



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 18, 2017

Motion 14846

Proposed No. 2017-0066.1

Sponsors Dunn and Upthegrove

1 A MOTION requesting that the executive develop and
2 transmit a report that reviews and assesses gaps in existing
3 emergency action plans associated with dams in King
4 County and evacuation and sheltering plans in the
5 watersheds to serve populations that would be affected by
6 potential dam failures and provides a prioritized list of
7 recommended steps to update or, where missing, create
8 emergency action plans and evacuation and sheltering
9 plans.

10 WHEREAS, threat of collapse of the Oroville Dam spillway resulted in
11 evacuation orders for more than one hundred eighty thousand people, and

12 WHEREAS, over one hundred dams exist in King County's river basins in
13 proximity to the county's residents, and

14 WHEREAS, many types of emergency events could damage the dams in King
15 County, including earthquakes, flooding and structural failure;

16 WHEREAS, while a remote possibility, failure of a dam in King County could, in
17 some instances, have catastrophic effects on human life, property and the environment,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, protecting residents and property from injury and damage by natural

20 disasters is a fundamental role of government, and

21 WHEREAS, preevacuation planning can greatly reduce harmful impacts from
22 dam failure, and

23 WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires preparation of
24 an emergency action plan for all dams whose failure would endanger human life or cause
25 substantial property damage; and

26 WHEREAS, King County in collaboration with the United States Army Corps of
27 Engineers and other affected jurisdictions conducted preevacuation planning and
28 developed evacuation routes for use in the event of failure of the Howard Hanson dam on
29 the Green river, and

30 WHEREAS, similar planning may be warranted in the county's other major river
31 basins, including the Cedar River basin, Snoqualmie River basin and White River basin,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the mission of King County's office of emergency management is to
34 provide regional leadership to strengthen community resilience and access to emergency
35 services, and

36 WHEREAS, in 2007, the King County Flood Control Zone District was
37 established to provide a proactive, regional approach to flooding as well as funding to
38 improve the county's nearly five hundred aging and inadequate flood protection facilities;

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

40 A. King County's office of emergency management shall, in collaboration with
41 the water and land resources division, the King County Flood Control Zone District,
42 cities, tribal nations, unincorporated communities, dam owners and other interested

43 parties, coordinate the development and transmittal of a report to the King County
44 council and the King County Flood Control Zone District that:

45 1. Identifies and assesses gaps in:

46 a. existing emergency action plans in the watersheds of the Cedar River basin,
47 Green River basin, Snoqualmie River basin and White River basin; and

48 b. adopted county and city evacuation and sheltering plans in the watersheds
49 identified in subsection A.1.a. that would serve populations that would be affected by
50 potential dam failures; and

51 2. Provides a prioritized list of recommended steps to update or, where missing,
52 create emergency action plans and county evacuation plans and associated sheltering
53 plans.

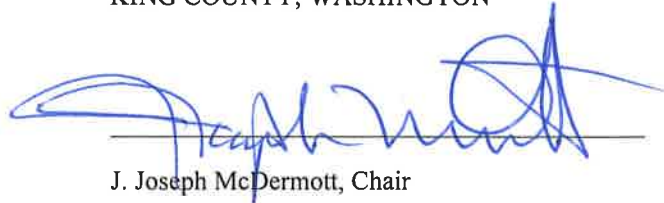
54 B. The executive should transmit the report required in subsection A. of this
55 motion by August 31, 2017, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with
56 the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all
57 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, the policy staff director, the executive director

58 of the King County Flood Control District and the lead staff for the law and justice
59 committee, or its successor.
60

Motion 14846 was introduced on 2/21/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/17/2017, by the following vote:


Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None