

Protecting the Lower Green River Corridor

FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN AND PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

What is at risk?

The Lower Green River Valley is home to 22,000 diverse residents and supports over 100,000 jobs. It is an economic engine for the entire state, housing the second largest warehouse and distribution center on the west coast and boasting approximately \$37 million in gross business income. Major employers such as Boeing, Starbucks, and IKEA are located here, thriving alongside valuable agricultural land, hospitals and medical facilities, schools, parks and community centers, and major transportation routes that move people and goods.

The Lower Green River is susceptible to flooding and flood damage. Floods are dangerous and destructive, threatening the safety of people and property, and causing costly damages. A severe flood could have enormous impact on the safety, livelihood, and viability of the community.

Protection takes planning

In the interest of protecting people, property, and the environment, the King County Flood Control District is developing a Flood Hazard Management Plan (Plan) to guide future flood reduction investments. The Plan addresses approximately 21 river miles that flow through the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and unincorporated King County.

Currently, a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is underway to analyze alternatives for flood protection that could be included in the Plan. The PEIS describes the potential environmental impacts and measures to reduce or eliminate them.

What are the alternatives?

- 1:** The **“No Action Alternative”** is required to objectively evaluate and compare the other two alternatives. It would include completing existing projects adopted in the 2018–23 Capital Improvement Program (Resolution FCD2018-06.2).
- 2:** The **“Moderate Geographic Extent of Increased Level of Protection Alternative”** would include 3 miles of new levees and improvements to 17 miles of existing levees.
- 3:** The **“Greater Geographic Extent with Increased Level of Protection, Integrated Habitat and Recreation, Agricultural Protection Facilities, and Habitat Restoration Project Partnerships Alternative”** is the same as Alternative 2 with the addition of 10 miles of new levees and 2 miles of non-structural improvements. Incentives to provide habitat restoration could also be provided.

Each of the alternatives includes continued maintenance of existing flood facilities. Alternatives 2 and 3 would also include some drainage improvements to agricultural lands and flood-proofing of agricultural structures. More detailed descriptions of the alternatives can be found online at: www.lowergreensepa.org.

Process The PEIS will take about two years to complete. Comment periods during scoping and during review of the Draft PEIS will provide opportunities for the public to provide input.

SCOPING

PEIS process begins; public provides comments on the alternatives and the environmental issues that should be part of the evaluation.

PREPARE DRAFT PEIS

The alternatives are refined based on scoping comments, and analyses are conducted to determine the potential impacts of each alternative.

DRAFT PEIS REVIEW

The Draft PEIS is provided for review to seek comments on the analysis conducted on the alternatives.

FINAL PEIS

Comments on the Draft PEIS are addressed, and the PEIS is refined as warranted by the comments.

