

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Julia Patterson
Chair, King County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Supervisor Patterson:

This letter transmits to the King County Flood Control District (District) Board of Supervisors the final 2009 report and recommendations of the District Advisory Committee, consistent with King County Council Ordinance No. 15728.

The Ordinance created a 15-person Advisory Committee to provide expert policy advice to the District Board of Supervisors on regional flood protection issues. Ordinance No. 15728 specifically directed the Advisory Committee to review and recommend an annual work program and budget for the District, including capital improvement projects and funding levels.

The Advisory Committee includes the Mayors (or an alternate) from the following cities: Tukwila, Auburn, Kent, Renton, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Seattle and Bellevue, as well as a representative of the Unincorporated Area Councils, the King County Executive, and four representatives nominated by the Suburban Cities Association (SCA).

The District Advisory Committee met in March, April, and May of 2009 to:

- Adopt by-laws and elect a Chair,
- Review the damages and repair needs from the January 2009 flooding disaster, including damages at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Howard Hanson Dam and the resulting changes to King County's flood warning and flood patrol operations on the Green River,
- Review and recommend changes to the District's Operating and CIP budget to address the damage from the 2009 flood disaster and the increased risk of future flooding in the Green River Valley, and
- Review and comment on the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets and 2010 capital projects.

The Advisory Committee unanimously approved by-laws and operating procedures and elected City of Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke as chair of the Advisory Committee, with City of Kirkland Deputy Mayor Joan McBride as Vice-Chair.

The damage to the abutment that is adjacent to the Howard Hanson Dam and the resulting reductions in the storage capacity of the dam significantly increases flood risks in the Green River basin. In addition to discussions about the operational changes implemented to respond

to this situation, the Advisory Committee also reviewed information about capital projects completed in 2008, ongoing in 2009, and proposed actions for 2010-2015 (many in partnership with the Corps) to rehabilitate several major components of the levee system.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations are summarized below:

1. The Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed the process used by the Flood District to evaluate and prioritize emergency repairs in response to the January 2009 flood.
2. The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets and the 2010-2015 capital improvement program list.

State law provides for the District Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution concurrently with the county budget to authorize the implementation of flood protection projects and associated funding. Consistent with state law, this resolution will be transmitted within that timeframe.

I appreciate the leadership of the Board of Supervisors on flood protection issues. With the flood season fast approaching and the increased risk of flooding in the Green River Valley resulting from the reduced flood protection capacity of the Howard Hanson Dam, our work to continue to implement the Advisory Committee's recommendations is particularly important. I know we share the common goal of working proactively to protect our citizens, their property, and the regional economy from the ravages of flooding.

King County staff is happy to provide briefings on the Advisory Committee meetings. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director with the Water and Land Resources Division in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-296-6587.

Sincerely,

Kurt Triplett
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Flood Control District Supervisors
ATTN: Kjristine Lund, Executive Director, King County Flood Control District
Tom Bristow, Interim Chief of Staff, King County Council
Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director, King County Council
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board
King County Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee Members
Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Theresa Jennings, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP