



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 22, 2016

FCDEC Motion

Proposed No. FCDECM2016-04.1

Sponsors

1 A MOTION stating the Flood Control District executive committee's
2 intent to proceed to thirty percent design for the Willowmoor Floodplain
3 Restoration Project with a project that balances flood control, habitat
4 restoration, fish passage, recreational access and on-going maintenance,
5 including beaver mitigation and a dynamic weir.

6 WHEREAS, the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration project proposes to
7 reconfigure the Sammamish River Transition Zone ("Zone") and adjacent undeveloped
8 King County property; and

9 WHEREAS, the Zone was constructed as part of the overall Sammamish River
10 Improvement Project in the 1960s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") in
11 cooperation with King County primarily to control flooding in the Sammamish river
12 valley; and

13 WHEREAS, King County is responsible for maintaining the improvement project
14 through an operation and maintenance agreement with the Corps; and

15 WHEREAS, the Zone as currently constructed has required increasingly intensive
16 maintenance, including regular mowing, trimming, removal of vegetation, removal of
17 accumulated sediments in the channel, and associated mitigation efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, in recent years property owners around Lake Sammamish have
19 expressed concerns about high lake levels impacting their properties resulting from
20 increased vegetation density within the Zone; and

21 WHEREAS, state agency and tribal government representatives have expressed
22 concern that these maintenance actions adversely affect water quality and habitat and are
23 in conflict with federal, state and local efforts to protect and enhance riverine habitat for
24 recovery of salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

25 WHEREAS, the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project seeks to reduce the
26 frequency and duration of high lake levels in the Zone while maintaining downstream
27 Sammamish River flood control performance and enhancing habitat; and

28 WHEREAS, since mid-2013, the Flood Control Zone District's ("District")
29 service provider, King County, through the water and land resources division, has been
30 collecting data, conducting technical analyses and developing a suite of conceptual
31 design alternatives; and

32 WHEREAS, the District has funded a variety of means to engage various
33 stakeholders and the public during the conceptual alternative development process; and

34 WHEREAS, nine stakeholder advisory committee meetings took place to identify,
35 develop, vet, revise and refine design objectives and conceptual design alternatives; and

36 WHEREAS, in parallel with the process for developing options for reducing lake
37 levels with reconfiguration within the Zone, eight cold-water supplementation concepts
38 were identified, developed, analyzed and compared as a tool for reducing fish morbidity;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, the Bellevue city council submitted a letter dated, March 18, 2016,
41 supporting the split channel alternative; and

42 WHEREAS, the city of Redmond submitted a letter dated, June 3, 2016,
43 supporting the split channel alternative with pumped groundwater for cooling; and

44 WHEREAS, the executive committee of the District conducted a public meeting
45 on June 6, 2016, in Bellevue to hear comments from the community about the
46 alternatives identified in the planning process; and

47
48 WHEREAS, the public testimony provided valuable input regarding design
49 considerations for the alternative to be advanced for the Willowmoor Floodplain
50 Restoration Project; and

51 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie Tribe provided testimony at the public meeting
52 supporting the split channel alternative; and

53 WHEREAS, the District budgeted \$4 million for the Willowmoor Floodplain
54 Restoration Project; now, therefore

55 BE IT MOVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE KING COUNTY
56 FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT:

57 SECTION 1: The King County Flood Control Zone District will proceed to
58 thirty percent design for the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project, which will
59 include, but is not limited to, the following design elements, technical studies and plans:

60 1. Develop the split channel alternative in such a way that balances the objectives
61 of flood control, habitat restoration, fish passage, and sustainability;

62 2. Include variable depth pools as an enhancement to the split channel alternative;

63 3. Work with the city of Redmond on coordination with city flood control efforts,
64 groundwater issues related to cold water supplementation, and Bear Creek impacts on
65 Sammamish River flows;

66 4. Conduct a feasibility analysis of a dynamic weir that includes costs and
67 benefits;

68 5. Conduct a technical analysis of the split channel alternative for fish mortality
69 and sustainability;

70 6. Include a beaver mitigation plan;

71 7. Include a maintenance plan for when the project is complete;

72 8. Pursue grant sources to further evaluate cold water supplementation;

73 9. Identify funding partners to assume on-going maintenance costs of cold water
74 supplementation;

75 10. Work with the parks and recreation division of the King County department
76 of natural resources and parks to pursue recreational boater access; and

77 11. Continue existing maintenance during design and permitting phases.

78 SECTION 2: The District will work with King County, through the water and
79 land resources division, to explore project delivery options to expedite project delivery
80 and to free up staff resources within the water and land resources to implement the

81

82 District's six-year capital improvement program.

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FCDEC Motion was introduced on and passed by the King County Flood Control District Executive Committee on 6/20/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Upthegrove and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Reagan Dunn, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None