



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 17, 2006**

**Ordinance 15550**

**Proposed No. 2006-0305.1**

**Sponsors Constantine, Hague and Phillips**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to protecting lives and property  
2 by controlling flooding in King County; declaring the  
3 intention of the King County council to create a  
4 countywide flood control zone district and to dissolve  
5 existing flood control zone districts within the county as  
6 required by state law.

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9 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

10 SECTION 1. Findings:

11 A. Every year, King County faces significant threats from flooding, the impacts  
12 of which are far-reaching and pose significant threats to public health and safety and  
13 economic activities throughout the county.

14 B. Flooding impacts public infrastructure, including transportation corridors and  
15 critical public safety facilities, as well as private businesses and personal residences, all  
16 of which are vital to the health, safety and well-being of citizens throughout the entire  
17 county.

18 C. Throughout King County there are nearly five hundred aging flood protection  
19 facilities that, because of historical and current revenue limitations, cannot be repaired or  
20 maintained adequately. In addition, there are significant needs for new or enhanced flood  
21 protection facilities and measures throughout the county.

22 D. Since 1990 King County has been declared a flood disaster area seven times.  
23 Floods in future years are also expected to exceed the capacity and protective abilities of  
24 existing flood protection facilities, thereby threatening property, lives, major  
25 transportation corridors, communities and regional economic centers. This potential for  
26 significant flooding threatens the health, safety and prosperity of citizens countywide.

27 E. The impacts of flooding can be severe and extend far beyond the floodplain  
28 itself. Buildings can be damaged along with household furnishings and business  
29 inventories. In addition to the direct threats and damage from floodwater, people face the  
30 threat of electrocution, explosions and fires caused by leaking gas lines and damaged  
31 electrical lines. Severe flooding can also destroy utility infrastructure, causing extensive  
32 disruptions in service. Loss of power and communication are common with severe  
33 floods. Damage to drinking water and wastewater facilities can also spread disease. In  
34 addition, impacts to roads and highways can impair the mobility of people, goods and  
35 services -- including emergency service vehicles and personnel.

36 F. One of the most fundamental functions of government is to protect citizens  
37 and public and private property from the ravages of natural disasters such as flooding.

38 G. Flood control needs exist throughout the county, and an integrated and  
39 coordinated approach is needed to effectively and efficiently address those needs.

40 H. Chapter 86.15 RCW authorizes the county council to initiate the creation of a  
41 countywide flood control zone district within King County for the purpose of  
42 undertaking, operating or maintaining flood control projects or storm water control  
43 projects, among other powers. A countywide district could address flood and storm  
44 water control needs throughout the county, including within King County cities.

45 I. Forming a district is a multi-step process that begins with this ordinance  
46 declaring the intent to create a district and setting a public hearing. A second ordinance  
47 is necessary to create the district.

48 J. Certain flood control zone districts exist in the county, including those  
49 specified on Attachment A to this ordinance. However, only the Green River Flood  
50 Control Zone District has an ongoing revenue source.

51 K. RCW 86.15.023 provides that the council may not establish a flood control  
52 zone district that includes areas located in another flood control zone district unless such  
53 area is removed from the other district, or the other district is dissolved, as part of the  
54 action creating the new flood control zone district.

55 L. This ordinance constitutes the resolution to initiate the creation of a proposed  
56 countywide flood control zone district, consistent with RCW 86.15.020 and the resolution  
57 describing the proposed boundaries of the district and the flood control needs of the  
58 district, as required by RCW 86.15.030.

59 SECTION 2. The council intends to create a countywide flood control zone  
60 district covering the entire area of King County with proposed boundaries as set forth in  
61 Attachment B to this ordinance. The new district shall be known as the "King County  
62 Flood Control Zone District."

63            SECTION 3. The council finds and determines that since 1986 within the  
64 proposed boundaries of the King County Flood Control Zone District major flood events  
65 along King County's rivers have resulted in more than fifty-seven million dollars of  
66 damage to public and private property. The one-hundred-year floodplain in King County  
67 covers more than twenty-five thousand acres in the county or close to forty square miles.  
68 As of 2005, there were more than two thousand structures in the one-hundred-year  
69 floodplain with a total assessed valuation of two billion seven hundred million dollars.  
70 The flood control needs in King County are described more extensively in chapter 3 of  
71 the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan.

72            SECTION 4. Dissolving existing flood control zone districts is a statutory  
73 prerequisite to the formation of a countywide flood control zone district, and the  
74 proposed King County Flood Control Zone District will address flood control needs  
75 throughout the county. Therefore, consistent with the requirements of chapter 86.15  
76 RCW, the council declares its intention to dissolve the existing flood control zone  
77 districts within the county, including the flood control zone districts specified and  
78 described in Attachment A to this ordinance.

79            SECTION 5. All persons who may desire to be heard with respect to the creation  
80 of the countywide flood control zone district or the dissolution of existing flood control  
81 zone districts are notified to appear at a meeting of the council to be held in King County  
82 Council Chambers Room 1001 King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave. Seattle at 1:30  
83 pm , local time, on July 31, 2006, which time and place are fixed for hearings on the  
84 creation of the countywide district and the dissolution of the existing flood control zone  
85 districts within the county. The council finds that the hearing dates are not more than

86 thirty days after the adoption of this ordinance. Notice of the public hearings shall be  
87 provided in accordance with RCW 36.32.120(7).

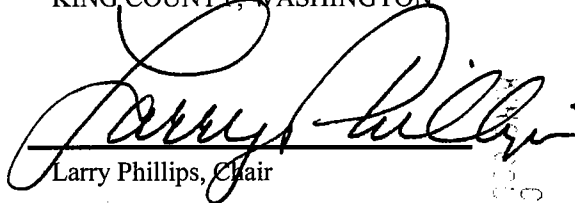
88 SECTION 6. Upon adoption of this ordinance, the clerk of the council or the  
89 clerk's designee shall cause notices of the intent to form a countywide flood control zone  
90 district and to dissolve existing flood control zone districts in the county to be provided to  
91 the King County Boundary Review Board, consistent with chapter 36.93 RCW.

92

Ordinance 15550 was introduced on 7/10/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 7/17/2006, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Phillips, Chair

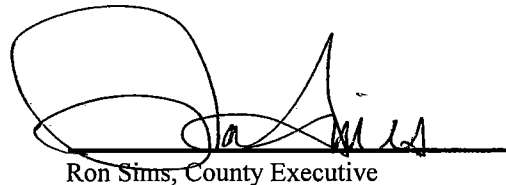
ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

2006 JUL 19 AM 8:34  
CLERK  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
RECEIVED

APPROVED this 18 day of July, 2006.

  
Ron Sims, County Executive

**Attachments** A. Existing Flood Control Zone Districts, B. King County Flood Control Zone District  
Boundaries (Countywide)

**Existing Flood Control Zone Districts**

1. Coalfield Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 30560, passed August 30, 1965.
2. Cumberland Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 30950, passed November 15, 1965.
3. Enumclaw Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 30633, passed September 13, 1965.
4. Evans Creek Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 34107, passed September 11, 1966.
5. Green River Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 31058, passed December 6, 1965.
6. Greenwater River Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 30849, passed October 25, 1965.
7. Hylebos Flood Control Zone District, created by Ordinance No. 2005, passed April 22, 1974.
8. Kimball Creek Flood Control District, created by Resolution No. 25183, passed December 17, 1962.
9. Patterson Creek Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 28339, passed August 3, 1964.
10. Sikes Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 32463, passed September 26, 1966.
11. Southwest Lake Sammamish Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 28067, passed June 15, 1964.
12. West Lake Sammamish Flood Control Zone District, created by Resolution No. 25759, passed April 29, 1963.

**King County Flood Control Zone District Boundaries  
(Countywide)**

1  
2  
3  
4 Beginning at the point of intersection of the center of East Passage (also known as  
5 Admiralty Inlet) on Puget Sound and the northerly line of the Puyallup Indian  
6 Reservation (projected northwesterly); thence southeasterly in a straight line along said  
7 northerly line of Puyallup Indian Reservation and same extended to a point on the east  
8 line of section thirty-one, township twenty-one, north, range four east, Willamette  
9 Meridian; thence south along said east line of section thirty-one, township twenty-one,  
10 range four east, Willamette Meridian, to the township line between township twenty  
11 north and township twenty-one north (being the fifth standard parallel north); thence east  
12 along said township line between township twenty north and township twenty-one north  
13 to the middle of the main channel of White river, near the northeast corner of section  
14 three, township twenty north, range five east, Willamette Meridian; thence upstream  
15 along the middle of the main channel of White river to the forks of White river and  
16 Greenwater river; thence upstream along the middle of the main channel of the  
17 Greenwater river to the forks of the Greenwater river and Meadow creek; thence  
18 upstream along the middle of the main channel of Meadow creek to the summit of the  
19 Cascade mountains, at a point known as Naches Pass, said point lying in the southwest  
20 quarter of section thirty-five, township nineteen north, range eleven east, Willamette  
21 Meridian; thence northerly along the summit of the Cascade mountains to a point on the  
22 township line between township twenty-six north and township twenty-seven north, said  
23 point lying near the north quarter-corner of section three, township twenty-six north,  
24 range thirteen east, Willamette Meridian; thence west along said township line between  
25 township twenty-six north and twenty-seven north to the middle of the channel known as  
26 Admiralty Inlet on Puget Sound; thence southerly along said middle of channel known as  
27 Admiralty Inlet through Colvo's Passage (West Passage) on the west side of Vashon  
28 Island to a point due north of Point Defiance; thence southeasterly along middle of  
29 channel between Vashon Island and Point Defiance (Dalcos Passage) to a point due south  
30 of Quartermaster Harbor; thence northeasterly along middle of channel known as  
31 Admiralty Inlet to point of beginning.

32  
33 Source: RCW 36.04.170