



News Release

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Flood District approves agreement for Green River levee improvement project **Upgrading system that protects lives, property**

The King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors gave its unanimous support to an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the city of Kent that will expand the work being done on the Russell Road Upper levee, the series of levees that protect the Kent Valley.

"The Kent Valley is an important economic engine for our region," said Reagan Dunn, Chair of the Flood Control District. "This project is illustrative of the proactive role the Flood District is taking to protect areas across King County from flood risks."

"This is an important step forward to protect jobs and the economy in the Kent Valley," said Supervisor Dave Upthegrove, who represents the Kent Valley on the Flood District.

The Russell Road Upper levee is part of a system of levees originally built to provide flood risk reduction to farmland in the Kent Valley. These now aging levees are protecting \$2.8 billion worth of urban structures and contents. A levee breach or overtopping in this location would have serious implications including threats to public safety, damage to public infrastructure, impacts on the regional economy, and damage to private structures including homes and businesses.

The District's adopted capital budgets for the years 2013 and 2014 included funding for improvements to several Reaches of the Russell Road Upper levee system. Last July, the District adopted a resolution allowing construction of the North Reach of the levee system. That agreement:

- Set a project scope that covered the North Reach of the Russell Road Upper Levee on the right (eastern) bank of the Green River between River Miles (RM) 19.5 and 19.8 in the city of Kent,
- Outlined the respective obligations of each jurisdiction as to design and construction (Kent) and inspection and maintenance (District),
- Set a maximum budget of \$1,500,000 for the project,
- Required a final levee design subject to District review, and
- Outlined how reimbursements to Kent are to be processed.

The resolution adopted by the Board at its March 31 meeting revises the ILA to:

- Re-set the project scope to cover the North and South Reaches of the Russell Road Upper Levee between RM 19.25 and 20.4 and,
- Increase the maximum budget \$3,787,228 for the improvement to the North and South Reaches.

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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.