

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF A SEPA DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Proponent/Lead Agency: King County Flood Control District (District)

Proposal: Develop a Flood Hazard Management Plan for the Lower Green River

Location: The Lower Green River and its associated floodplains are located in portions of the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila, as well as unincorporated King County. The Lower Green River Corridor (corridor) covers approximately 21 river miles (RMs), the equivalent to 42 shoreline miles (SMs), from RM 11 to RM 32.

Project Description: The District is proposing a Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan (Plan) for a reach of the Lower Green River to provide an integrated and reasonable long-term approach to reduce flood risk within the corridor while balancing multiple objectives within the study area. This integrated approach is also intended to reduce flood risks while supporting the economic prosperity of the region and improving fish habitat. The Plan will include a number of actions to increase the level of protection from flooding. This would be accomplished by constructing new or improved flood protection facilities to meet current engineering standards or taking other actions that would reduce the effects of flooding.

The District adopted a multibenefit policy in 2020 (FCD Motion 20-07) that established ten multibenefits to be considered along with flood management in the corridor: Equity and Social Justice, Environmental Justice, Habitat and Salmon Recovery, Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods, Open Space Conservation, Productive and Viable Agriculture, Recreation, and other Opportunities to Connect with Nature, Resilient Communities and Ecosystems, Sustainable and Clean Water, and Sustainable Development.

The District is considering three alternative approaches to managing flood risk in the corridor:

Alternative 1: Project-by-Project Multibenefit Implementation (No Action)

This alternative illustrates how the District would provide flood hazard management on the Lower Green River following established policies and practices without the guidance of an area-specific Plan. Multibenefits would be considered and incorporated to the extent feasible as individual projects were implemented. Flood hazard management projects would be implemented under successive Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) without guidance from an area-specific plan for the Lower Green River.

Alternative 2: Systematic Multibenefit Implementation

This alternative would systematically implement the multibenefits. Implementation would include habitat conservation and fish restoration. The District would develop an area-specific Plan for the Lower Green River Corridor in collaboration with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders. The Plan would establish goals and indicators for managing flood hazards, would support a safe and healthy environment for communities along the river, and would conserve aquatic and riparian habitats and conditions to support the recovery of threatened salmon and other species. Where possible, the Plan would also enhance the above-mentioned habitats and conditions.

The Plan would describe actions the District would take under its authority and would highlight potential partnership opportunities with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders.

The District would periodically review progress under the principles of adaptive management. The multibenefits would be systematically advanced in the Plan. This alternative would introduce the potential use of flood proofing to reduce the effects of flooding, rather than to reduce the risk of flooding.

Alternative 3: Enhanced Systematic Multibenefit Implementation

This alternative would be a substantial shift from the District's current practices. Under this alternative, the District would continue to provide flood hazard reduction, but it would pursue habitat conservation and restoration to a notably greater extent than under either of the other alternatives, while achieving the multibenefits across the Lower Green River. The District would develop an area-specific Plan for the Lower Green River in collaboration with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders.

This Plan would place a greater emphasis on conserving and restoring habitat for threatened salmon and other species. The Plan would establish goals and indicators for managing flood hazards in a manner that would protect, improve, and restore riparian and aquatic habitats, and it would establish conditions that would support the recovery of threatened salmon and other species. The Plan would describe the actions that the District would take under its authority, and it would highlight potential partnership opportunities with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders. The multibenefits would be systematically and rigorously advanced. The District would periodically review progress under the Plan and could make adaptations if needed.

With this alternative the District would, in conjunction with flood hazard management actions, pursue flood management improvements at a scale and design supporting progress towards achieving adopted salmon habitat goals. This alternative would include taking advantage of opportunities to restore habitat functions (e.g., increasing channel capacity to provide backwater or off-channel rearing habitat). With cooperation from local jurisdictions, some adjacent property owners could be given incentives to help accommodate these changes. In addition to flood proofing, this alternative would introduce the potential acquisition of property that would meet certain criteria to preserve floodplain storage.

Draft EIS Contents: The draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) analyzes the three alternative approaches to managing flood risks in the Lower Green River Corridor, including their possible impacts on the environment, potential mitigation measures, and their potential to achieve the ten multibenefits along with flood protection.

Availability of draft EIS: The draft PEIS and appendices are available to download at: Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan (lowergreensepa.org). Both English and translated versions are available. The document is translated into Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Translated versions are also available by calling (206) 349-6361.

Printed copies for the draft PEIS and appendices are available upon request by calling (206) 349-6361 or emailing: lwrgreen_printrequest@parametrix.com.

Document Availability: Copies of the draft PEIS and appendices are available for review in person at:

- City Halls
 - Auburn City Hall

- Kent City Hall
- Renton City Hall
- SeaTac City Hall
- Tukwila City Hall
- Libraries:
 - Auburn Library
 - Kent Panther Lake Library
 - Renton Library
 - Tukwila Library
 - Valley View Library (SeaTac)
- Community Centers:
 - Auburn Community and Event Center
 - Kent Commons Community Center
 - Renton Community Center
 - Tukwila Community Center
 - SeaTac Community Center

Public and Agency Comment:

1. Electronic written comments may be submitted by email at lowergreensepa@kingcounty.gov or online at www.lowergreensepa.org
2. Written comments should be addressed to the responsible official below and may be delivered via US Mail or hand delivered to the following address:

King County Flood Control District
Attn: Michelle Clark, SEPA Responsible Official
516 Third Avenue
Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

All comments must be received by May 4, 2023, 5:00 PM (PST).

Responsible Official: Michelle Clark, King County Flood Control District Executive Director and SEPA Responsible Official, 206-263-0602