

## System Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Pierce County

DRAFT - Public Involvement Plan

*Updated: July 1, 2015*

This plan identifies communication and public participation strategies to effectively engage stakeholders and interested parties in the development of a Pierce County System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) Plan. It identifies key stakeholders, outlines a public engagement process, develops key project messages, and identifies appropriate communications tools for use during plan development. Activities will be documented and evaluated, and may be revised, as necessary.

### Project Summary

Pierce County will develop a SWIF Plan in conformance with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requirements. The plan requires collaboration with stakeholders prior to final acceptance from the USACE. Once accepted, the Plan will provide guidelines for system-wide maintenance and improvements to County-owned levee systems enrolled in the Public Law 84-99 program. Having this accepted plan in place will provide a mechanism for the county to maintain eligibility in the program, meaning federal funding will continue to be available for levee maintenance and repair. The Plan will cover a system-wide approach to maintenance over a 20-year period.

### Public Involvement Goals and Objectives

The main goal for public involvement through this project is to insure that stakeholders are informed about the issues and content being considered for the Plan and are given opportunities to provide meaningful input during Plan development. To meet this goal, the project team will:

- Ensure activities related to the development of the Plan are communicated openly and transparently.
- Engage stakeholders about the planning process in order to reassure them that we are committed to maintaining our flood risk reduction structures and plan to implement improvements to the system as opportunities become available.
- Provide information to the public about our strategies for flood risk reduction as a component of the Plan; with the understanding that flood risk management projects can not completely eliminate all flood risk.

### Key Messages

Pierce County's key messages about the SWIF Plan must be consistent with current program practices. Consistency limits the risk of presenting mixed messages to the public and stakeholders. Consistency also prevents confusion, which could require additional time and resources to correct. The following key messages can be used to speak about the project goals and process:

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- Pierce County is committed to flood risk reduction and maintenance of existing facilities to protect people and infrastructure.
  - The mission of Surface Water Management is to deliver excellent services that reduce flood damage and protect and improve water quality and natural resources for the benefit of our communities.
  - Pierce County is a proactive and progressive agency in terms of flood risk management and implements effective methods to reduce flood risks.
  - Pierce County is committed to implementing maintenance strategies and improvements that benefit the public and the environment.
- The SWIF is a plan to ensure maintenance practices are being implemented to maintain eligibility for Public Law 84-99 (PL84-99) funding.
  - Maintain eligibility for PL84-99 funding.
  - PL84-99 provides a cost-match for levee repair when damages happen as a result of flooding.
  - Over the past 25 years, Pierce County has received more than \$16,000,000 in aid to repair levees.
  - The SWIF will guide maintenance practices on Pierce County's levee infrastructure over the next twenty years.
- Pierce County is committed to implementing maintenance practices that reduce flood risks to residents, businesses and infrastructure while protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat that rely on our river systems.
  - Pierce County looks for opportunities to incorporate habitat improvements whenever feasible when constructing improvements to our flood risk reduction systems.
  - Pierce County is looking at a river-system-wide approaches to improve fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Pierce County is committed to working with others with interests in the river systems, including tribal nations, cities, state and federal regulators and effected citizens.
  - Flood Risk Management requires on-going dialogue that should respect the diverse viewpoints of our stakeholders to achieve a broad acceptance that flood risk management is everyone's responsibility in order to improve public safety and reduce flood damages from our river systems.

Additional key messages should be developed to describe specific program elements as the plan progresses.

## Target Audiences

### Stakeholders

There are a variety of stakeholders that need to be engaged in the development of the SWIF Plan. Some stakeholders will provide technical support in reviewing and discussing proposed recommendations being development by the County. Others need to be kept informed about the direction of the SWIF Plan and stay up-to-date on relevant information about reducing flood risk. The decision-makers who will approve a final SWIF Plan should also be engaged to ensure their support. Potential stakeholders for this project include:

- County Council
- County Executive
- Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors
- Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Pierce County Parks, Department of Emergency Management, and Department of Planning & Land Services
- Cities: Puyallup, Sumner, Orting, Fife, Pacific, and Tacoma
- State agencies: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Natural Resources
- Federal agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), , National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Services, National Park Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Port of Tacoma
- Railroads
- Agricultural round-table
- Local utilities

### Tribes

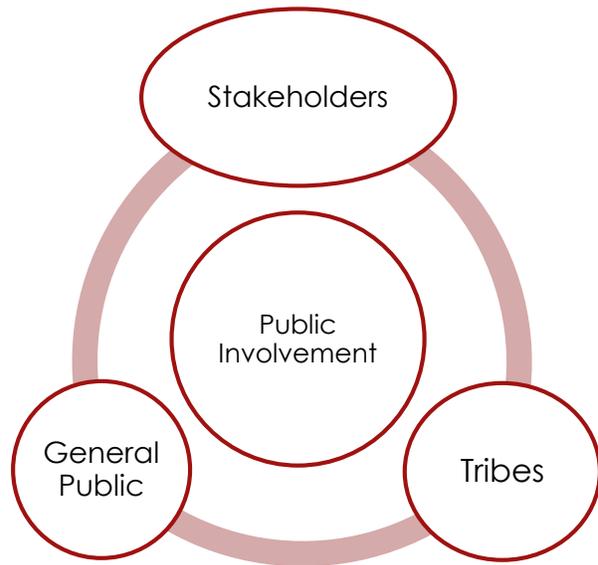
There are several Tribes in the County that should provide input and comment on the SWIF Plan. A formal consultation process will be started for Tribes as identified by the County. Potential Tribes to be included in the planning process are the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and the Nisqually Tribe.

### General Public

The general public should be informed about the development of the SWIF Plan and how it relates to other flood risk reduction activities being done by the County. They should also have the opportunity to review and provide comment on the options under consideration in the draft SWIF Plan.

## Public Involvement Strategy

Public involvement for this project will work to engage key stakeholders, tribes, and the general public at key milestones in the development of the Plan. Engagement activities will be aligned with Plan development milestones to ensure public input is relevant and useful for the planning effort. Input from all three of the target audiences will be important for developing strongly supported recommendations that are based on collaboration and transparency. A Community Technical Group will be convened to provide input on technical areas of the Plan and vet recommendations being considered by the County. Tribes will be consulted through a tribal liaison to ensure their concerns and input are addressed and incorporated into development of the Plan. Lastly, the general public will be informed about the development of the Plan, have an opportunity to learn about how Pierce County manages flood risk and levee maintenance and be able to provide input on options being considered in the draft SWIF plan.



A full workplan illustrating public involvement activities for the target audiences is included in Appendix A.

### Stakeholder Engagement

The USACE requires a collaborative process with stakeholders, specifically agencies and tribal governments in the development of a SWIF Plan. To meet that intent, the County will implement a process that provides stakeholders the opportunity to provide meaningful input on those practices, programs, and projects identified in the Plan. The County will do so by convening a Community Technical Group to provide technical input on the development of the Plan, as well as, provide presentations and briefings to stakeholders as requested.

### Community Technical Group

The County will establish a Community Technical Group (CTG) by engaging those individuals and agencies who participated in the Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan's Advisory Committee, the Flood Control Zone District's Advisory Committee, the Puyallup River Executive Task Force and others with interests in the Plan to ensure stakeholder input is considered and incorporated into the Plan.

The CTG will meet five times from August to December 2015. A general outline of the group's meeting schedule and discussion topics is below:

- **August Meeting – Convene Group**
  - Introductions
  - Review results of stakeholder interviews
  - Presentation on PL84-99 Program
  - Overview of maintenance work
  - Review existing conditions (watershed, aquatic habitat, riparian vegetation)
- **September Meeting – Vegetation Management Overview**
  - Overview of vegetation management issues and how these fit into the SWIF Plan
  - Describe riparian vegetation communities, issues, objectives, and approaches
  - Outline a risk based approach to vegetation management
- **October Meeting – Risk Reduction**
  - Overview of risk reduction and how it fits into the SWIF Plan
  - Review history of flooding, repetitive loss, and repetitive levee damage
  - Discuss interim risk reduction measures
- **November Meeting – Vegetation Management Strategy**
  - Present draft Vegetation Management Strategy
  - Discuss USACE accessibility requirements, structural integrity, and local objectives
- **December Meeting – Draft Action Plan**
  - Review the draft Action Plan and implementation schedule

### Other Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to the CTG, the County will offer briefings and presentations on the development of the SWIF Plan to other key groups as requested. Potential groups may include:

- Resource agencies
- Local jurisdictions
- Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Business groups

### Tribal Engagement

Tribal nations with interest in the Plan should be invited to participate in the CTG. Due to tribal treaty rights and adopted agreements related to the rivers systems, additional government to government engagement will be necessary. Specifically, the existing tribal treaty with the Puyallup Tribe, which includes a vegetation management agreement for the Puyallup River system, requires a tribal consultation process for beginning work on the rivers system. The tribes have concerns related to their fishing rights within the rivers systems and interests in protecting their lands within the rivers systems.

A strong working relationship should be developed with both tribal leadership and tribal staff to ensure their interests and existing treaties/agreements are reflected in the SWIF. The tribal engagement strategy should be coordinated with other major planning processes related to Pierce County river

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systems, including development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the sediment management pilot program. When working with tribes, all of these projects should be discussed in terms of their impacts to tribal interests to ensure consistent messaging, trust-building and an efficient and effective process for all of these programs. A separate tribal engagement strategy should be developed for all three programs that allows for the Plan to meet the timelines stipulated by USACE.

### General Public Outreach

The goal of general public outreach will be to inform the public about river maintenance practices and flood risk reduction services provided by Pierce County provide a general overview of the SWIF Plan development and seek input on the options in the draft SWIF Plan. Outreach to the public will occur through open houses (in-person and online) and a website.

### Open Houses

One in-person and one online public open house will be implemented for the project:

- An **October 2015 open house** will provide general information about river maintenance practices, overview of the SWIF Plan development, information on flood risk reduction services provided by the County and an opportunity to provide comments on the SWIF Plan development. Information about other related planning processes (Habitat Conservation Plan, Sediment Management Pilot) will also be made available at this meeting.
- An **online open house** will be developed to run in conjunction with the October 2015 in-person open house. The online open house will provide the same content as the in-person meeting and will include the capability for users to provide comments on the SWIF Plan development.

Advertising for public open houses will be done through:

- Coordination with local jurisdictions to help promote the meetings
- Sending press releases prior to the meeting
- Promoting the meeting via project website and social media
- Sending an invitation mailing to property owners adjacent to river flood protection facilities

Public feedback and input collected at the open houses will be summarized in a SWIF Plan appendix. The project team should consider all public input received to determine whether specific recommendations should be incorporated into the Plan or whether specific public concerns should be addressed through other efforts. An interested parties list should be developed for those who attend the public meetings or contact the project team through other methods. Interested parties should receive notice when the draft plan is available and provide an opportunity to submit comments. The County should also provide feedback to the community and stakeholders about how their input was considered and if it did, where it influenced the SWIF plan.

### Project Website

To provide general information about the process, a SWIF website will be developed. The website will include:

- General program information and timeline
- All information provided at the public open house
- Regular updates with project status and opportunities for public engagement
- Resources and meeting materials presented to the CTG

## Appendix A: Public Involvement Workplan

Month	Activity	Target Audience	Medium	Deliverables	Lead
<b>Ongoing (bi-monthly)</b>	Regular progress report meetings with USACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USACE</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-monthly progress reports</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>Ongoing (monthly)</b>	Update talking points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printed list of bulleted talking points</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>Ongoing (quarterly)</b>	Meetings with Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Pierce County & Tribal Liaison
<b>Ongoing (as needed)</b>	Meetings and/or briefings with resource agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource agency personnel</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation materials</li> </ul>	Pierce County; EnviroIssues to support presentation development
<b>June 2015</b>	Executive Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Executive</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>July 2015</b>	Public involvement plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public involvement plan</li> </ul>	EnviroIssues
<b>July 2015</b>	CTG recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Tribes</li> </ul>	Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder letter</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>July 2015</b>	CTG interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Tribes</li> </ul>	Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview summary</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>July 2015</b>	Tribal consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting and follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Tribes</li> <li>• Agreement on level of coordination</li> <li>• List of comments derived from Interview of Tribal Resource Biologists</li> </ul>	Pierce County & Tribal Liaison
<b>July 2015</b>	SWIF Plan website live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>	Social Media		Pierce County

Month	Activity	Target Audience	Medium	Deliverables	Lead
<b>August 2015</b>	CTG meeting 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Draft charter</li> <li>Presentation materials</li> <li>Meeting summary</li> </ul>	Envirolssues facilitate and develop materials with support of Pierce County
<b>September 2015</b>	CTG meeting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Final charter</li> <li>Presentation materials</li> <li>Meeting summary</li> </ul>	Envirolssues facilitate and develop materials with support of Pierce County
<b>October 2015</b>	CTG meeting 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Presentation materials</li> <li>Meeting summary</li> </ul>	Envirolssues facilitate and develop materials with support of Pierce County
<b>October 2015</b>	In-person open house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press release</li> <li>Mailer to property owners adjacent to flood facilities</li> <li>Displays</li> <li>Handouts</li> <li>Presentation</li> </ul>	Envirolssues plan & coordinate meeting; Pierce County provide content and staff
<b>October 2015</b>	Online open house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> </ul>	Online meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Based on in-person open house materials</i></li> </ul>	Envirolssues plan & coordinate meeting; Pierce County provide content and staff
<b>November 2015</b>	CTG meeting 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Presentation materials</li> <li>Meeting summary</li> </ul>	Envirolssues facilitate and develop materials with support of Pierce County
<b>December 2015</b>	CTG meeting 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Presentation materials</li> <li>Meeting summary</li> </ul>	Envirolssues facilitate and develop materials with support of Pierce County
<b>February 2016</b>	Executive Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Executive</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handout</li> </ul>	Pierce County
<b>February 2016</b>	SWAB Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWAB</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Handout</li> </ul>	Pierce County; Envirolssues to support presentation development

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<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<b>March 2016</b>	Council adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Council</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Handout</li> </ul>	Pierce County; EnviroIssues to support presentation development
<b>March 2016</b>	FCZD Board of Supervisors adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCZD Board of Supervisors</li> </ul>	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Handout</li> </ul>	Pierce County; EnviroIssues to support presentation development
<b>March 2016</b>	Final SWIF Plan release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Tribes</li> <li>General public</li> </ul>	Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letters</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Website</li> </ul>	Pierce County