



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 24, 2018

TO: Pierce County Planning Commission

FROM: Brynne Walker, Planner III Manager, SWM
Anne-marie Marshall-Dody, Planning and Partnerships Manager, SWM

SUBJECT: The Pierce County Planning Commission will consider and review the proposed 2018 Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and Progress Report (Flood Plan) Update

NOTICE: Notice of the Planning Commission public meeting was published in the official County newspaper, the News Tribune, on July 11, 2018.

SEPA: The Flood Plan Update is a progress report on the existing projects and recommendations that were included in the 2013 Flood Plan. The update does not include new projects or activities that change the original threshold determination or require new analysis. Additionally, the plan does not include significant changes to any existing project or recommendation. As there is no proposal as defined by WAC 197-11 it was determined that a supplemental EIS, addendum or other environmental review was not necessary.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A** Proposed Amendments to Chapter 19D.60, "Pierce County Storm Drainage and Surface Water Management Plan
- Attachment B** Draft 2018 Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and Progress Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the draft 2018 Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and Progress Report.

19D.60 Pierce County Storm Drainage and Surface Water Management Plan

Add new subsection E.1, 2018 *Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and Progress Report*.

BACKGROUND

The Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan and its update are a long-term plan to guide river management on the Puyallup, White, Carbon, and Nisqually rivers, as well as three large tributaries Greenwater and Mashel rivers and South Prairie Creek. The planning area for the Flood Plan includes unincorporated Pierce County, as well as parts of the cities of Auburn, Fife, Orting, Pacific, Puyallup, Sumner, Tacoma, and the towns of South Prairie and Eatonville.

This update is a companion document to the 2013 Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan. As part of the County's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program, the County must update the flood plan once every five years. CRS requires a number of elements to be updated ranging from new floodplain or hazard mapping to completed mitigation projects. This Flood Plan Update will not establish or propose new policy, but it will report on relevant regulatory changes that may have emerged from the 2013 plan. This plan update may also inform updates to the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District Comprehensive Plan of Development.

The goals in the proposed 2018 Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan Update and Progress Report have been updated to be more concise and comprehensive to fit the needs of committee members and residents. The updated goals are 1) to reduce risk to life and property from river flooding and channel migration; 2) identify and implement flood hazard management activities in a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner; 3) support resilient communities, economic activities, and improve habitat conditions in flood-prone and channel migration areas; and 4) continue to implement cost effective river flood hazard management activities supported by a long term flexible funding strategy.

Pierce County is currently a Class 2 community through the Community Rating System program. This program is supported by the National Flood Insurance Program, and is just one of the ways Pierce County provides excellent customer service to its residents. By participating in this program, Pierce County residents receive a 40% off discount on their flood insurance. There are various requirements that must be met in order for a county to be ranked a Class 2 community. Having a current Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan is just one of the requirements.