

King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee 2010 Final Recommendations

August 31, 2009

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2007, the Metropolitan King County Council passed Ordinance No. 15728, creating a countywide flood control zone district, in accordance with chapter 86.15 RCW. Consistent with state law, the ordinance appointed a 15-person advisory committee to advise the Board of Supervisors of the District.

The ordinance directed the Advisory Committee to provide expert policy advice to the Board of Supervisors of the King County Flood Control District (District) on regional flood protection issues and to review and recommend an annual work program and budget for the District, including capital improvement program (CIP) projects and funding levels.

The District Advisory Committee is comprised as follows: the mayors (or an elected 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 (UAC) and four representatives nominated by the Suburban Cities Association (SCA).

RECOMMENDATIONS

As described in greater detail below, the Advisory Committee made the following recommendations during its 2009 meetings:

- **The Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed the process used by the Flood Control District to evaluate and prioritize emergency repairs in response to the January 2009 flood. These recommendations were subsequently adopted by the Board of Supervisors.**
- **The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets, as well as the proposed 2010-2015 CIP project list.**

OVERVIEW

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.

To complete their work, committee members heard presentations from King County staff; engaged in group discussions, participated in staff briefings; and conducted preliminary "temperature read" votes that allowed the members to better understand each others' interests and perspectives.

Voting on the evaluation process used to assess and prioritize flood damage emergency repairs occurred in March and the Committee unanimously recommended adjustments to the 2009 capital program in April. These adjustments were subsequently adopted by the Board of Supervisors in May. Final voting on the Advisory Committee's 2010 budget and work program recommendations also occurred at the May meeting.

Committee members who attended the meetings included:

City of Auburn: Councilmember Bill Peloza (alternate)

City of Bellevue: Mayor Grant Degginger

City of Federal Way: (representing SCA): Mayor Michael Park

City of Kent: Mayor Suzette Cooke, Advisory Committee Chair

City of Kirkland: Deputy Mayor Joan McBride

Unincorporated Area Councils: Richard Bonewits

City of Maple Valley: (representing SCA): Mayor Laure Iddings

City of North Bend: Mayor Kenneth Hearing

City of Renton: Mayor Denis Law

City of Seattle: Councilmember Bruce Harrell

City of Shoreline: (representing SCA): Councilmember Ron Hansen

City of Snoqualmie: Mayor Matt Larson

City of Tukwila: Mayor Jim Haggerton

Meeting materials are available at:

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

THE COMMITTEE PROCESS

As noted previously, the District Advisory Committee met three times in spring 2009. Information on the damage from the January 2009 flooding, the District's response during the flooding, and the longer-term response needed in terms of flood facility repairs and budgetary and capital adjustments was presented and discussed. These discussions also included reports on the status of the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River, including the assessments to date of

damages from the January flooding, operational changes to the District’s flood warning and response activities in response to these operational changes, and implications for capital projects in 2010. The District’s proposed 2010 work program and six-year CIP were also presented and discussed.

“Temperature read” votes were taken in March and May. Committee members discussed the process used to reprioritize the 2009 CIP in response to the repair needs resulting from the January 2009 flooding, as well as the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets and the 2010-2015 capital improvement project list.

The Advisory Committee’s deliberations were supported by staff-level Basin Technical Committees (BTCs) in each of the four major river basins within King County (South Fork Skykomish and Snoqualmie, Green-Duwamish, Cedar-Sammamish, and White). Staff from all jurisdictions in King County were invited to participate in these meetings. The BTCs first met in advance of the Advisory Committee’s schedule, and reviewed, analyzed and provided input on the following:

- Emergency repair adjustments to the 2009 budget,
- Proposed 2010 capital project list in each basin, and
- Proposed 2010-2015 CIP.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE KCFCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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.

In 2007, the Advisory Committee recommended, and the Board of Supervisors adopted, a project prioritization approach using a combination of flood risk reduction and implementation criteria. Such an approach allows for strategic sequencing of capital projects and ensures high priority projects are implemented and potential constraints are identified.

In March, King County staff presented the Advisory Committee with a summary of flood facility repair needs and the process for identifying new 2009 repairs, which is based on the flood risk and implementation criteria. At the April meeting, staff presented a revised 2009 CIP—reviewed and recommended by the BTCs—and identified funding needs.

In March, a “temperature read” vote demonstrated unanimous support for the process proposed to reprioritize in the CIP to address damage from the January flooding. The Advisory Committee also unanimously supported the proposed process for identifying critical 2009 damage repair needs again during its April meeting. Furthermore, the committee supported a process that uses the implementation factors (e.g. readiness to proceed, landowner willingness, grants and partnerships) to identify 2009 funding allocations that could be deferred to accommodate priority flood response needs without compromising public safety. Funding sources include projects that are deferred due to

unmatched grants, acquisitions that will not proceed as planned due to landowner unwillingness, and surplus funds from completed projects.

2. The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets and the 2010-2015 CIP Project list.

The BTCs reviewed the flood risk reduction and implementation scores for projects proposed for 2010 and discussed any necessary adjustments. Based on the discussion of priorities in each basin and the opportunities and constraints on the implementation of these priorities, the BTCs recommended a strategy and capital project list for each basin. The recommended capital project list included revisions to 2010 priorities listed in the District's six-year CIP to reflect new needs following the January 2009 flooding.

The Advisory Committee was presented with detailed information on the 2010 work program recommendations at its May meeting. The flood risk reduction strategy for each basin was presented, along with a basin-by-basin discussion of the proposed capital projects. The focus of the proposed 2010 capital program is to continue to implement sustainable, long-term solutions to flood and channel migration risks, while simultaneously addressing critical repair needs resulting from the January 2009 flood and responding to new information on flood risks from updated floodplain maps on the White River. In addition, King County staff and BTC members sought to retain high priority projects previously adopted in the 2009-2014 CIP when developing project recommendations.

The 2010 work program reflects emergency repairs completed immediately following the January flood, as well as those needed due to reduced flood storage capacity at Howard Hanson Dam. The Committee also discussed partnerships with the Corps for projects on the Green River. These include the Tukwila 205 and Horseshoe Bend repairs, as well as the Russell Road project proposed under the Corps' Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The repair projects are 100 percent federally funded through the Corps, while ERP projects include 65 percent federal funds and a 35 percent local match.

The Advisory Committee was briefed on the operating elements of the District's work program, including flood preparedness and flood warning, flood hazard assessments and mapping, grants and mitigation activities, and annual maintenance and monitoring. Staff summarized proposed changes in the operating budget from 2009 to 2010. Some of the key changes include technical assessments of channel capacity and sediment deposition on the White River, initiated in 2009 in partnership with the Corps, Pierce County, and the U.S. Geologic Survey. This technical information is fundamental for determining the effectiveness of any proposed flood risk reduction capital projects in and around the City of Pacific, as well as for permitting of any projects that are proposed. The proposed budget also includes increased funding to provide sandbags in each of the major river basins, in response to a directive from the King County Council.

To address flood damage repair needs and other emerging information, such as the issues surrounding Howard Hanson Dam, King County staff presented a revised six-year CIP project list, for years 2010-2015.

After discussion of the proposed 2010 capital and operating budgets, the Advisory Committee recommended the proposed work program and CIP project list. These documents are provided as Appendix A and Appendix B. So this “temperature read” is considered the Advisory Committee’s final recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for 2010.