



# **News Release**

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## **Protecting lives and property: Flood District celebrates completion of Countyline project** *District's largest project moves levee, reconnects floodplain along the White River*

The largest public safety project in the history of the King County Flood Control District is complete, and members of the Flood Control District joined the City of Pacific in celebrating the Countyline Levee Setback Project and the protection it will provide to the residents who live along the White River.

"This is a significant milestone for the local King County residents who have been impacted by flooding on the White River," said Flood District Chair Reagan Dunn. "I look forward to continuing to work with our regional partners and Supervisor von Reichbauer on future solutions to flooding in this area."

"Over the past two years, we've worked in conjunction with local cities and agencies to provide a solution to the flooding issues affecting the residents and businesses along the White River," said Flood Supervisor Pete von Reichbauer, whose district includes the City of Pacific. "While no one looks forward to the rainy season, we are hopeful that with the completion of the Countyline project, this season will be a drier and safer one for our neighbors in Pacific."

In 2009, significant flooding impacted more than 100 residences and numerous businesses in Pacific and temporarily closed Stewart Road E due to overtopping by floodwaters east of the 8th Street Bridge. This project was designed to help restore the river's access to its historic floodplain and help reduce the risk of flooding for hundreds of people living nearby.

"The completion of the Countyline Levee Setback will provide some relief as we begin to enter into the rainy season," said Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier. "The City of

Pacific is grateful for this partnership with the King County Flood Control District and other funding agencies for the realization of this project.”

Over the last year, crews working on the Countyline project removed a constrictive levee along the White River, reconnecting the river to more than 120 acres of historical floodplain. A new setback levee was constructed to contain flows within the floodplain.

The goal of the project is to allow the floodwaters from heavy rains to spread out, lowering flood levels and slowing the effect of sediment deposition along this section of the White River.

Along with reconnecting the White River to its historical floodplain, the project also included the reintroduction of native trees and plants, which will create a riparian buffer between the river and new setback levee.

The Flood Control District provided the majority of the funds for this project.

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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](http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org).