

News Release

Contact: Reagan Dunn 206-477-1009 / Dave Upthegrove 206-477-1005

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Protecting Green River Corridor: Flood Control District adopts 2017 Budget

Projects safeguarding Valley residents and businesses

The King County Flood Control District today gave its support to projects focused on preventing flooding in the Green River Valley in the unanimously adopted 2017 Flood District Budget. Flood District Chair Reagan Dunn was joined by District Vice Chair Dave Upthegrove in announcing the Green River projects receiving funding as part of the adopted \$71.5 million budget.

"I am proud of the work done by the King County Flood Control District and our local partners," said Dunn. "These projects focus on reducing the risk of flooding in the Green River Valley and would not be possible without the collaborative relationship between King County and our city partners. I look forward to seeing this work move forward to better protect our residents and businesses."

"I'm proud to support this budget because it prioritizes keeping people safe and also manages to restore habitat for salmon and other wildlife," Upthegrove said. "By our vote today, we're funding many critical levy improvement projects along the Green River to reduce flood risk and protect the homes and businesses in the Kent Valley."

The Flood Control District is working in collaboration with local jurisdictions as part of a regional effort to address flooding on the Lower Green River. Projects receiving funding today include:

- Improvements and additions to flood prone areas including the Signature Pointe, Lower Russell Road, Breda Setback, and Segale-Gaco Levees.
- The Signature Pointe Levee currently does not meet standards set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flood level freeboard. The project will receive \$300,000 to develop an alternative to achieve increased flood protection and embankment in a manner that can be certified and accredited.

"The City of Kent is grateful to the King County Flood Control District for investing in projects along the Green River that provide recreational opportunities for people, enhance habitat for fish, birds and animals, and protect one-eighth of the state's economy from flooding," said Suzette Cooke, Mayor of Kent. "The Lower Russell Road levee project is a great example of how we can accomplish all three goals when we think creatively and work together."

- More than \$5,000,000 was set aside for ongoing work to remove and replace the existing flood containment system of levee and revetments on the Lower Russell Road. This project, located on the right (east) bank of the Green River on S 212th St and S 228th Street/Veterans Drive in the City of Kent, focuses on creating a flood protection system that balances habitat restoration, trail and landscape opportunities, and reduces the risk for long-term maintenance costs.
- The Breda Setback, a segment of the Horseshoe Bend Levee, will receive nearly \$1,760,000 to continue work focused on reconstructing a portion of the levee with the lowest safety rating. Improvements to this segment will reduce flood risk to the surrounding areas. The project will also raise the levee's elevations to contain the 500-year flood.

"On behalf of the City of Tukwila, we are pleased that the Flood District recognizes the importance of investing in these levees and protecting the economic engine that lies in the Green River Valley," said Allan Ekberg, Mayor of Tukwila.

- Two projects along the Segale-Gaco levee system to prevent extensive economic consequences to the Green River Valley. Last year, the Gaco-Western Levee was damaged by flood water. The FCD Budget sets aside more than \$80,400 in funds to support the City of Tukwila's efforts to protect the people and property around the levee. The funds will support the project design to repair a 600 foot stretch of the levee. The Segale portion of the levee system that protects Tukwila area residents and property, will receive more than \$1,600,000 to construct a floodwall and support habitat restoration. Both projects are part of the long term strategy to reduce area flooding

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The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District's Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/.