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| **Agenda Item:** | 8 | **Name:** | Kjris Lund |
| **Motion No:** | **FCD21-03** | **Date:** | October 6, 2021 |

**Proposed FCD Motion FCD21-03: A Motion** **relating to the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan ("LGRCFHMP"); updating the planning process for a proposal that will result in the LGRCFHMP ("Proposal"); confirming the goals and purposes of the proposal; and redefining alternative means of accomplishing the goals and purposes of the proposal; and requesting the District responsible official to continue State Environmental Policy Act review of the proposal.**

The purpose of this motion is to seek concurrence from the Flood District Board of Supervisors for my actions as SEPA official to reinitiate scoping on a revised set of alternatives for the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (“PEIS”).

Significance of the Lower Green River Study Area

The Lower Green River study area is approximately the area from river mile 11 near the Black River Pump Station north of I-405 in Tukwila/Renton, to river mile 32, near SR 18 in Auburn. The study area includes flood risk reduction facilities in multiple jurisdictional ownerships and is surrounded by mixed land uses, including agricultural, commercial, industrial, open space, recreational and residential.

The study area is the largest warehouse and distribution hub in the entire Northwest, second largest warehouse district on the west coast, and third largest in the nation, supplying the region with groceries, food service products, gasoline, medical supplies and other critical provisions and includes many of the region's major employers.

Flood risk modeling conducted by the District in 2014 finds that levee overtopping or breaching that resulted in floodplain inundation of one to 10 feet or more put at risk, people, structures, infrastructure and economic activity including approximately 22,000 people that live in the floodplain and approximately 9,000 residential, commercial and public facilities, based on 2014 data. Expected annual damages and economic impacts due to flooding were estimated in 2014 to be $47.1 million over a 50-year period and the present value of those impacts were estimated to be $1.1 billion.

Legislative History (reverse chronological order)

The District on, November 4, 2020, adopted Motion FCD20-07.1 declaring a commitment to integrated floodplain management and multi-benefit projects.

The District initiated a PEIS process for a Lower Green River Corridor Plan with Motion FCD18-01. That motion described the goals and purposes of a proposal to prepare a Lower Green River Corridor Plan, described alternatives, and requested the SEPA responsible official begin SEPA review of the proposal.

Motion FCD18-01 did not contemplate Motion FCD20-07.1.

The proposed Lower Green River Corridor Plan was a follow-up plan to the System-Wide Improvement Framework ("SWIF") submitted by the District to the United States Army Corps of Engineers in March 2019 and accepted by the Corps in September 2019. The SWIF process began in 2012. While the SWIF maintains eligibility for flood damage repairs under the federal PL 84-99 Program it does not include projects to extend flood protection and does not address multiple objectives.

District Resolution FCD2016-05 determined that the broader objectives supported by stakeholders who participated as SWIF advisors could best be achieved through a long-range planning process that included a SEPA PEIS that could analyze cumulative impacts and reasonable alternatives for accomplishing multiple objectives.

District Resolution FCD2016-04 adopted SEPA procedures and designated the District executive director as the District's SEPA responsible official.

District Resolution FCD2014-09.1 adopted provisional levels of protection for 43.7 shoreline miles of the Lower Green River.

PEIS Process To Date

The District issued a legal notice of the Determination of Significance in the Daily Journal of Commerce on, November 28, 2018, which commenced scoping according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-410. This included publishing a scoping notice for the PEIS in the SEPA register.

The extended the scoping period until, May 1, 2019, to allow 154 days for public comments.

The District received a total of 192 individual comments during the initial SEPA scoping process, of which 65 comments were regarding alternatives.

As noted in the legislative history part of this report, the three alternatives carried through the initial scoping process were developed before adoption of Motion FCD20-07.1 and hence did not consistently or uniformly consider the multi-benefits described in Motion FCD20-07.1.

Also, Motion FCD20-07.1 established a committee of governments and stakeholders to advise the District as it considers implementation of the multi-benefit policies in the Green River Valley and to assist the District with development of the PEIS.

The PEIS study team, under my direction, considered the scoping comments received to date as well as the advice of the committee of governments and stakeholders. The study team also reviewed the output of hydraulic modeling for the initial three alternatives. This resulted in a recommendation to refine and reframe the initial PEIS alternatives.

Key Elements of Proposed Motion FCD21-03

The LGRCP is now referred to as the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan (“LGRCFHMP”).

Proposed Motion FCD21-03 confirms the goals and purposes of the Lower Green Flood Hazard Management Plan from FCD18-01 which are:

To provide an integrated and reasonable long-term approach to reduce flood-risk within the Lower Green River Corridor while balancing multiple objectives within the study area, including but not limited to economic vitality and environmental protection. This integrated approach is intended to protect people, property and jobs, while reducing conflicts between flood facilities, equity and social justice, agricultural land use, economic development, habitat restoration, housing, recreation, salmon recovery, water quality and other issues that will be considered and analyzed through a SEPA PEIS scoping process.

Proposed Motion FCD21-03 sets forth revised alternatives for accomplishing the goals and purposes of the proposal. The alternatives are included in Exhibit A.

**No Build Scenario:** This scenario is included to illustrate why flood hazard management is needed on the Lower Green River and the consequences of inaction. The description will include inundation maps and explanations of how the Lower Green River area would be affected by flooding. It will also explain the extent of riparian habitats, recreation, and open space along the river. Because the core mission of the Flood Control District (District) is managing flood hazards and this alternative does not provide flood hazard protection throughout the study area, this scenario will not be evaluated in detail in the PEIS and will not be compared to other scenarios as a potential alternative.

### **Alternative 1 - Project-by-Project Multi-Benefit Implementation:** This alternative illustrates how the District would provide flood hazard management on the Lower Green River following established policies and practices without guidance of an area-specific Flood Hazard Management Plan. Adoption of a Flood Hazard Management Plan for the Lower Green River is the proposed action for the PEIS. This alternative will be the benchmark for comparing alternatives.

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### **Alternative 2 - Systematic Multi-Benefit Implementation:** This alternative systematically implements the multiple benefits described in Motion FCD 20-07.1, including habitat protection and fish restoration.

**Alternative 3 - Enhanced Systematic Multi-Benefit Implementation**

This alternative is a substantial shift from the District’s current practices. Under this alternative, the District would continue to provide flood hazard reduction but would pursue habitat protection and restoration to a notably greater extent than with either of the other alternatives while achieving multiple benefits across the Lower Green River.

The alternatives described in Exhibit A to Proposed Motion FCD21-03 each describe an approach to implementing integrated floodplain management as part of District actions undertaken pursuant to the purposes and powers described in chapter 86.15 RCW. The alternatives use several types of facilities or actions to provide protection from or accommodation of flooding up to the provisional level of protection of 18,800 cfs., plus three feet of freeboard. These facilities and actions are used in different combinations to create each alternative.

Next Steps

Following Board approval of Proposed Motion FCD21-03 the following steps will take place:

The District SEPA official will replace the three initial alternatives previously considered through scoping with three new alternatives, as described in Exhibit A to this Motion, that better reflect the goals and objectives of the District.

The District SEPA official will re-initiate scoping for the PEIS as soon as possible to engage in a robust public process regarding the new alternatives described in Exhibit A to this Motion.

Following a scoping period, the District SEPA official will identify the alternatives to be studied in the PEIS.

The study team will conduct the PEIS analysis and issue a draft PEIS.

A public review process will take place on the draft PEIS.

After consideration of the public comments on the draft PEIS, the District will select a preferred alternative and issue a Final PEIS.

The Final PEIS preferred alternative will be the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan and the District will determine implementation and funding actions.