

E-Alert from the Puyallup River Executive Task Force April 8, 2011

The Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) met at the Port of Tacoma Fabulich Center on April 8, 2011. Topics discussed included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study, a discussion about updates to FEMA regulations, and updates from the Flood Control Zone District and the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan.

CJ Klocow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented a list of potential measures (solutions) for the General Investigation Study of the Puyallup River. The Corps is continuing to meet with Pierce County to identify data gaps for an existing and future conditions report. The Corps is looking to the ETF for ideas and input on potential measures, which will later be packaged into alternatives for design and analysis.

Harold Smelt, Pierce County Surface Water Manager, updated participants on Pierce County's Flood Control Zone District (FCZD), which is working with a consultant on a State Environmental Policy Act process to re-form the district after the council voted to disband it in January.

Lorin Reinelt, Pierce County Surface Water Management, briefed ETF participants on Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP) progress to date. He presented details about the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Phase II study on sedimentation. More information is available on the [FHMP website](#).

Finally, Harold Smelt briefed the ETF about changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's development standards for flood hazard areas and the need to update local land use policies as a result. Jurisdictions are required to update their policies by September 2011. Non-compliance may affect a community's ability to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. In large part, the specified policies parallel the regulatory and land use strategies that the ETF have been discussing. Dennis Dixon, Pierce County Surface Water Management, gave a brief overview of how the FEMA changes would affect these policies. The group agreed to continue the land use policies discussion at the next meeting.

Participants provided updates on current local flood management activities, which are being tracked continuously through a list of near-term local actions.

Copies of all presentations are available on the ETF website. The next ETF meeting will include an update on the GI Study and a continuation of the regulatory/land use actions discussion. The meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2011 at the Port of Tacoma's Fabulich Center. A detailed summary of the April 9, 2011 meeting will be posted on the ETF website at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/etf> as it becomes available.