

## **E-Alert from the Puyallup River Executive Task Force May 20, 2011**

The Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) met at the Port of Tacoma Fabulich Center on May 20, 2011. Topics discussed included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' General Investigation Study, a discussion about updates to FEMA floodplain development regulations and flood hazard mapping policies, an update on ETF work done to date, and updates regarding a Flood Control Zone District and the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan.

CJ Klocow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), shared information on federal funds available through the Corps, and the work the Corps is doing to secure funding for this project in 2012 and 2013. The Corps is refining a list of potential measures for the General Investigation (GI) Study of the Puyallup River, and will bring this refined list back to the group once complete. Additionally, the Corps is compiling an existing conditions report, which will show what conditions would be like without the project. A draft of this report should be available in September 2011. The Corps will be conducting investigative work along the Puyallup River, including environmental coordination, levee and hydraulics analyses, analyzing geotechnical and sedimentation data and conducting a structures inventory to inform the existing conditions report.

Harold Smelt, Pierce County Surface Water Manager, briefed the ETF about changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 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 has been discussing and when adopted will move the county and its local towns and cities closer to consistent land use standards regarding flood plains.

The ETF heard a review of work accomplished to date. Major ETF accomplishments include the development of criteria for evaluating potential solutions, a list of possible solutions, and a comprehensive list of guiding principles and cautions for each possible solution. A full list of major ETF work done to date can be found in the May 20, 2011 meeting materials [online](#). 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 existing conditions report and a report on the draft Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan. Watch the ETF website for details of the next meeting, anticipated for later in the summer. A detailed summary of the May 20, 2011 meeting will be posted on the ETF website at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/etf> as it becomes available.