

## 2013 King County Flood Control Advisory Committee Recommendations

August 30, 2013

To the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors:

Each year, the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee provides you with our recommendations regarding the capital improvement program and operating budget for the District. We have been serving in this capacity since 2007.

The Advisory Committee's discussions of the 2014 budget were informed by presentations over four meetings that covered King County's strategies for floodplain management, the flood risk reduction strategy in each of the major river basins, capital project prioritization criteria, and accomplishments since the King County Council established the Flood Control District in 2007. Just a few of these accomplishments include:

1. Completion of 68 levee repair and rehabilitation projects, reducing risk to people, property, and critical public infrastructure. Examples include:
  - a. Partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild 15,000 feet of levees that protect regionally significant employers in the lower Green River valley.
  - b. Installed 23 miles of sandbags to protect the lower Green River valley while the Howard Hanson Dam was compromised, followed by removal of those sandbags when the Dam was restored to its full operating condition.
  - c. Constructed 5,500 linear feet of levees and revetments along the Cedar River to protect residents, SR 169, the Cedar River trail, and a regional fiber optics line.
  - d. Levee and revetment repairs to protect homes and major roadways along the Tolt, South Fork Snoqualmie, and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers.
  - e. Partnered with the City of Seattle to reconnect the Tolt River floodplain in Tolt-MacDonald Park in Carnation, reconnecting 45 acres of floodplain to store and convey floodwaters.
2. Leveraged over \$55 million in state and federal funds, including \$4.1 million just awarded by the State of Washington to support construction of a levee setback at Rainbow Bend and relocation of tenants at the recently acquired Riverbend Mobile Home Park along the Cedar River.
3. Provided funding for flood risk reduction activities in each of King County's 40 jurisdictions through the Opportunity Fund. Examples include:
  - a. Seattle: Increased stormwater storage capacity in the Madison Valley neighborhood.
  - b. Bellevue: Installation of a new culvert and sediment removal system on Sunset Creek to reduce flooding of SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - c. Federal Way: Stormwater improvements to alleviate flooding of major roads near Easter Lake and West Hylebos Creek.
  - d. Burien: Purchase of a vacator truck to maintain catch basins and protect water quality.
  - e. Redmond: Cost-share the preliminary engineering design of the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration project.

4. Elevated 50 flood-prone homes, a new barn-elevation pilot project, and financial support for construction of 26 farm pads. These projects reduce flood-related damage and disruption of those who live and work in the Snoqualmie River floodplain. Areas of emphasis to date have been the Shamrock Park neighborhood in North Bend, the City of Snoqualmie and Kimball Creek area, and the lower Snoqualmie valley.
5. Acquired 88 at-risk properties on 235 acres, and demolished or relocated 143 flood-prone structures. These acquisitions provide permanent flood-risk reduction for residents, while also providing property that can be used for public safety capital projects.
6. Achieved status as the highest-rated county in the nation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), which allows a 40 percent insurance rate reduction for unincorporated area residents; other jurisdictions in King County are also able to claim CRS credits for the Flood District's activities that result in CRS ratings of 5 or 6 and 20-25 percent reductions on insurance rates.
7. Flood Warning Center and Flood Patrols activated during flood events. The Flood Warning Center provides round-the-clock coordination of weather and river flooding information. Since 2008 the Flood Warning Center has opened 23 times, operated for over 850 hours with over 2,800 person-hours monitoring river and levee conditions, and coordinated with emergency first-responders and residents.
8. Developed a Flood Alert System, providing approximately 5,200 citizens and first-responders with automated real-time information about flood conditions on King County's major rivers. Developed flood preparedness videos in 22 languages, enabling floodplain managers throughout the state to increase flood awareness among vulnerable population groups.

The Committee reviewed draft operating and capital budgets, as well as the District's financial plan and information about external grant funding. The Committee also discussed the Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework, or "SWIF," which is a collaborative effort approved by the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a shared vision, project design goals, and capital project priorities for the Green River. This planning effort will enable regional infrastructure investments to be targeted on the highest priority public safety projects for the Green River valley.

Several of the Committee members also participated in a tour of proposed and completed projects on the Tolt River and a home-elevation project in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley that received Flood District and FEMA funds.

As part of the review of the proposed 2014 proposed capital projects list, the Committee discussed and agreed with the following guiding principles used to update the six-year capital program and financial plan for 2014-2019:

1. The capital program should follow through on regional commitments to critical public safety projects while also reflecting any new information about flood risks.
2. Anticipated project schedules should be adjusted based on factors such as landowner willingness, design status, and permits, and these schedules will continue to be refined as the projects move forward.
3. King County's capital construction projects are managed based on a project management system that includes "gates" or decision-points at key design milestones that allow a project to move forward toward implementation. Capital construction project budgets should remain the same as the 2013 adopted CIP if the project has not passed through a design milestone since the last adopted budget.

4. Where corridor plans are underway or in development to inform capital project prioritization and design, implementation funds should be included in the 6-year CIP. These implementation projects should be viewed as placeholders pending completion of the studies and discussion of the results. Given the uncertainty regarding costs to implement these corridor plans, it is prudent to reserve some funding capacity in the later years of the financial plan.
5. The ending fund balance should also be sufficient to satisfy the minimum insurance requirement of \$7.5 million.

Meeting summaries and materials are available at the link below, and the Advisory Committee roster is included as an attachment to this document.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/flooding/flood-control-zone-district/governance/advisory-committee.aspx>.

Following discussion of the preliminary draft budget in May, staff adjusted the proposal to reflect Committee input on the Reddington project. Following the May meeting, the Board of Supervisors also provided the Committee with responses to several questions regarding District policies and new capital projects. The Committee voted on the proposed 2014 Operating Budget, 2014 Capital Budget, and 2014-2019 capital program at its August 5 meeting. At this meeting the following Committee members voted:

1. City of Algona: Councilmember Bill Thomas (representing SCA)
2. City of Auburn: Mayor Pete Lewis
3. City of Bellevue: Councilmember Don Davidson
4. City of Kent: Mayor Suzette Cooke, Advisory Committee Chair
5. King County: Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett
6. King County Unincorporated Area Councils: Richard Bonewits
7. City of Lake Forest Park: Councilmember Robert Lee, Advisory Committee Vice-Chair (representing SCA)
8. City of Maple Valley: Councilmember Victoria Laise-Jones (alternate representing SCA)
9. City of Renton: Mayor Denis Law
10. City of Seattle: Councilmember Tim Burgess
11. City of Snoqualmie: Mayor Matt Larson
12. City of Tukwila: Mayor Jim Haggerton

Input and comments were also provided in advance of the August 5 meeting electronically by:

1. City of North Bend: Mayor Kenneth Hearing
2. City of Carnation: Mayor Jim Berger
3. City of Kirkland: Mayor Joan McBride (representing SCA)

### **Recommendation #1: Operating Budget**

**The Advisory Committee voted (12-0) to recommend the proposed operating work program and budget.**

1. At the August meeting Committee members requested greater detail on the operating budget, and also asked that this greater detail be provided as standard operating procedure in the future.
2. Snoqualmie valley cities were particularly supportive of proposed funding (\$200,000) to conduct hydraulic analysis to evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of the Snoqualmie 205 and Puget Sound Energy projects at Snoqualmie Falls, and possible analysis of other potential hydrologic factors in lower valley flooding.

Comments provided electronically by the three members unable to attend in person were supportive of the 2014 proposed operating budget.

### **Recommendation #2: 2014 Capital Budget**

**The Advisory Committee voted 12-0 to recommend the proposed 2014 capital budget.**

Several Committee members noted the significant addition of \$4.1 million in state funding awarded in July for public safety projects along the Cedar River that are intended to reduce flood risks while reducing long-term maintenance costs and supporting other regionally adopted goals for habitat and open space.

Comments provided electronically by the three members unable to attend in person were supportive of the 2014 proposed capital budget.

### **Recommendation #3: 2014-2019 6-Year Capital Program**

**The Advisory Committee voted 11-1 to recommend the proposed 2014-2019 capital program.**

The dissenting vote was from the City of Kent.

Comments provided electronically by the three members unable to attend in person were supportive of the 2014-2019 capital program. One member suggested that the Board begin discussions about reallocating or increasing the Subregional Opportunity Fund to provide more assistance with urban flooding problems.

**Attachment 1:**

**King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee Roster**

**City of Algona:** Councilmember Bill Thomas (representing SCA)

**City of Auburn:** Mayor Pete Lewis; alternate Councilmember Bill Peloza

**City of Bellevue:** Councilmember Don Davidson

**City of Carnation:** Mayor Jim Berger

**City of Covington:** Councilmember Marlla Mhoon (representing SCA)

**City of Duvall:** Councilmember Will Ibershof (alternate representing SCA)

**City of Federal Way:** Councilmember Susan Honda (alternate representing SCA)

**City of Kent:** Mayor Suzette Cooke, Advisory Committee Chair

**City of Kirkland:** Mayor Joan McBride (representing SCA)

**King County:** Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett

**King County Unincorporated Area Councils:** Richard Bonewits

**City of Lake Forest Park:** Councilmember Robert Lee, Advisory Committee Vice-Chair (representing SCA)

**City of Maple Valley:** Councilmember Victoria Laise-Jones (alternate representing SCA)

**City of Mercer Island:** Councilmember Mike Cero (alternate representing SCA)

**City of North Bend:** Mayor Kenneth Hearing

**City of Renton:** Mayor Denis Law

**City of Seattle:** Councilmember Tim Burgess

**City of Snoqualmie:** Mayor Matt Larson

**City of Tukwila:** Mayor Jim Haggerton