



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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June 6, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would adopt the 2024 King County Flood Management Plan (Flood Plan) and enable King County to continue to provide a comprehensive suite of actions to reduce flood and flood-related risks to people, property, critical public infrastructure, and the region's economy.

In addition to addressing risks related to mainstem river flooding, the Flood Plan incorporates coastal, urban, and tributary flooding and is based on delivering multiple benefit, climate resilient, equitable flood risk reduction services to King County communities.

This Flood Plan includes proposed updated and revised floodplain management policy language for the first time since 2006. It presents information about flood and flood-related hazards along rivers, streams, and in urban and coastal areas and characterizes the risks to people, property, and infrastructure related to those sources of flooding. It supports the County's high standing in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS) Program, which provides policyholders in unincorporated King County with a discount of up to 40 percent on flood insurance.

The public process to develop the enclosed Flood Plan was initiated in October 2022 with two virtual public meetings. King County established the Flood Plan Partner Planning Committee in October 2022. That group was comprised of representatives from local and state governments, a Tribal government, community organizations and interest groups, as well as floodplain residents and community members. The committee met ten times from October 2022 through February 2024. King County also convened a Coordinating Committee, comprised of staff from the King County Flood Control District (FCD), the King County

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Council, and the Executive Office. This committee advised on the approach to the Flood Plan, particularly on topics where FCD and County policies, funding, and decision-making roles intersect. King County consulted with tribal governments and provided regular updates to Tribal partners. In addition, King County conducted an extensive community engagement effort involving multiple strategies that resulted in input being shared by over 1,700 members of the community.

Attached is a letter from the Washington State Department of Ecology documenting Flood Plan compliance with state requirements found in Washington Administrative Code 173-145-040 for comprehensive flood hazard management plans outlined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 86.12.200. Also attached is a letter from the Washington State Department of Commerce acknowledging receipt of King County's 60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment as required by RCW 36.70A.106 to update the Flood Plan.

The proposed Ordinance does not impact County revenues or expenditures. Implementation of the Flood Plan is supported through existing County programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This report and legislation will help King County residents by reducing flood risks countywide.

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

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

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