



News Release

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2017 King County Flood Control District budget supports work to prevent flooding on Highway 169

Last winter, flooding on Highway 169 caused major traffic delays for residents and businesses in the cities of Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Enumclaw and the surrounding areas. King County FCD Chair Reagan Dunn announced that a study to assess flooding on Highway 169 will receive funding as part of the adopted 2017 King County Flood Control District (FCD) Budget.

"Protecting State Route 169 from flooding is a regional priority," said Dunn. "I was glad to advocate to include this study in the 2017 King County Flood Control District Budget. Finding solutions that will protect this highway from flooding is an investment for those that rely on the important services, economic opportunities, and residential communities only accessible by this route."

SR 169 is an important regional highway for southeast King County and a "main street" for Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Enumclaw. During large flood events, issues with local drainage can cause water to overtop State Route 169 near the intersection of Cedar Grove Road, forcing closure of the highway. When that happens, communities that rely on 169 are impacted drastically as detour routes are inadequate to handle the already overly congested highway.

"Highway 169 serves as a major arterial for residents and businesses in the City of Maple Valley," said Maple Valley Mayor Sean Kelly. "I am glad the King County Flood Control District is supporting this important work and look forward to the recommendations that come out of the study."

"The City of Enumclaw actively relies on State Route 169 for transporting people and goods," said Enumclaw Mayor Liz Reynolds. "I'm pleased that the King County Flood Control District is focused on finding solutions to protecting this crucial route from winter floods."

\$260,000 was set aside as a part of the King County FCD Budget adopted by the District Board of Supervisors on November 7, to assess what can be done to prevent flooding on this key highway. The adopted budget funds regional projects dedicated to protecting lives and reducing damage caused by flooding.

The study will coordinate with the Washington State Department of Transportation to evaluate flood risk reduction opportunities, such as possibly raising Highway 169, upgrading local drainage infrastructure, or installing flood gates.

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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/.