

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement scoping comment period has been extended to April 1, 2019 5:00 PM PDT.



516 Third Avenue • Room 1200 • Seattle, WA 98104
206.296.1020 • info@kingcountyfloodcontrol.org
www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org

**State Environmental Policy Act
Determination of Significance (DS)
And Request for Comments on Scope of Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**

Lead agency: King County Flood Control District

Date of Issuance: November 28, 2018

Agency Contact and SEPA Responsible Official: Michelle Clark, Executive Director, 206-263-0602, michelle.clark@kingcounty.gov

Description of the Proposal: The King County Flood Control District proposes to implement the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan (Plan) (*referred to in King County Flood Control District Motion No. FCD18-01.2 as the Lower Green River Corridor Plan*) to provide an integrated and reasonable long-term approach to reduce flood risk within the Lower Green River Corridor while balancing multiple objectives within the study area. This integrated approach is also intended to reduce flood risks while supporting the economic prosperity of the region and improving fish habitat. The Plan will include a number of actions to increase the level of protection from flooding. This would be accomplished by constructing new or improved flood protection facilities to meet current engineering standards. Information on the types of flood protection facilities and on alternatives is included in Attachment A.

Location of the proposal: The Lower Green River extending from River Mile 11 to River Mile 32 and its floodplain, as shown in the Study Area figure.

Proponent/applicant: King County Flood Control District, 206-263-0602, lowergreensepa@kingcounty.gov

EIS Required: The King County Flood Control District, as lead agency, has determined that this non-project proposal is likely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment and is preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) as required by the State Environmental Policy Act under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the PEIS: Agriculture, Aquatic Resources, Climate Change, Cultural and Historic Resources, Equity and Social Justice, Geology and Geomorphology, Land and Shoreline Use, Public Health and Safety, Recreation and Public Access, Riparian and Terrestrial Resources, Socioeconomics, Transportation, Tribal Treaty Resources, Utilities and Public Services, Water Resources, and Wetlands.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the PEIS. You may comment on alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and required permits or other approvals. A public scoping meeting is

The Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement scoping comment period has been
extended to April 1, 2019 5:00 PM PDT.

scheduled for January 9, 2019, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Green River College Kent Campus, 417 Ramsay Way, Room 283, Kent, WA 98032. Scoping meeting materials will be available at www.lowergreensepa.org during the scoping period. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is provided below.

Alternatives: For purposes of programmatic environmental review, two programmatic alternatives and one no-action alternative will be analyzed. Information on the three alternatives is available at www.lowergreensepa.org.

Public and Agency Comment: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the PEIS. Comments on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and required permits or other approvals are welcome.

1. Electronic written comments may be submitted by email at lowergreensepa@kingcounty.gov

Or on-line at www.lowergreensepa.org

2. Written comments may be delivered via US Mail or hand delivered to the following address:

King County Flood Control District
Attn: Michelle Clark, SEPA Responsible Official
516 Third Avenue
Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

3. Comments may be submitted at the public scoping meeting on January 9, 2019, 5:00-8:00 pm:

Green River College Kent Campus
417 Ramsay Way, Room 283
Kent, WA 98032

A Spanish interpreter will be available at the meeting. *Habr  un int rprete de espa ol disponible en la reuni n.* If you would like to request an interpreter for another language, please call 206-775-8778.

All comments must be received by January 29, 2019, 5:00 PM (PST) for consideration in the proposed scope of the PEIS. Written comments should be addressed to the responsible official below.

Appeal Process:

You may appeal this determination of significance
to Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board
at 516 Third Avenue, Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104
no later than January 29, 2019, at 5:00 PM PST
by US mail

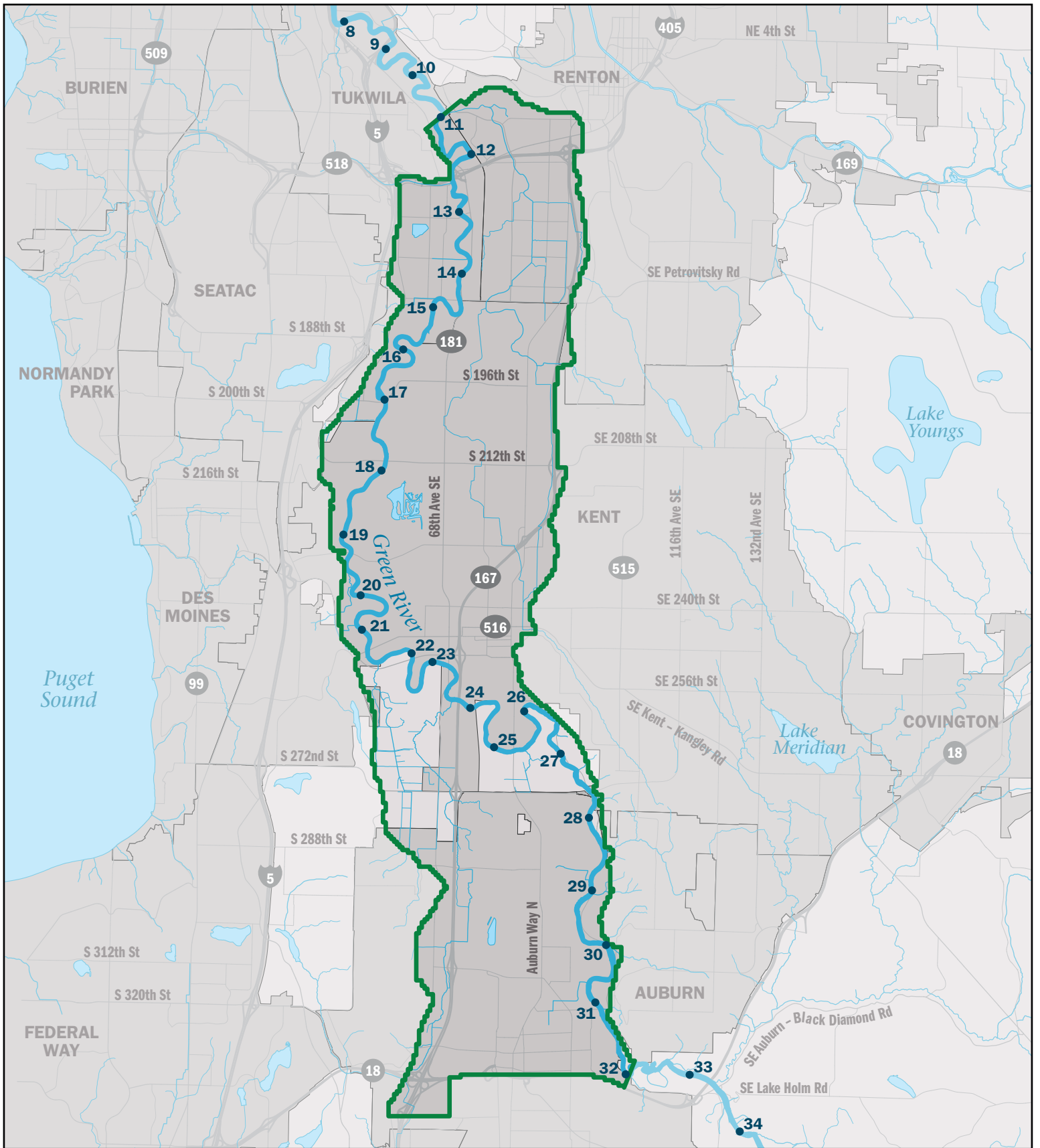
You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement scoping comment period has been extended to April 1, 2019 5:00 PM PDT.

Contact Melani.Pedroza@kingcounty.gov, 206-477-1020 to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

Translations: This document has been provided in English and Spanish. *Este documento se facilitó en inglés y en español.* If you require a translation in a different language, please call 206-775-8778.

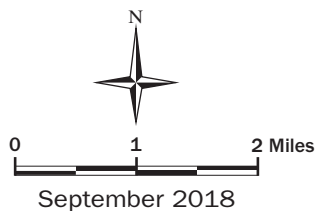
Signature Michelle Clark Date November 28, 2018
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)



Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan
and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Study Area

- Study Area
- City Area
- 30 River Mile
- Unincorporated Area
- ~ Green River



The use of the information in this map is subject to the terms and conditions found at: www.kingcounty.gov/services/gis/Maps/terms-of-use.aspx. Your access and use is conditioned on your acceptance of these terms and conditions.
Data: King County GIS File: 1809_9290w_green_ctrl_zn_map.ai

Attachment A: Facility Types and Alternatives

Description of Facility Types

The Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan will include a number of actions to increase the level of protection from flooding to the provisional level of protection established by the Board: 18,800 cubic feet per second (cfs), plus 3 feet of freeboard. (*The Federal Emergency Management Agency defines freeboard as a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level.*) This would be accomplished by constructing new or improved flood protection facilities. The following four types of facilities are being considered in the plan and various combinations of the facility types are included in each of the action alternatives. New facilities include new facilities in locations where no flood facilities currently exist as well as new facilities in locations that currently have existing facilities (which would be removed). Improved facilities would include improvements such as increasing facility height or adding toe protection for existing facilities.

Type A – Most Constrained, Riverward Embankment Side Slope of 2.5 to 1 or Less, Footprint of 100 feet or Less

Type A flood facility projects are levees or floodwalls with riverward side slopes of less than 2.5 to 1. Project footprints would be designed to limit property acquisition while still meeting engineering standards for certification. This facility type would be constructed in the most constrained locations where a Type B or Type C facility would impact existing agricultural land, buildings, parking, or traveled roadways. The approximate footprint of this facility type would be no greater than 100 feet, measured from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to the extent of maintenance access.

Type B – Somewhat Flatter Stable Riverward Embankment Side Slope of 2.5 to 1 or More, Footprint of 100 to 150 Feet

Type B flood facility projects are levees or floodwalls with riverward side slopes of 2.5 to 1 or more that can be planted with vegetation and/or have a bench including large woody debris, scour protection, and enhanced vegetation. This facility type would be constructed in locations where a wider footprint would not impact existing agricultural lands, buildings, parking, or traveled roadways. Existing recreational facilities would be maintained, and limited recreational enhancements would be included if feasible. The approximate footprint of this facility type would be 100 to 150 feet, measured from the OHWM to the extent of maintenance access. The District anticipates that Facility Type B would likely require more land acquisition or easements than Facility Type A.

Type C – Levee Setback

Type C flood facility projects are levee setbacks or floodwalls with benches, including possible acquisition and relocations, enhanced shade, and greater opportunity for riparian and aquatic enhancement. Riverward side slopes would be 3 to 1. This facility type would be constructed in locations where a levee setback would not impact existing agricultural land, buildings, parking, or traveled roadways. The footprint of this facility type would be 150 feet or more, measured from the OHWM to the extent of maintenance access. Some Type C flood facility projects would

involve modifying existing setback levees to provide the 500-year level of protection. The District anticipates that Facility Type C would likely require more land acquisition or easements than Facility Type A or Facility Type B.

Type D – Non-Structural Improvements

Type D flood facility projects are physical non-structural measures such as home elevations, basement removal with utility addition projects, flood-proofing, berms, ring levees, farm pads, and drainage improvements. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) defines these measures as physical non-structural measures applied to a structure or its contents that prevent or provide resistance to damage from flooding. Physical non-structural measures differ from structural measures in that they focus on reducing the consequences of flooding instead of focusing on reducing the probability of flooding.

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

In an EIS, SEPA requires analysis of the “No Action Alternative,” against which the effects of the action alternatives can be evaluated and compared. Under the No Action Alternative, the District would maintain the current level of protection for the existing PL 84-99 Program levees and other levees and revetments. The No Action Alternative assumes that the District will complete the projects in the adopted 2018–2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Resolution FCD2018-06.2), including those Interim SWIF Capital Projects listed in the CIP. The No Action Alternative also assumes that the District will continue to make repairs to facilities, including to the PL 84-99 Program levees as needed, in accordance with the Interim SWIF Vegetation Management Plan. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no system-wide increase in the level of protection. However, approximately 2 miles of new facilities included in the CIP would be designed at the higher level of protection to contain a flow of 18,800 cfs plus 3 feet of freeboard. The No Action Alternative would also include maintenance of the existing 17 miles of PL 84-99 levees and 11 miles of other levees and revetments.

The No Action Alternative would include the construction of the following new facilities:

- **Type A facility:** approximately 0.6 mile (30 percent of the new facilities).
- **Type B facility:** approximately 0.57 mile (28 percent of the new facilities).
- **Type C facility:** approximately 0.86 mile (42 percent of the new facilities).

The No Action Alternative would not include any Type D facility projects.

Exhibit 1 shows the potential locations of facility types under Alternative 1.

Alternative 2 – Moderate Geographic Extent of Increased Level of Protection Alternative

Under Alternative 2, the District would build approximately 20 miles of new or improved facilities to meet the 500-year level of protection. This would include 17 miles of existing PL 84-99 Program levees and approximately 3 miles of new levees. Under Alternative 2, the District

would also implement all of the Interim SWIF-identified capital projects. Agricultural areas would be provided the same level of protection as they currently have. Some agricultural drainage improvements and flood-proofing may be required to maintain the current level of protection. Under Alternative 2, the District would implement all of the Interim SWIF identified capital projects, those included in the No Action Alternative as well as those currently unfunded. Alternative 2 would include maintenance on other non-PL 84-99 levees and revetments. The District anticipates that this alternative would require limited real estate easements and relocations.

New levees would be constructed in the following areas:

- Shoreline gaps on the right bank of the Lower Green River between PL 84-99 Program levees in Kent and Tukwila (approximately 2 miles).
- The left bank of the Lower Green River in Tukwila (approximately 0.6 mile).
- The left bank of the Lower Green River in Auburn (approximately 0.5 mile).

Alternative 2 would include the construction of the following new or improved facilities:

- **Type A facility:** approximately 10.17 miles (50 percent of the facilities).
- **Type B facility:** approximately 4.68 miles (23 percent of the facilities).
- **Type C facility:** approximately 5.41 miles (27 percent of the facilities).

Alternative 2 would not include any Type D facility projects, except where needed to maintain the current level of protection.

Exhibit 2 shows the potential locations of facility types under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3 – Greater Geographic Extent with Increased Level of Protection, Integrated Habitat and Recreation, Agricultural Protection Facilities, and Habitat Restoration Project Partnerships Alternative

Under Alternative 3, the District would build approximately 30 miles of new or improved facilities to meet the 500-year level of protection. This would include 17 miles of existing PL 84-99 Program levees and approximately 13 miles of new levees (3 miles in the same locations as under Alternative 2 and 10 miles of new levees). This alternative also includes 2 miles of non-structural improvements. Under Alternative 3, the District would also implement all of the Interim SWIF-identified capital projects. Agricultural land would receive drainage improvements, and agricultural structures would be flood-proofed to achieve the same level of protection as they currently have. Under this alternative, the District could also provide incentives for partnership funding to create habitat restoration opportunities within Water Resource Inventory Area 9. The District anticipates that this alternative would include more real estate acquisitions than Alternative 2.

New levees would be constructed in the following areas:

- Shoreline gaps on the right bank of the Lower Green River between PL 84-99 Program levees in Kent and Tukwila (approximately 2 miles).
- The left bank of the Lower Green River in Tukwila (approximately 0.6 mile).
- The left bank of the Lower Green River in Auburn (approximately 0.5 mile).
- Further expansion of the levee system by 10 miles.

Alternative 3 would include the construction of the following new or improved facilities:

- **Type A facility:** approximately 15.43 miles (49 percent of the facilities).
- **Type B facility:** approximately 5.39 miles (17 percent of the facilities).
- **Type C facility:** approximately 9.08 miles (29 percent of the facilities).
- **Type D facility:** approximately 1.91 miles (6 percent of the facilities).

Exhibit 3 shows potential locations of facility types under Alternative 3.

Alternatives Comparison Table

Components of the three alternatives are summarized and compared in the table below.*

Facility Type	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Facility Type A	0.6 mile (30%)	10.17 miles (50%)	15.43 miles (49%)
Facility Type B	0.57 mile (28%)	4.68 miles (23%)	5.39 miles (17%)
Facility Type C	0.86 mile (42%)	5.41 miles (27%)	9.08 miles (29%)
Facility Type D	0	0	1.91 miles (6%)
Total Miles of New or Upgraded Facilities	2.03 miles	20.26 miles	31.9 miles

*Percent totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.





Exhibit 1
**Lower Green River Corridor Plan
 Alternative Framework**

Draft 4/23/2018









Alternative 1: No Action

Maintain Existing Levees and Revetments, Construct 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Projects with Increased LOP* include Lower Russell, Breda and Gaco-Mitchell.

**Proposed Flood Facilities with Increased LOP* of 18,800 cfs plus 3' freeboard
 Flood Facility Type:**

-  Type A: Most constrained, riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or less; footprint of 100 feet or less
-  Type B: Somewhat flatter stable riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or more; footprint of 100 to 150 feet
-  Type C: Levee setback; footprint of 150 feet or more
-  Type D: Physical non-structural

Existing Conditions and Facilities:

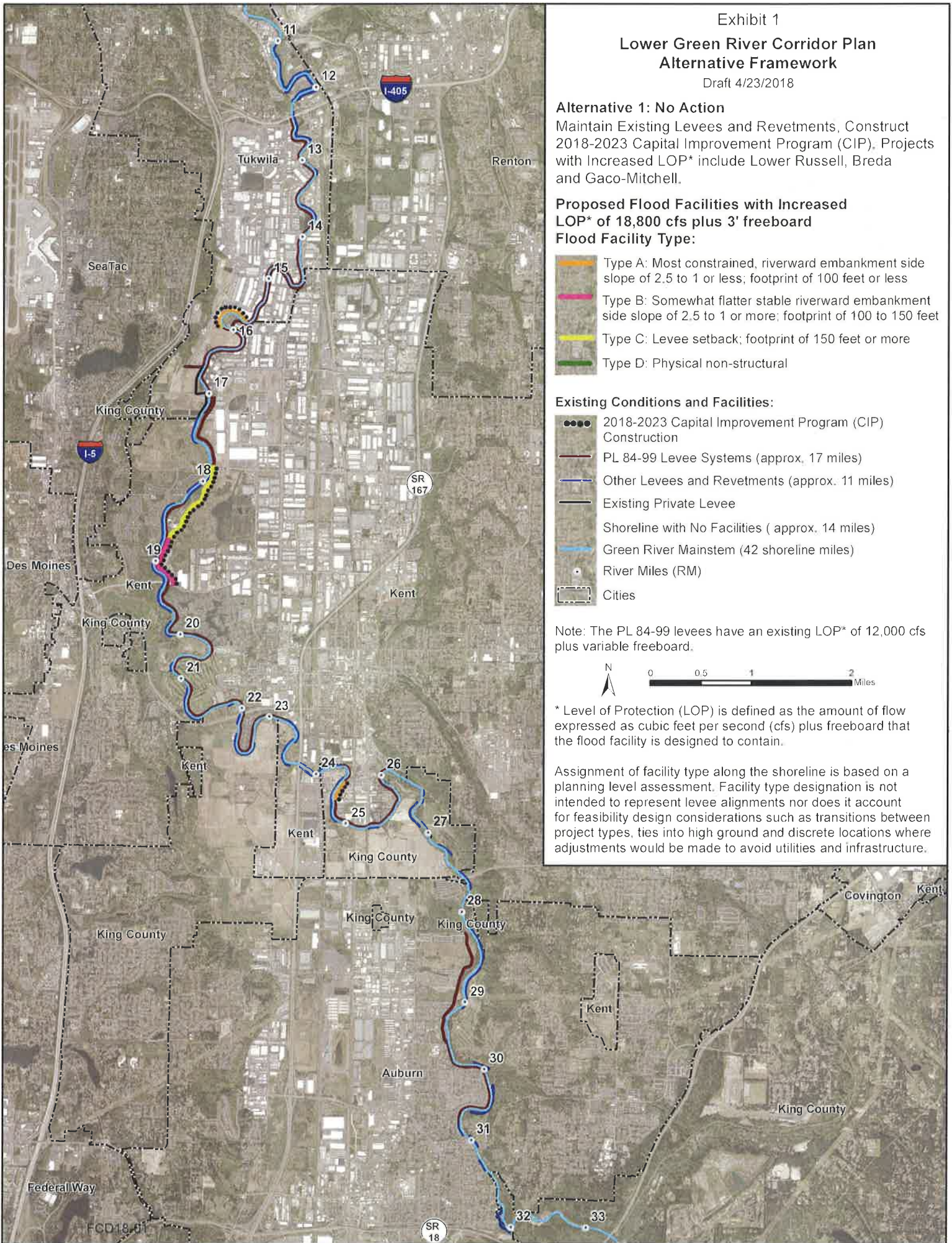
-  2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Construction
-  PL 84-99 Levee Systems (approx. 17 miles)
-  Other Levees and Revetments (approx. 11 miles)
-  Existing Private Levee
-  Shoreline with No Facilities (approx. 14 miles)
-  Green River Mainstem (42 shoreline miles)
-  River Miles (RM)
-  Cities

Note: The PL 84-99 levees have an existing LOP* of 12,000 cfs plus variable freeboard.



* Level of Protection (LOP) is defined as the amount of flow expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs) plus freeboard that the flood facility is designed to contain.

Assignment of facility type along the shoreline is based on a planning level assessment. Facility type designation is not intended to represent levee alignments nor does it account for feasibility design considerations such as transitions between project types, ties into high ground and discrete locations where adjustments would be made to avoid utilities and infrastructure.







**Lower Green River Corridor Plan
Alternative Framework**

Draft 4/23/2018






Alternative 2

Limited Extent of Systemwide Increased LOP*

**Proposed Flood Facilities with Increased LOP* of 18,800 cfs plus 3' freeboard
Flood Facility Type:**

-  Type A: Most constrained, riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or less; footprint of 100 feet or less
-  Type B: Somewhat flatter stable riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or more; footprint of 100 to 150 feet
-  Type C: Levee setback; footprint of 150 feet or more
-  Type D: Physical non-structural

Existing Conditions and Facilities:

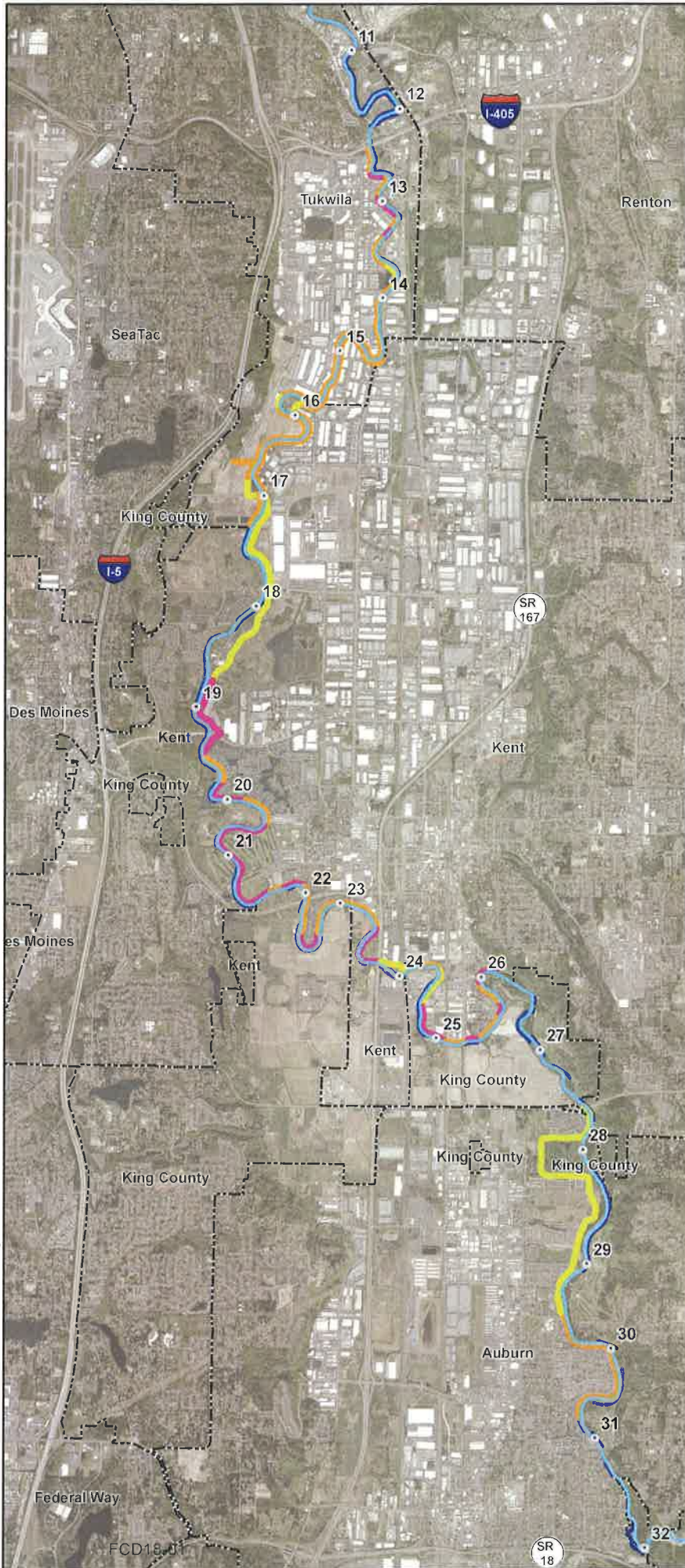
-  Other Levees and Revetments (approx. 11 miles)
-  Existing Private Levee
-  Green River Mainstem (42 shoreline miles)
-  River Miles (RM)
-  Cities

Note: The PL 84-99 levees have an existing LOP* of 12,000 cfs plus variable freeboard.



* Level of Protection (LOP) is defined as the amount of flow expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs) plus freeboard that the flood facility is designed to contain.

Assignment of facility type along the shoreline is based on a planning level assessment. Facility type designation is not intended to represent levee alignments nor does it account for feasibility design considerations such as transitions between project types, ties into high ground and discrete locations where adjustments would be made to avoid utilities and infrastructure.







**Lower Green River Corridor Plan
Alternative Framework**

Draft 4/23/2018






Alternative 3

High Extent of Increased LOP*. Includes Alternative #2 plus additional areas on both the right and left bank.

**Proposed Flood Facilities with Increased LOP* of 18,800 cfs plus 3' freeboard
Flood Facility Type:**

-  Type A: Most constrained, riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or less; footprint of 100 feet or less
-  Type B: Somewhat flatter stable riverward embankment side slope of 2.5 to 1 or more; footprint of 100 to 150 feet
-  Type C: Levee setback; footprint of 150 feet or more
-  Type D: Physical non-structural

Existing Conditions and Facilities:

-  Other Levees and Revetments (approx. 11 miles)
-  Existing Private Levee
-  Green River Mainstem (42 shoreline miles)
-  River Miles (RM)
-  Cities

Note: The PL 84-99 levees have an existing LOP* of 12,000 cfs plus variable freeboard.



* Level of Protection (LOP) is defined as the amount of flow expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs) plus freeboard that the flood facility is designed to contain.

Assignment of facility type along the shoreline is based on a planning level assessment. Facility type designation is not intended to represent levee alignments nor does it account for feasibility design considerations such as transitions between project types, ties into high ground and discrete locations where adjustments would be made to avoid utilities and infrastructure.

