

Attachment A  
2015 King County Flood Control Zone District State Legislative Agenda

**1. Support for Continuation of District Exemption from Maximum Aggregate Levies (\$5.90) of Taxing Districts**

RCW 84.52.043(2) caps the aggregate levies of junior and senior taxing districts at \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The District is a junior taxing district. RCW 84.52.010 establishes a hierarchy of junior taxing districts for purposes of reducing on a pro rata basis or eliminating entirely the levies of junior taxing districts in the event that the \$5.90 limit is exceeded. The District (as a flood control zone district) is near the bottom of the hierarchy list. RCW 84.52.010(2) and 84.52.043(2), however, exempt from prorationing or elimination all or a part of the levies of certain districts, such as ferry districts, fire district and metropolitan park districts, and certain levies, such as the levy for emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

In 2010, the District's levy was anticipated to be suppressed (that is eliminated entirely), as the \$5.90 limit was anticipated to be exceeded. The District was able to partner with some junior taxing districts ahead of it on the hierarchy list to avoid suppression. To avoid this problem in the future, however, the Washington state Legislature amended RCW 84.52.010 and 84.52.043 to exempt flood control zone districts in large counties, such as King County, from the prorationing and elimination.

As amended by the Legislature, RCW 84.52.043(2) (for example) provides as follows:

(2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior taxing districts, other than the state, may not exceed five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility districts. The limitations provided in this subsection do not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW [84.34.230](#); (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical services imposed under RCW [84.52.069](#); (e) levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income housing imposed under RCW [84.52.105](#); (f) the portions of levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW [84.52.120](#); (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW [36.54.130](#); (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW [84.52.135](#); (i) the portions of levies by fire protection districts that are protected under RCW [84.52.125](#); (j) levies by counties for transit-related purposes under RCW [84.52.140](#); and (k) the protected portion of the levies imposed under RCW [86.15.160](#) by flood control zone districts in a county with a population of seven hundred seventy-five thousand or more that are coextensive with a county.

This protection for the District, however, expires on January 1, 2018.

With six major Western Washington watersheds, the District must resolve both rural and urban flooding issues throughout King County economic activity areas, which include farms, businesses, industries, and residential neighborhoods, both in rural and major population centers. In the path of flooding are not only homes and businesses, but also infrastructure such as fiberoptic cables, state highways and water-supply pipelines. With over 11 federally declared flood events since 1990, it is a certainty that these watersheds will flood again.

In order for the District to continue its efforts to reduce loss of life, property damage, and disruption of economic activity due to flooding, the District must continue to receive predictable funding without prorationing or elimination.

**The District requests that the Washington State Legislature continue indefinitely the exemption from prorationing and elimination under RCW 84.52.010(2) and 84.52.043(2).** This exemption will provide the District with capacity to levy up to \$.50 per \$1000 of assessed valuation and will allow the District to continue its programs and capital investments to reduce the consequences of flooding in King County.

## **2. Support for District Capital Projects and Operational Objectives**

The District benefits from programs that support its capital projects and operational goals. The Washington State Flood Control Assistance Account supports capital repair, rehabilitation and improvements throughout King County farming, commercial and residential areas. The Flood Plains by Design program, which provides funding to reduce flood hazards, improve flood water conveyance and facility capacity, and provide safe access to homes and businesses through protection of key transportation routes. **The District requests the Washington State Legislature to continue this Account, this program and similar state programs and accounts.**

## **3. Support for State Funding for Bridges that Can Cause Backwater Flooding**

**The District requests the Washington State Legislature to provide assistance and funding for bridges that constrict the flow of rivers, streams or creeks, thereby causing backwater flooding upstream of the bridge, causing damages to public and private infrastructure, and creating public safety risks.**

This request specifically includes:

- a) Establishing a statutory mechanism for identifying and addressing bridges that significantly alter hydraulic processes, and making them priority projects for transportation funding.
- b) Requesting State funding to evaluate the hydraulic impacts on flood conveyance of bridges at priority locations, including but not limited to the 8th Street E/Stewart Road SE Bridge on the White River in the City of Sumner, Washington. This evaluation would

determine the relative contribution of bridge infrastructure to flood risk, and evaluate the relative effectiveness of alternatives, so that public investments in transportation and flood protection infrastructure can be prioritized and coordinated.

- c) Supporting the City of Sumner's specific requests for state funds and grants to reconstruct the 8th Street E/Stewart Road SE Bridge, so that any improvements to this Bridge can safely and adequately accommodate conveyance of White River floodwaters through the reach of the White River.