WHEREAS, the Green River valley floodplain is home to over 100,000 jobs, the fourth largest warehouse and distribution complex in the nation, an annual payroll of $2.8 billion, one eighth of the Gross Domestic Product of the State of Washington, and annual taxable revenue of over $8 billion,

WHEREAS, public safety is the highest priority for allocation of Flood District funds. The safety of the lower Green River valley remains one of the region’s highest priorities.

WHEREAS, the King County Flood Control District seeks to address urgent flood risk reduction needs in the Green River Valley to keep people safe and promote economic development.

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is developing a new floodplain map that may designate lands in the Green River Valley as exposed to flood risks. Buildings on these lands would then be subject to potentially expensive development and insurance requirements. Certification and FEMA accreditation of levees would remove development restrictions and insurance requirements.

WHEREAS, the King County Flood Control District seeks to ensure that urgent protections are, to the greatest extent reasonably possible, supportive of long-term options for achieving higher levels of flood protection that will be critical in spurring economic development and investment in the region.

THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

The King County Flood Control District will continue to jointly pursue state and federal funds to meet high-priority needs in the Green River valley and across the county.

The King County Flood Control District will continue to work in collaboration with the Green River valley cities to efficiently complete levee setback projects in a way that can meet certification requirements while also providing higher level of protection for the region’s economic engine.

The King County Flood Control District resolves to address policy issues related to appropriate levels of flood protection, levee certification, and FEMA levee accreditation as part of the update to the District’s Comprehensive Plan.

The King County Flood Control District will investigate options for influencing the national policies being proposed by FEMA to ensure that regulations are efficient and accomplishing desired outcomes.