County should look at dredging again, it worked in the past and didn't hurt fish populations (x3)

County should remove large wood in river at end of 361st Ave NE as it increases flood risk to homes

Next steps and other comments:

Good maps, handouts, please post presentations on-line (x2)

One-on-one during open house before/after public meeting

Existing Conditions – flooding and habitat

Used to sand bag at end of 361st Ave NE; now have private flood wall which protects homes and a well.

Concern that lack of road maintenance along Tolt River Rd by KC Roads has allowed flooding to increase

Flow patterns have changed near San Souci and entry road into San Souci (x4), and in relic channel behind Edenholm levee since 2009 avulsion

Goals and objectives moving forward

Support for trails on levees along river

Potential actions moving forward

Residents in Rio Vista neighborhood need better emergency access during floods through Tolt Highlands; could improve condition of and access to private road that goes up into Tolt Highlands (x3)

Comments expressing concern about buyouts: County should build a levee to protect homes upstream of San Souci rather than force people to sell; can't buy a comparable home in Carnation for what home along Tolt River would sell for; concern re: gunshots on county property (x6)

Comments expressing support of buyouts: like that county is buying homes especially in high risk locations; have heard positive stories about neighbors selling to county; would like to sell home to County due to landslide risk; the lots along Tolt River Rd were originally platted as recreational and shouldn't have been developed in first place; like seeing river restored (x7)

Concern that if County builds new levees upstream (near San Souci) it will have impacts on those living downstream

Support for setting levees back on Tolt River north bank upstream and downstream of trail bridge (x2)

County should dredge

County should look closely at costs/benefits of gravel removal before pursuing

Next steps and other comments:

Residents in Rio Vista (end of Tolt River Rd.) want a neighborhood meeting with county, including SPU and dam management issues (x3)

Should have microphones for audience members at next public meeting

Written comments at public meeting:

Potential actions moving forward

Tolt Hill Road, from bridge over Snoqualmie River to its intersection with SR203 should be elevated; this is one of first places to be flooded and people in community need better access.

Logs jams in river near 361st Ave NE at end of Tolt River Rd should be removed; there's never been wood in river there (at least for 50+years) until Jan 2009 flood, and it threatened adjacent property with flooding.

Removal of large wood from river should be more clearly explained as environmentally infeasible.

Dredging should be more clearly explained as environmentally infeasible.

Trail along north levee upstream of trail bridge should be open to public; private property owners currently prohibit public from walking there. This route was emergency access during 2003 fire for residents in River's Edge development and barbed wire across levee creates safety hazard.

Next steps and other comments:

Thanks for great presentation and for keeping us informed.