



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 22, 2010**

**Motion 13191**

**Proposed No. 2010-0104.2**

**Sponsors Patterson, Lambert, Hague, Gossett,  
Dunn, Phillips and Ferguson**

1           A MOTION requesting the United States Congress  
2           appropriate sufficient funds to provide for the interim and  
3           permanent repairs to the Howard Hanson dam, and direct  
4           the Army Corps of Engineers to make the Howard Hanson  
5           dam permanent repair a priority project.

6           WHEREAS, the federally owned and operated Howard Hanson dam has provided  
7 flood protection for residents and businesses of the Green River valley in Washington  
8 State since 1961, and

9           WHEREAS, the Howard Hanson dam has prevented potential flood damages  
10 amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars over the last four decades, and

11           WHEREAS, the Green River valley contains the second largest warehouse and  
12 product distribution center on the West Coast, and

13           WHEREAS, the Green River Valley Industrial Center represents thirty seven  
14 billion and three hundred and sixty million dollars in gross business income, four  
15 thousand five hundred businesses and over one hundred thousand jobs, and

16           WHEREAS, the population of the Green River valley watershed is estimated at  
17 three hundred and fifty thousand residents, including many low-income families, and

18           WHEREAS, in January 2009, following a record high level storage of floodwater,  
19 the Army Corps of Engineers discovered damage to the right abutment of the Howard

20 Hanson dam, which led to restrictions on the operating capacity of the dam and increased  
21 the flood risk to the Green River valley, and

22 WHEREAS, in the event of a flood, residents and businesses of the Green River  
23 valley could be displaced for weeks, months or permanently, and

24 WHEREAS, flood damage will cost individual citizens and businesses without  
25 insurance thousands of dollars for repairs and relocation and severely impact an  
26 economic engine for the entire state, and

27 WHEREAS, the looming threat of a potential flood has caused some businesses to  
28 relocate from the Green River valley with a negative impact on economic development,  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, since the damages were found, federal, state and local governments  
31 have worked together to provide interim measures of flood protection until a permanent  
32 fix to the dam is completed, and

33 WHEREAS, permanent repairs to the Howard Hanson dam have been estimated  
34 to take as long as six years, and

35 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has identified an interim  
36 solution that would extend the grout curtain over a deeper and wider area of the right  
37 abutment of the Howard Hanson dam that would allow for the storage of water at higher  
38 levels, and

39 WHEREAS, this interim solution, while not a permanent solution, would reduce  
40 the flood risk threat levels to the same level that existed prior to damage to the dam, and

41 WHEREAS, the estimate for the interim solution is forty-four million dollars, and  
42 is a modest investment compared to the three billion seven hundred million dollars that

43 Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates could result from just a single flood  
44 from damage at the Howard Hanson dam;

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

46 A. The King County council requests the federal government and United States  
47 Congress provide for an immediate appropriation of forty-four million dollars for interim  
48 grout work and related repairs to the Howard Hanson dam so that this work can be  
49 completed before the next flood season.

50 B. The King County council requests the United States Congress appropriate  
51 sufficient funds to provide for permanent repair to the Howard Hanson dam, and direct  
52 the Army Corps of Engineers to make the Howard Hanson dam permanent repair a  
53 priority project and expedite their standard processes to assure the fastest and safest  
54 approach.

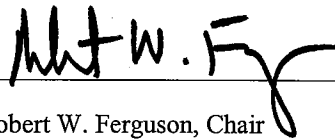
55 C. Copies of the adopted motion shall be transmitted by the clerk of the council  
56 to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, the President of the

- 57 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of  
58 Congress from the state of Washington and the Secretary of Defense.

Motion 13191 was introduced on 2/16/2010 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/22/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Drago, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

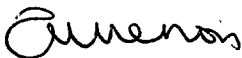
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None