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August 31, 2022

Dave Upthegrove, Chair  
King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors  
516 Third Avenue  
Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Transmittal of Recommendations for the 2023 Annual Budget and 2023-2028 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Dear Chair Upthegrove and King County Flood District Board of Supervisors:

The members of the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) are pleased to transmit our recommendations to the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (District) for the 2023 Annual Budget (\$15,259,757) and the 2023 Capital Budget (\$81,952,893). We are also recommending a 2023-2028 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The King County Council established the Advisory Committee through Ordinance 15728 on April 16, 2007, to provide expert policy advice to the District on regional flood protection issues. According to Ordinance 15728:

*“The advisory committee is created to provide expert policy advice to the board of supervisors of the King County Flood Control Zone District on regional flood protection issues. The committee shall review and recommend an annual work program and budget for the district, including capital improvement program projects and funding levels, subject to approval or approval and modification by the board of supervisors. Eleven copies of the recommendations shall be filed with the clerk of the King County council no later than August 31 of the preceding year, for distribution to all councilmembers.”*

The Advisory Committee met five times between March 31 and August 16, 2022. We appreciated having an orientation meeting about the Flood District early in the year to on-board many new members and to inform us about the actions the Board of Supervisors took with the 2022 Budget. We also value the frequent updates from the Flood District Executive Director during the budget process. We had briefings from King County staff about the County Flood Hazard Management Plan update and on the draft 2023 Annual Budget and 2023-2028 CIP. We would like the District to investigate the possibility of holding some hybrid Advisory Committee meetings in 2023. Included here is an electronic link with all the [Advisory Committee meeting materials](#).

In addition to the Advisory Committee meetings, a staff-level Joint Basin Technical Committee met four times to provide feedback on budget related documents in advance of the Advisory Committee meetings. We urge you to continue support for the Advisory Committee and Joint Basin Technical Committee to meet throughout the year, especially with the Flood Hazard Management Plan work ahead.

### **Equity and Social Justice**

Last year we requested briefings about the nexus between equity and social justice and flood risk reduction so that we can better understand the opportunities and challenges facing the Flood District. We commend the District for applying an equity lens to its work and look forward to participating in discussions on this topic.

### **Integrated Floodplain Management**

We value the District's commitment to Integrated Floodplain Management (IFM) and its continuing work to develop project appropriate multi-benefit definitions. We appreciated the presentation from the July 12, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting about the District's application of the principles of IFM and look forward to the Executive Director continuing to update us on IFM progress with District projects.

### **District Grant Programs**

We appreciate the District's grant programs that highlight geographic equity, including Subregional Opportunity Funds, Cooperative Watershed Management grants, and Flood Risk Reduction grants. Last year we noted our support for the expanded Flood Reduction Grant Program which includes three new grant categories: urban streams, coastal erosion, and culvert replacement/fish passage and we acknowledged and supported that the enabling legislation requires successful grant applicants must first demonstrate a flood nexus. This year, we want to reinforce that support and note the tremendous demand for these grant programs based on the number of grant requests received. We recommend \$29,489,305 for these grant programs.

### **King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update**

We seek an active role in the process of updating the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP). We appreciate King County's commitment to including our 2019 recommended list of issues in the scope of the FHMP, which included non-riverine urban flooding. This year, the County's FHMP project manager briefed us about the FHMP scope and schedule. We request opportunities to comment on and affect the development of the FHMP. We also ask that our staff on the Joint Basin Technical Committee as well as basin specific work groups be convened to provide technical input to the FHMP.

As noted in our previous letter about the FHMP, we are interested in looking at innovative approaches to managing flood risk by making use of new technology with the potential of improving efficiency and sustainability. We'd like to see innovative approaches to managing flood risk, including the use of best available technology, added to the issues and scope of the FHMP.

### **Flood District Transparency and Access**

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Chair and members of the Flood District Board of Supervisors for their commitment to expanding access and increasing the transparency of the Flood District's decision-making, especially in this time of remote and hybrid work. We appreciate the Flood District holding both its Board of Supervisors and Executive Committee meetings in Chambers so that the proceedings, including public comment, are televised. We thank the Flood District for proactively sharing the budget materials to be presented to Board members and updating us throughout the budget process. We also appreciate the "two-touch" rule implemented by the Chair to ensure the Board members and the public have the opportunity to see draft budget materials and have multiple meetings at which to provide comments before final passage.

We urge the Flood District to share cost drivers for all capital projects including influence of labor costs, supply chain, and inflation.

### **Financial Plan and Fund Balance**

For the last three years, we understand the Board of Supervisors has discussed the appropriateness of the current levy rate given the state of economic uncertainty. However, it is extremely important to look toward the future and the capital needs throughout the County.

While we have always pushed the Flood District to move capital projects more quickly and to spend its fund balance, the District's Financial Plan demonstrates the Flood District's capital needs will exceed the Flood District's resources of fund balance and new revenue in the near future, beginning in 2025.

We strongly urge the Flood District to evaluate the revenue necessary to cover long-term capital and operating needs and the pace of project implementation. Additionally, we recommend considering a monitoring trigger to ensure the fund balance and revenue are sufficient to carry-out the District's Annual Workplan.

### **Operating Budget**

We are pleased to see additional resources being designated for expanded translation services to increase access to the District's Flood Awareness information. As noted above, we look forward to meaningful participation on the FHMP Update and appreciate the commitment of District funding toward the FHMP.

For the last two years we asked for information on the Flood District's expected cost savings resulting from King County Water and Land Resources Division staff permanently working from home. We reiterate our request for information about savings from office rent, equipment, and other costs savings from remote work.

## Capital Budget

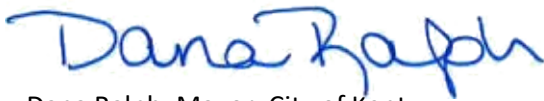
We received briefings on the draft capital budget and respect the District's commitment to corridor wide planning and project implementation as well as necessary repairs. We recommend an identified repair on the Snoqualmie River and two new projects from the Tolt River Capital Investment Strategy. These projects are: The Snoqualmie Pump Station Revetment Improvements, line 15; Girl Scout Levee Setback, Carnation, line 42, and the Remlinger Levee Improvements, Carnation, line 47.

We must continue to invest in:

- (1) the critical flood reduction facilities identified in the recommended 2023-2028 CIP;
- (2) the unfunded needs identified in Capital Investment Strategies on the major rivers with flood risk reduction facilities maintained by the Flood District, and the ongoing Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement;
- (3) the flood risk reduction strategies that will be identified in the upcoming District approved Flood Hazard Management Plan; and
- (4) the unknown repair needs resulting from flood events.

Attached to this letter please find our recommendations for the King County Flood District 2023 Operating and 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program.

Sincerely,



Dana Ralph, Mayor, City of Kent  
Chair, King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee

cc: Members, King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee  
Michelle Clark, Executive Director, King County Flood Control District

## 2022 Advisory Committee Members

Status	Jurisdiction	Title	Name
Member	City of Auburn	Mayor	Nancy Backus
Member	City of Bellevue	Councilmember	Jeremy Barksdale
Member	City of Carnation	Mayor	Kim Lisk
Member	City of Kent	Mayor	Dana Ralph, Chair
Member	King County	Executive	Dow Constantine
Member	City of North Bend	Mayor	Rob McFarland, Vice Chair
Member	City of Renton	Mayor	Armondo Pavone
Member	City of Seattle	Mayor	Bruce Harrell
Member	City of Snoqualmie	Mayor	Katherine Ross
Member	City of Tukwila	Mayor	Allan Ekberg
SCA	Black Diamond	Mayor	Carol Benson
SCA	City of Duvall	Councilmember	Michelle Hogg
SCA	City of Sammamish	Councilmember	Karen Howe
SCA	Town of Skykomish	Mayor	Henry Sladek
Rural Unincorporated			Ken Hearing
Alternate SCA	City of Burien	Councilmember	Sarah Moore
Alternate SCA	City of Des Moines	Councilmember	JC Harris
Alternate SCA	City of Kenmore	Deputy Mayor	Melanie O'Cain
Alternate SCA	City of Pacific	Mayor	Leanne Guier
Alternate	City of Auburn	Councilmember	Chris Stearns
Alternate	City of Kent	Councilmember	Toni Troutner
Alternate	King County	Deputy Executive	April Putney
Alternate	City of Renton	Councilmember	Valerie O'Halloran
Alternate	City of Seattle	Councilmember	Alex Pedersen
Alternate	City of Tukwila	Councilmember	Thomas McLeod