



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

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November 21, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a progress report on the rulemaking process for designating channel migration zones in King County to reduce flood risks, in accordance with Ordinance 17485, Section 50.O.

Channel migration, a type of flood hazard from riverbank erosion and channel shifting, can threaten people and property. King County regulates land uses within mapped channel migration hazard areas to reduce these risks. The report includes a summary of work accomplished since June 2025 and lists upcoming milestones for the first and second quarters of 2026. The report addresses channel migration mapping and states that the Lower Snoqualmie River draft report and mapping was adopted for land use regulation. The Issaquah Creek study continues with draft mapping and is undergoing internal review, with a release to the public expected in early 2026.

Channel migration hazard areas are a type of Critical Area regulated by King County. The report and its associated hazard mapping are used by the Permitting Division of the Department of Local Services to review land-use and development proposals. The Department of Natural Resources and Parks uses the report and mapping to propose flood risk reduction actions to the county and the King County Flood Control District.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The actions outlined in this report help King County residents stay informed about channel migration hazards that may place their homes and lives at risk and help direct future land development to safer locations.


The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

November 21, 2025

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If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Braddock". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP