

## **E-Alert from the Puyallup River Executive Task Force**

The Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) met at Sumner City Hall on June 19, 2009. Topics discussed included a review of the task force's scope and membership, participation in Pierce County's comprehensive flood hazard planning effort, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study findings and funding for flood protection in the Puyallup River basin.

ETF members agreed to widen the group's scope to the entire Puyallup River basin and invite additional jurisdictions to participate. The group agreed to strike "Lower" from the task force's name and become the "Puyallup River Executive Task Force."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented their Section 905(b) Analysis. This study concluded the reconnaissance phase of the Corps' work. It demonstrated a federal interest in the project, presented a limited study of one potential alternative which only addresses the lower eight miles of the Puyallup River and presented a cost estimate for the feasibility study phase of the Puyallup River project. A feasibility study, if undertaken, would develop and examine a full suite of alternatives throughout the Puyallup River basin.

The Corps provided a range of cost and time estimates for the feasibility phase, from approximately \$4.1 million to \$6 million, and from three to five years, depending on whether the solution set focused on the lower eight miles or the entire river basin.

Meeting participants discussed different pathways to receiving federal funding, and whether to partner with the Corps for the project at this time. ETF members agreed to confer with their organizations and each will report back at the next meeting on their organization's preferred path forward.

Major topics for upcoming Executive Task Force meetings include the following:

- Determine whether to partner with the Corps for the feasibility study phase of the project.
- Learn about King County's new flood control district.
- Discuss local funding sources, opportunities and sharing funding responsibilities.

The next meeting date and location and a detailed summary of this meeting will be posted on the ETF Web site at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/etf>.