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## King County Flood Control District Accomplishments

The King County Flood Control District was established in 2007 to provide a proactive, regional approach to flood control as well as to fund improvements to the county's nearly 500 aging and inadequate flood protection facilities. Funding for the Flood District comes from a countywide property tax levy of 10 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. This amounts to approximately \$40 per year on a \$400,000 home. The levy raises roughly \$36 million a year. This funding dramatically increased the number of projects that could be completed within King County each year. The additional funding also enhanced King County's ability to receive federal and state matching funds.

Members of the King County Council oversee the Flood District as a Board of Supervisors. A 15-member Advisory Committee made up of local government officials and citizens provides advice to the board. The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, carries out the approved flood protection projects and programs.

The following highlights activities undertaken by the Flood District:

### Actions to reduce flood risks

- Completed 61 levee repair and rehabilitation projects since creation in 2008; 25 multi-year projects are planned to continue in 2011.
- Leveraged over \$40 million in state and federal funds.
- Provided funding for flood risk reduction activities in each of King County's 40 jurisdictions through the Opportunity Fund.
- Completed over 32 home elevations of at-risk structures since 2008, 20 more in progress and another 5 pending grant applications.
- Acquired 71 at-risk properties and 80 acres, valued at approximately \$20 million.
- King County's innovative levee rehabilitation approaches have been profiled in national reports by FEMA and serve as a model for other jurisdictions seeking to protect public safety while promoting environmental objectives.
- Capital project prioritization criteria are cited in a 2010 Department of Ecology report to the Legislature as a model construct for prioritizing levee rehabilitation needs.

### Increase understanding of flood risks

- Completed floodplain mapping for every major river in King County.
- One of the only local governments in Washington to identify channel migration risks.
- Technical analyses enabled the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and emergency managers to quickly generate inundation scenarios when USACE Howard Hanson Dam problems were discovered.

Communicate flood risks to stakeholders and the public

- Highest-rated county in the nation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), which allows a 40% insurance rate reduction for unincorporated area residents; many other jurisdictions in King County are also able to claim CRS credits for the Flood District's activities.
- Flood Warning Center and Flood Patrols activated during flood events. The Flood Warning Center provides round-the-clock coordination of weather and river flooding information. Since 2008 the Flood Warning Center has opened 12 times, operated for over 400 hours with over 1,700 person-hours monitoring river and levee conditions, and coordinated with emergency first-responders and the general public.
- Developed a Flood Alert System, providing approximately 4,000 citizens and first-responders with automated real-time information about flood conditions on King County's major rivers.
- 2006 King County Flood Plan is recognized by the Department of Ecology and FEMA as a 'model' flood risk reduction plan, and is regularly cited by other jurisdictions.
- Developed flood preparedness videos in 22 languages, enabling floodplain managers throughout the state to increase flood awareness among vulnerable population groups.
- Nationally recognized outreach campaign to raise awareness of increased flood risks for the Green River Valley due to Howard Hanson Dam issues.