



News Release

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Proposal on plan for protecting South Fork of Snoqualmie sent to full Flood District

Shoring up aging system

The King County Flood Control District Executive Board gave its unanimous approval to the blueprint that will focus on protecting the lives and property of people who live and work on the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The vote to send the plan to the full Board of Supervisors was at the Board's December 8 meeting.

"This plan embodies why the Flood Control District was created; it is a proactive, regional approach to protect public safety, the regional economy, and critical infrastructure from flooding," said Board Director Reagan Dunn. "Once adopted by the full board of the District, we will be able move forward with providing better flood protection for residents and businesses along the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River while also improving the natural environment."

"I'm very excited to see us offering more tools to protect citizens from flooding. We've established long-term goals for the corridor and we'll also be increasing from a 100-year level of protection to a 500-year level of protection," said Boardmember Kathy Lambert, who represents the communities along the Snoqualmie on the Flood Control District. "I'm appreciative of the citizens who attended our public meetings to give their input and to discuss how they believe they'll best be protected."

The South Fork of the Snoqualmie River flows through unincorporated King County and the city of North Bend on its journey from the Cascade Mountains near to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The levee system along the river through North Bend was constructed in the 1960s and is now inadequate,

providing uneven flood protection. Flooding in 2006, 2008, and 2009 has resulted in overtopping of portions of the levee system with damage to homes, roadways, and communities.

Downstream of the South Fork's levees, there are neighborhoods at risk from bank erosion, flooding, and channel migration which could be amplified by actions taken a half-century ago to contain flows upstream. Additionally, the city of Snoqualmie lies just downstream of the river's confluence, and is potentially affected by any actions taken to contain flows or otherwise manage flood hazards in the leveed segment of the South Fork.

The goal of the Flood Management Plan is to:

- Reduce risks from flood and channel migration hazards
- Reduce long-term costs of flood hazard management
- Improve natural environment through sound and sustainable flood hazard management
- Incorporate stakeholder and community values into Corridor Planning process

Completing the plan could involve several strategies including:

- In-stream structures
- Road and bridge modifications
- Gravel management
- Home buyouts
- Home elevations

The Full Flood Control District Board of Supervisors will discuss and possibly take action on the proposed Floodplain Management Plan at its December 15 meeting.

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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 www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org.