



## King County

### Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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June 22, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci,

I am pleased to transmit proposed legislation approving and adopting an update to the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP). Adoption of this plan update by the King County Council, and approval by the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is required to ensure access to future federal mitigation project grant funding.

The King County Council adopted the County's initial RHMP in 2004, then adopted updates to the plan in 2009 and 2015. The attached 2020 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a complete revision of the 2015 plan. This plan is written to meet or exceed the relevant elements of the *Emergency Management Standard* (ANSI standard) by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP); this will help ensure that the County's current EMAP accreditation remains intact and that the County can successfully pass reaccreditation in 2022. The plan is also a requirement for King County agencies and jurisdictions to compete for federal hazard mitigation grants, including the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant program and funding resulting from the January flooding disaster declaration.

The King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan promotes programs and projects that partner with communities to build a foundation of resilience before, during, and after disasters. The RHMP contains reviews of each natural and human-caused hazard that can affect King County and strategies to reduce risk and protect people, property, the economy, the environment, and county operations. The updated RHMP is a reassessment of our understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities to build a more resilient County. The update to the RHMP focuses on comprehensive hazard mitigation strategies that position King County to access a new federal disaster grant program. It integrates equity and social justice into risk assessments and mitigation priorities, and establishes connections to the King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

June 22, 2020

Page 2

The RHMP was developed in partnership with local jurisdictions, county departments, and the public. County representatives included experts in climate change, comprehensive planning, equity and social justice, floodplain management, and emergency management. Public outreach was carried out through the Community Service Area Town Halls in partnership with cities. Nearly 60 jurisdictions, including cities, special-purpose districts, and school districts, participated in this plan update.

The RHMP supports the King County Strategic Plan health and human services goal of improving the health and well-being of all people in our community by supporting the resilience of our public safety system. The RHMP is designed to directly support the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by prioritizing mitigation projects that support one or more of the 14 Determinants of Equity and by reporting progress on mitigation in terms of the 14 Determinants. The RHMP is closely linked to the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan, sharing strategies and data on hazards, vulnerability, and potential mitigation measures.

It is estimated that the process involved in producing the RHMP required 5,000 staff hours to complete, at a cost \$333,771, which was funded by a federal grant. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

I am asking for expedited Council action on this proposed legislation as the current plan expired on April 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 related limitations on our operations, we were not able to transmit this plan before the end of April; FEMA and State reviews of this submission were similarly delayed by COVID-19 response operations. Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance.

If your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Derrick Hiebert, Hazard Mitigation Strategist, King County Emergency Management, at 206-724-7713.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Caroline Whalen, Chief Administrative Officer, DES  
Brendan McCluskey, Director, Office of Emergency Management, DES