

Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Alternatives Summary

The King County Flood Control District (District) is developing a Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan to guide future flood hazard management investments. This is critically important to protect people, property, and communities from the adverse and often devastating impacts of floods. The District's vision is to support transformation of the Lower Green River Corridor into a priceless community treasure that is a safe place to live, fish, work, farm, and recreate for generations to come.

A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is underway to analyze ways to provide flood protection and meet other important objectives, including equity, habitat and salmon recovery, community, agriculture, development, water quality, and recreation.

The PEIS will evaluate three alternatives. Each alternative takes a different approach to managing flood risk. And each will describe environmental impacts and ways to mitigate them.

Core Elements

The three revised alternatives have several elements in common:

- Actions by the Flood Control District must be related to flood hazard management needs.
- The District would continue to fulfill its duty under Chapter 86.15 RCW to plan, construct, acquire repair, maintain and operate all necessary equipment, facilities, improvements and works to control, conserve and remove flood and storm water as well as take action necessary to protect life and property from flood water damage.
- The District would honor and respect tribal and treaty reserved rights.
- The District would continue to rely on a system of flood facilities that include levees, revetments, and floodwalls to protect people, jobs, and property on the Lower Green River.
- The District would use the provisional 18,800 cfs, plus three feet of freeboard to design and evaluate potential flood hazard management measures.
- The District would maintain enrollment in the US Army Corps of Engineers PL 84-99 program for those facilities that are currently enrolled.
- The District would protect and not isolate housing and neighborhoods by reducing flood risk with flood hazard management facilities, reducing the effects of flooding, or possibly relocating out of harm's way if the other approaches are not practicable.
- The District would protect housing and community facilities used by historically disadvantaged populations by reducing flood risk with flood hazard management facilities, reducing the effects of flooding, or possibly relocating out of harm's way if the other approaches are not practicable.
- The District would prioritize the design and implementation of multi-benefit floodplain management projects as described in FCD Motion 20-07.1.

- The District would follow the policies included in the adopted County-wide Flood Hazard Management Plan including the policy to ensure that its actions will not have an adverse flooding impact on upstream or downstream property owners.
- The District would continuously study the effects of climate change and use best available science for flood hazard management planning, adaptive management, and facility design.
- The District would design facilities to improve habitat and water quality (e.g., vegetation to provide shading or large woody debris) when practicable.

PEIS Alternatives

Alternative 1: Project by Project Multi-Benefit Implementation

Follow established policies without an area-specific Flood Hazard Management Plan. Projects would be considered case-by-case versus a holistic approach. Impacts to adjacent properties would be minimized and some multi-benefits may be achieved.

Alternative 2: Systematic Multi-Benefit Implementation

Create a new area-specific Flood Hazard Management Plan in collaboration with Tribes, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders. The plan would take a comprehensive approach and show how to implement projects resulting in benefits for communities and the environment, including conserving and restoring habitat along the river. Acquisition of additional properties would be required in some locations.

Alternative 3: Enhanced Multi-Benefit Implementation

Create a new area-specific Flood Hazard Management Plan in collaboration with Tribes, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders. The plan would take a comprehensive approach and show how to implement projects resulting in more benefits to communities and the environment, including more habitat conservation and restoration along the river. Acquisition of additional properties would be required in more locations.