LEVEE ACCREDITATION MOTION:

Forwarded by the King County Flood Control District 5/23/2011 for consideration by the Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, public safety is the highest priority for allocation of Flood District funds. WHEREAS, the King County Flood Control District seeks to address urgent flood risk reduction needs throughout the county to keep people safe and promote economic development.

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.

WHEREAS, the Green River valley cities, which 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, have requested that the King County Flood Control District look into developing a policy addressing levee certification and accreditation.

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

A. The King County Flood Control District will continue to pursue state and federal funds in partnership with local jurisdictions to meet high-priority needs throughout the county.

The King County Flood Control District will continue to work in collaboration with the cities to efficiently complete levee setback projects and repair and maintain levees in a way that can meet certification requirements while also providing higher level of protection.

B. The King County Flood Control District resolves to address policy issues related to appropriate levels of flood protection countywide, levee certification, including operations and maintenance plans, and FEMA levee accreditation as part of the 2012 update to the District’s Flood Hazard Management Plan. This policy review shall balance the certification and accreditation process and costs with long term solutions that increase public safety and reduce flood risks throughout the county.

C. 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 accomplish desired outcomes.

The King County Flood Control District will assume maintenance and repair responsibilities necessary for certification of individual levee segments designed and constructed consistent with flood plan policy PROJ-6 if those responsibilities are based on the flood risk policies in the Plan rather than a requirement to maintain the as-built cross-section of the river channel and setback levee.

E. Future levee maintenance is based on a risk-based analysis approach. If the risk-based approach to levee maintenance is not certifiable, then this recommendation is void and will return to KCFCDD for reconsideration.

Draft motion used on March 28, 2011 at KCFCDD Executive Committee meeting
F. In the near-term, the maintenance commitment is tied to specific levee segments in Kent where certification is time-sensitive. Discussion for other areas of the County will continue as part of the Plan Update.

G. No additional FCD capital funding allocation is requested beyond current plan for the Green River except for external funds allocated specifically for levee certification and accreditation.