



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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December 13, 2023

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 the report on the Skykomish Evacuation Alternatives Analysis, in response to Ordinance 19546, Section 23, Proviso P1, along with a proposed Motion that, if enacted, would acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required by the Proviso, the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) evaluated the potential options to evacuate residents who live along the NE Old Cascade Highway between the town of Skykomish and the unincorporated community of Grotto in the event of an emergency or disaster. The report assumes the Miller River Bridge #999W is not open to regular traffic. Along with the evacuation options, the report includes the costs associated with each option, available funding sources to implement each option, the preferred option, and the reasoning for the selection of the option.

The report relies heavily on subject matter experts, including environmental and civil engineers, railway personnel, and search and rescue responders. Additionally, multiple site visits were made by KCOEM staff members to engage residents of the area and partners in the region. KCOEM recommends using Skykomish River Bridge #999Z, the bridge currently in place, as the most feasible and practical evacuation option, as it is structurally sound and has a low likelihood of future impacts. Depending on circumstances, other options could be considered for use, such as crossing the railroad bridges or using emergency responder and search and rescue assets. Given the remote nature of the area, many residents and visitors already are independently prepared for emergencies and disasters, and KCOEM will continue to promote preparedness to encourage greater community resilience.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. If your staff have questions, please contact Lorraine Patterson-Harris, Director, Department of Executive Services, at 206-477-2635.

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

Lorraine Patterson-Harris, Director, Department of Executive Services

Brendan McCluskey, Director, Office of Emergency Management