



KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

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News Release

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Willowmoor to receive additional funding for floodplain restoration

The Willowmoor floodplain near Marymoor Regional Park, part of the Sammamish River Basin and Lake Sammamish, will receive \$4 million in additional funding to protect property and assist in habitat restoration. The funding was unanimously approved by the King County Flood Control District Executive Committee, which sent the proposal to the full Flood Control District Board of Supervisors for final action.

“Flooding has been an issue in this area for many years, and this puts us on a good path to solving the problem,” said Supervisor Kathy Lambert. “We will also continue to work closely with neighbors throughout the entire process.”

“The home owners around Lake Sammamish have fought the effects of flooding for years. We need a permanent solution for a free-flowing channel in the Sammamish River and the additional benefits of the Willowmoor project,” said Supervisor Jane Hague. “Citizens will have the opportunity to partner with King County Flood District to bring lasting results to a chronic and expensive concern.”

Hague and Lambert each represent a portion of the project area in their King County Council Districts.

The Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration project proposes to reconfigure the Sammamish River Transition Zone (TZ) and adjacent undeveloped King County property. Increased vegetation within the zone has raised concerns about high lake levels impacting properties surrounding the lake. The restoration project is focused on reducing the frequency and duration of high lake levels caused by the Sammamish River while continuing to protect habitat vital for recovery of salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Funding for the restoration effort was part of the 6-year CIP budget adopted by the Flood District in 2015. Understanding the need to complete the project, Supervisors Hague and Lambert asked for an additional \$4 million. Those funds will be used for permitting and construction of the project. It will also help leverage funding with the other jurisdictions and organizations that are part of the overall project.

“Flooding has been a longstanding issue in this area,” said Flood District Chair Reagan Dunn. “Supervisors Hague and Lambert represent this area on the Flood District and they have worked hard on this problem. I'm glad we are one step closer to solving this issue.”

The funding has now been sent to the full Flood Control District Board of Supervisors for final action.

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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 <http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/>.