



516 Third Avenue • Room 1200 • Seattle, WA 98104
206.296.1020 • info@kingcountyfloodcontrol.org
www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org

August 31, 2021

Dave Upthegrove, Chair
King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors
516 Third Avenue
Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Transmittal of Recommendations for the 2022 Annual Budget and 2022-2027 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Dear Chair Upthegrove and King County Flood District Board of Supervisors:

The members of the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) are pleased to transmit our recommendations to the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (District) for the 2022 Annual Budget and 2022-2027 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The King County Council established the Advisory Committee through Ordinance 15728 on April 16, 2007, to provide expert policy advice to the District on regional flood protection issues. According to Ordinance 15728:

“The advisory committee is created to provide expert policy advice to the board of supervisors of the King County Flood Control Zone District on regional flood protection issues. The committee shall review and recommend an annual work program and budget for the district, including capital improvement program projects and funding levels, subject to approval or approval and modification by the board of supervisors. Eleven copies of the recommendations shall be filed with the clerk of the King County council no later than August 31 of the preceding year, for distribution to all councilmembers.”

The Advisory Committee met four times between February 23 and August 12, 2021. We received an orientation to the Flood District’s new web site and had briefings about the District’s progress on multi-benefits and fish passage alternatives at the Black River Pump Station. We also had briefings on the Flood District’s work plan and capital project delivery. These briefings set the stage for our deliberations related to the 2022 Annual Budget and the 2022-2027 CIP.

A staff-level Joint Basin Technical Committee met four times to provide feedback on budget related documents in advance of the Advisory Committee meetings. Last year we asked for an increase in the number of Advisory Committee meetings and that we meet throughout the year, not just during the summer. We found the addition of a meeting this winter to be helpful keeping us informed about the Flood District’s work. We urge you to continue support for the Advisory Committee and Joint Basin Technical Committee to meet throughout the year, especially with the upcoming Flood Hazard Management Plan work ahead. Included here is an electronic link with all the [Advisory Committee meeting materials](#).

Flood District Transparency and Access

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair and members of the Flood District Board of Supervisors for their commitment to expanding access and increasing the transparency of the Flood District's decision-making, especially in this time of remote work. We appreciate the Flood District holding both its Board of Supervisors and Executive Committee meetings "in Chambers" so that the proceedings are televised. We thank the Flood District for proactively sharing the budget materials to be presented to Board members and updating us throughout the budget process. We also appreciate the "two-touch" rule implemented by the Chair to ensure the Board members and the public have the opportunity to see draft budget materials and have multiple meetings at which to provide comments before final passage. We urge the Flood District to continue expanding access and increasing transparency by continuing these practices and including public comment at all District meetings.

Flood Hazard Management Plan Update

We appreciate the Board and County's commitment to including our 2019 recommended list of issues in the scope of the Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP). We are excited to learn the County has hired a project manager to lead the FHMP effort and that the FHMP Update is moving forward. We reiterate our desire to have an active role in the process of updating the Plan and request opportunities to be briefed on the work and to provide comments on the progress of the FHMP. We also ask that the Joint Basin Technical Committee as well as basin specific work groups be convened to provide technical input to the FHMP.

We are interested in looking at innovative approaches to managing flood risk by making use of new technology with the potential of improving efficiency and sustainability. We'd like to see innovative approaches to managing flood risk, including the use of technology, added to the issues and scope of the FHMP.

Newly Created Flood Reduction Grant Programs

We appreciate the expanded Flood Reduction Grant Program which includes three new grant categories: urban streams, coastal erosion, and culvert/fish passage. We acknowledge and support that the enabling legislation requires successful grant applicants must first demonstrate a flood nexus.

Financial Plan and Fund Balance

For the last two years, we understand the Board of Supervisors has discussed the appropriateness of the current levy rate given the state of economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, it is extremely important to look toward the future and the capital needs throughout the County.

While we have always pushed the Flood District to move capital projects more quickly and to spend its fund balance, the District's Financial Plan demonstrates the Flood District's capital needs will exceed the Flood District's resources of fund balance and new revenue in the near future, beginning in 2024.

We must continue to invest in (1) the critical flood reduction facilities identified in the recommended 2022-2027 CIP; (2) the unfunded needs identified in the recently completed planning efforts such as the Black River Pump Station Capital Project Strategy, the Tolt, South Fork Snoqualmie, and Cedar River Capital Investment Strategies, and the planning efforts currently underway such as the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Sammamish River Capital Investment Strategies and the ongoing Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; (3) the flood reduction strategies that will be identified in the upcoming Flood Hazard Management Plan Update; and (4) the unknown repair needs resulting from flood events.

We recommend the Flood District review its current fund balance policy and consider adding to it in order to establish a monitoring trigger to ensure the fund balance and new revenue are sufficient to cover capital and operating needs.

We also recommend a 2022 Operating Budget and 2022-2027 Capital Budget that relies on a levy rate that is unchanged from the 2021 levy amount plus new construction.

Operating Budget

We appreciate the Flood District's desire to expand access to its Flood Awareness information and are pleased to see additional resources being designated for expanded translation services. We also appreciate the commitment of funding to the Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and look forward to meaningful participation in that planning process.

Last year we asked for information on the Flood District's expected cost savings resulting from King County Water and Land Resources Division staff permanently working from home. We are looking forward to learning if these costs savings were realized.

Capital Budget

We appreciate the Flood District's commitment to implementing the results of its planning processes such as the Tolt, South Fork Snoqualmie, and Cedar River Capital Investment Strategies and the Black River Pump Station Capital Project Strategy. We look forward to a discussion of capital project prioritization during the Flood Hazard Management Plan Update.

In addition to the attached capital budget, we recommend the Gaco Mitchell levee repair (Capital Budget line 160, WLFL8 TUK-205 USACE GACO-SEGALE) move forward within the existing levee easement for construction to the 500-year level of protection.

Letter from Advisory Committee to Board of Supervisors on 2022 Budget
August 31, 2021

Multi-Benefit Projects

We recognize the importance of our role as "expert policy advisors to the Flood District on regional flood protection issues". We appreciated the ability to comment on the development of the Flood District's multi-benefit policy, FCD Motion20-7.1, last year and the opportunity, this year, to discuss the development of the multi-benefit definitions.

We request briefings during the year ahead about the nexus between Equity and Social Justice and flood risk reduction at the Advisory Committee so that we can better understand the opportunities and challenges facing the Flood District.

Information Request on District Operating and Capital Budget

We would like to receive more information on capital and financial projections in an accessible format, including additional information on the right-sizing process for expenditure projections for all service providers being funded by the Flood District.

Attached to this letter please find our recommendations for the King County Flood District 2022 Operating and 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program.

Sincerely,



Leanne Guier, Mayor, City of Pacific
Chair, King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee

cc: Members, King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
Michelle Clark, Executive Director, King County Flood Control District

2021 Advisory Committee Members

	Jurisdiction	Title	Name
Member Permanent Seat	City of Auburn	Mayor	Nancy Backus
Member Permanent Seat	City of Bellevue	Mayor	Lynn Robinson
Member Permanent Seat	City of Carnation	Mayor	Kim Lisk
Member Permanent Seat, Vice Chair	City of Kent	Mayor	Dana Ralph
Member Permanent Seat	King County	Executive	Dow Constantine
Member Permanent Seat	City of North Bend	Mayor	Rob McFarland
Member Permanent Seat	City of Renton	Mayor	Armondo Pavone
Member Permanent Seat	City of Seattle	Mayor	Jenny Durkan
Member Permanent Seat	City of Snoqualmie	Mayor	Matt Larson
Member Permanent Seat	City of Tukwila	Mayor	Allan Ekberg
Member SCA	City of Duvall	Councilmember	Michelle Hogg
Member SCA, Chair	City of Pacific	Mayor	Leanne Guier
Member SCA	City of Sammamish	Mayor	Karen Moran
Member SCA	Town of Skykomish	Mayor	Henry Sladek
Member Rural/Unincorporated			Ken Hearing
Alternate SCA	Black Diamond	Mayor	Carol Benson
Alternate SCA	Maple Valley	Councilmember	Linda Johnson
Alternate SCA	Burien	Councilmember	Kevin Schilling
Alternate SCA	Lake Forest Park	Councilmember	Lorri Bodi
Alternate	City of Auburn	Councilmember	Chris Stearns
Alternate	City of Bellevue	Councilmember	Jeremy Barksdale
Alternate	City of Carnation	Deputy Mayor	Jim Ribail
Alternate	City of Kent	Councilmember	Toni Troutner
Alternate	King County	Chief of Staff	April Putney
Alternate	City of North Bend	Councilmember	Chris Garcia
Alternate	City of Renton	Councilmember	Valerie O'Halloran
Alternate	City of Seattle	Councilmember	Alex Pedersen
Alternate	City of Snoqualmie		
Alternate	City of Tukwila		