KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

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September 21, 2026

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

Re: Transmittal of Final Recommendations for the 2027 Annual Budget and 2027-2032 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

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

This letter transmits the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) recommendations to the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (District) for the 2027 Annual Operating Budget and 2027-2032 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

As we stated in our August 31st letter transmitting our preliminary recommendations, our region is still recovering from historic flooding and we can expect more flood events like this in the future. District investment and the pace of project implementation is not keeping pace with existing demand nor have the ability to address emergency needs. While no lives were lost during the flood events, thousands of people across the County faced evacuation and displacement. The District must do more to meet our region's current and future flood prevention needs. Delaying implementation of, or potentially removing from the District's six-year CIP, critical flood reduction projects will continue to have devasting impacts on the residents of King County. We reiterate the recommendations in the first letter that the District:

- Evaluate all revenue and external funding opportunities (including the adoption of a bonding policy, and a robust grant strategy), staffing capacity, alternative project delivery, and other resources necessary to cover long-term capital and operational needs and expedite project implementation;
- Create a minimum fund balance as called for in the District's fund balance policy to ensure sufficient resources to carry out the District's Annual Workplan, especially the ability to respond to emergencies without impacting the funding for existing projects;
- Engage the Advisory Committee and Joint Basin Technical staff in the implementation of District capital project prioritization policy based on the White Paper presented last fall and further work to refine the prioritization criteria and process to align with future strategic planning work;
- Update the strategic plan and provide meaningful opportunities for Advisory Committee input and advice; and
- Develop a state and federal legislative agenda that will aid in conversations with our partners and increase our opportunities for necessary policy changes, including regulatory streamlining when addressing flood risk in response to declared emergencies,

and funding of capital projects. It is imperative that we maximize existing funding opportunities such as all USACE programs and WRDA.

In addition to underscoring our prior recommendations, we support the proposal to continue addressing the highest priority repairs resulting from the 2025/2026 flood season while simultaneously working on critical infrastructure improvements such as the Black River Pump Station, Desimone, Pacific Right Bank, and Herzman to Camp Freeman projects and development of Capital Investment Strategies on the Cedar, Lower Green, Sammamish, and White Rivers as well as Issaquah Creek. It is vital to the implementation of the District's mission that the annual workplan incorporate capital project implementation, project planning and technical studies, repairs, and emergency response when necessary.

We understand King County staff is still evaluating and prioritizing the repairs to the over 160 flood risk reduction facilities damaged during the 2025/2026 floods, and we support the proposal to continue to pause some important capital projects to address these repairs. We look forward to learning about these proposed repairs during the coming weeks and will be following District deliberations closely.

We support the District's mission of implementing flood risk reduction policies and projects to protect life, property, and economic vitality in King County while continuing to advance multi-benefits when practicable. The list of unfunded, yet necessary, flood risk reduction projects continues to grow. As we learned this year, unexpected repairs and emergencies require support from the District and will continue to occur and will be exacerbated by climate change. It is imperative that the District have a strategic plan and the necessary resources to implement its mission. We stand ready to provide our expertise and support to the District as it takes the actions needed to adequately fund the implementation of the District's work program.

Sincerely,

Dana Ralph

Dana Ralph, Mayor, City of Kent
Chair, King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee

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

2026 Advisory Committee Members

Status	Jurisdiction	Title	Name
Member	City of Auburn	Mayor	Nancy Backus
Member	City of Bellevue	Mayor	Mo Malakoutian
Member	City of Carnation	Mayor	Jim Ribail
Member	City of Kent	Mayor	Dana Ralph, Chair
Member	King County	Executive	Girmay Zahilay
Member	City of North Bend	Mayor	Mary Miller
Member	City of Renton	Mayor	Armondo Pavone
Member	City of Seattle	Mayor	Katie B. Wilson
Member	City of Snoqualmie	Mayor	James Mayhew
Member	City of Tukwila	Mayor	Thomas McLeod
SCA	City of Algona	Mayor	Troy Linnell
SCA	City of Des Moines	Councilmember	JC Harris
SCA	City Duvall	Mayor	Amy McHenry
SCA	Town of Skykomish	Mayor	Henry Sladek
Unincorporated		Vacant	
Alternate	City of Auburn		Vacant
Alternate	City of Bellevue	Councilmember	Lynne Robinson
Alternate	City of Carnation	Councilmember	Cheryl Paquette
Alternate	City of Kent	Councilmember	Toni Troutner
Alternate	King County	Special Advisor to Executive Leadership Team	Jeff Muhm
Alternate	City of North Bend		Vacant
Alternate	City of Renton	Councilmember	Valerie O'Halloran
Alternate	City of Seattle	Councilmember	Joy Hollingsworth
Alternate	City of Snoqualmie	Councilmember	Vacant
Alternate	City of Tukwila	Councilmember	Vacant
Alternate SCA	City of Black Diamond	Councilmember	Darcey Peterson
Alternate SCA	Town of Issaquah	Councilmember	Kelly Jiang
Alternate SCA	City of Pacific	Mayor	Vic Kave
Alternate SCA			Vacant