



King County

DRAFT

News Release

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New Funding Gives Clean Water and Salmon Recovery Projects a Boost

Flood Control District Board allocates \$3 million for King County watersheds

The King County Flood Control District board of supervisors today approved \$3 million in funding for a range of projects to improve water quality, protect and restore habitat, and support salmon recovery efforts in three King County watersheds.

The board's action will boost the efforts of local organizations by providing funding grants in the following areas: \$1.2 million for Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, \$1.2 million for WRIA 9, and \$600,000 for the Snoqualmie Watershed.

"Restoring and protecting our watersheds is critically important to the ecological health of our region and the food chain that supports our ecosystem – from the mountain tops to the shores of Puget Sound," said Flood Control District Board Chair Julia Patterson. "Those are values we all embrace in the Pacific Northwest."

"Numerous local organizations are making great strides to restore and protect our natural areas, recover salmon and keep our water clean," said Supervisor Reagan Dunn. "This funding will ensure they can keep up their great work that benefits both the environment and our economy."

"The flood control work done by the federal Army Corps of Engineers resulted in a significant loss of habitat for our threatened salmon populations, so using a portion of Flood District revenues for habitat restoration is appropriate," said Supervisor Larry Phillips. "This action advances local efforts to protect endangered salmon."

"These efforts to protect and restore our watersheds are investments for future generations to come," said Supervisor Pete von Reichbauer.

King County will administer the grant allocation process with the Flood Control District executive committee overseeing project selections. The funding is allocated

for 2012 only. The Flood Control District board intends to pursue on-going funding for future watershed management actions given the relationship between flood control and stormwater projects and cooperative watershed management.

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The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District's Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at <http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/>.