



KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

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April 29, 2010

Suzette Cooke, Chair
King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
220 4th Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032-5895

Dear Chair Cooke and Advisory Committee Members,

On behalf of the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors, we would like to wholeheartedly thank you for your past and continued service, hard work and recommendations regarding regional flood protection issues. Your role as expert policy advisors has been invaluable to us as we make decisions about the Flood Control District's work program and budget.

As you begin your process of developing recommendations regarding the 2011 budget and the 2011-2016 capital program, we would like to highlight a few key areas that we have identified for your attention and advice. The 2011 budget recommendation is due to the Flood Control District Board of Supervisors by August 31, 2010.

Commitment to completing the adopted 10-year King County Flood Hazard Management plan

The 10-year plan was adopted as the comprehensive blueprint for fixing our aging flood protection systems to reduce the likelihood of future flooding disasters. Many of the projects identified in the plan are well underway and we want to reaffirm our commitment to completing the identified priority repairs and upgrades recognizing the many challenges and adjustments that have been necessary in response to the over \$17 million in unanticipated emergency costs.

Future responses to emergency flood damage

We welcome your advice on ways to improve and streamline the process for funding emergency flood protection efforts based on the Advisory Committee's recent experiences. Major storms and the unprecedented Howard Hanson Dam situation necessitated unanticipated repairs and emergency planning efforts. Your recommendations regarding reallocation and reprioritization guided our final decisions. We realize that we will continue to have emergency situations and we would like to hear your recommendations, if any, on how best to respond efficiently and effectively.

Meeting self-insurance requirements

Recent changes in self-insurance requirements, including a new reserve requirement of \$3.5 million translate into nearly \$1 million more that the Flood Control District must set aside. We are currently working with Water and Land Resource Division (WLRD) staff to assess requirements and impacts to project funding. WLRD's work will involve coordination with risk management experts and actuarial experts who can confirm the cash necessary to meet our reserve requirement. We are concerned about the impact of an increased reserve over the 6-year CIP, potentially reducing the budget available for projects by \$6 million. We are asking for your recommendations on how best to fund necessary projects and meet the self-insurance requirements. You may have some lessons learned from your own jurisdictions insurance experiences.

Balancing new project requests and conditions within the existing plan

In addition to emergency needs, new project proposals have policy and funding implications. We look for your guidance on how best to balance new requests with the needs identified in the existing plan. We also seek your advice on the appropriate issues to assess in the context of the upcoming 2012 plan update.

Thank you again for your outstanding contributions to flood protection in our region. We look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Sincerely,



Julia Patterson, Chair
King County Flood Control District
Board of Supervisors



Reagan Dunn, Vice-chair
King County Flood Control District
Board of Supervisors

cc: King County Flood Control District Board Members
Kjristine Lund, Executive Director, Flood Control District
Mark Isaacson, Water and Land Resources Division
Steve Bleifuhs, Water and Land Resources Division
Brian Murray, Water and Land Resources Division