



News Release

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Briscoe Desimone Levee One Step Closer to Construction

Plan for protecting public safety and property moving forward

The King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors took action at its May 20 meeting to continue improving public safety and property protection in the Green River Valley and move ahead with work on the Briscoe Desimone Levee by unanimously voting to enter into agreement with the city of Kent to construct the Briscoe Desimone levee project located between S. 180th Street and S. 200th Street in the Green River basin.

"By moving forward on construction, we are providing certainty to Green River Valley residents, property owners, and businesses," stated Flood Control District Chair Reagan Dunn, whose County Council district includes part of the city of Kent. "These improvements to the levees will protect thousands of jobs in our region, and I commend Mayor Cooke, Council President Higgins and all who played a role in working collaboratively with the Flood District in getting us to this point today."

"The levees in the Green River Valley protect tens of thousands of residents, as well as \$12 billion in property in the fourth-largest warehouse and distribution center in the United States" said Flood Control District Vice Chair Julia Patterson whose County Council includes part of the Green River Valley "I'm happy that with the support of the State Legislature, the Flood Control District can continue our work to protect this vital community and regional economic center."

The Briscoe Desimone levee is one segment of the larger levee system protecting the region's valuable economic center located in the Green River Valley. The lower Green River floodplain houses 24,000 permanent residents and support nearly 100,000 jobs.

The levee will be built using Flood Control District funds, as well as funds from a \$7 million grant through the state Department of Ecology. The levee project consists of four segments on the east bank of the Green River that are considered most at risk of failure.

Pending mutual approval of the interlocal agreement by the Kent City Council at its May 21 meeting, the first segment will be constructed starting this year, with construction on the remaining three segments to begin in 2014.

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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.