



## Puyallup River Executive Task Force

### **DRAFT WORK PLAN**

#### **Project Background**

The levee system on the lower Puyallup River has been deemed inadequate by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resulting in their decertification and subsequent changes to FEMA's flood plain maps. This results in new flood plain designations and restrictions along the Puyallup River. Pierce County believes there is regional consensus on the need to improve the flood protection system to bring it back to its previous level of protectiveness. Pierce County has historically been responsible for maintaining the levee system along the Puyallup River.

On June 10, 2008, the Pierce County Council passed Resolution R2008-74s, requesting all local governments to participate in developing and funding the work to bring the flood control system back into FEMA compliance.

#### **Pierce County Project Goals**

- Ensure local agencies understand the problem and support finding a solution
- Work closely with affected agencies to develop alternatives and select an alternative
- Cooperatively seek funding.
- Construct and maintain the selected alternative.

#### **Executive Task Force**

To assist with finding and funding a regional solution, Pierce County convened the Lower Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) in July 2008. Since its inception, the ETF has expanded its focus to include the entire Puyallup River Watershed, and has grown to include nine jurisdictions as well as eight additional representatives and four technical advisors.

Invited members of the task force are:

- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- City of Buckley
- City of Fife
- City of Orting
- City of Pacific
- City of Puyallup
- City of Sumner
- City of Tacoma
- Pierce County
- Port of Tacoma
- Town of South Prairie
- Town of Wilkeson
- King County
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Pierce County Chamber of Commerce



Invited technical advisors are:

- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- Tacoma Rail
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources

### **Executive Task Force Scope**

Work cooperatively to assist Pierce County with developing and seeking funding for a consensus regional solution for flood control in the Puyallup River.

### **Executive Task Force Goals**

- Diligently represent the values and issues of their agency and decision-makers
- Identify, discuss and address all members' problems and roadblocks concerning the flood control system
- Consider a full suite of solutions and find a timely solution that is realistic and fundable
- Recertify the flood control system
- Avoid a political solution that doesn't work
- Be part of a solution that works for people and the environment
- Provide for public safety and protection of personal property
- Provide recommendations on funding for solutions and funding allocation methodology

### **Executive Task Force Meetings**

Pierce County plans to convene Executive Task Force meetings on an as-needed basis to support ongoing discussions and provide input to the County Executive regarding flood protection solutions, funding and the US Army Corps of Engineers project process. Pierce County plans to provide technical resources at each meeting as requested to further inform the work of the ETF. Task force meetings are open to the public and provide the public with an opportunity to give spoken or written comments. Task force members and technical staff will be provided with a summary of each meeting, including public comments.

### **ETF Procedures**

- Decision making on task force recommendations generally occurs by consensus.
- A formal voting process may be applied if necessary.
- Although member organizations may have more than one representative at the table, if a voting situation occurs, each organization will have only one vote.