Pierce County
Flood Control Zone District
2014 Highlights



PIERCE COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT

Governance

The Flood Control Zone District is a special purpose district governed by a Board of Supervisors and an Executive Committee. The Board of Supervisors meets quarterly and the Executive Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month. They authorize plans, budgets, project funding and program and policy orders. All meetings are open to the public.

Members of the Pierce County Council serve as the Supervisors for the Flood Control Zone District.

They include:
Joyce McDonald, Chair
Rick Talbert, Vice Chair
Stan Flemming, Third Member of Executive Committee
Doug Richardson
Connie Ladenburg
Dan Roach
Jim McCune

The County Council also created an Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Board on capital projects. The Advisory Committee typically meets the first Friday of every other month. Their meeting dates are posted on the Flood Control Zone District website: www.piercefloodcontrol.org. Their meetings are also open to the public.

Advisory Committee Members:
Ken Wolfe, Chair—City of Orting
Ryan Mello, Vice Chair—City of Tacoma
Bill Sullivan—Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Tim Curtis—City of Fife
John Hopkins—City of Puyallup
Mike LeMaster—City of Sumner
Pat McCarthy—Pierce County Executive
Tiffany Speir—At-Large (Business) (through October 2014)
Dave Morell—At-Large (Unincorporated areas)
Charles West—At-Large (Unincorporated areas)
Clare Petrich—Port of Tacoma
Neil Johnson—WRIA* 10
Bryan Bowden—WRIA 11
Mike Brandstetter—WRIA 12
Tim Payne—WRIA 15
(*Water Resource Inventory Areas for watershed management)





Pierce County has had fifteen presidentially declared disasters since 1962 because of flooding. Our communities and infrastructure continue to be at risk. If we endure a significant flood in the next few years, we could end up with more than $725 million worth in damages and losses. It's an enormous problem to tackle and the Pierce County Council decided to act. In 2012, they created the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District to start addressing flood management needs so our communities are safer.

Project Progress Report

Projects for the District are selected based on a number of criteria including public safety, the level of benefit to the region, economic and environmental risks from flooding, frequency of flooding, ability to leverage funds, and readiness to construct.

Soon Pierce County residences will see two new projects completed that will help protect citizens and the environment from the hazards of major flooding.

The **Calistoga Setback Levee**, ranked the highest priority project for the district, is a 1.5 mile setback levee in the City of Orting. When completed it will reconnect 46 acres of floodplain to the Puyallup River. It will also remove over 5,700 feet of existing levee, and install large apex jams, log spurs, roughened bank and native plantings that will help manage the river flow downstream. The new levee will be set on higher ground and will be three to five feet higher than the old levee.

This area has experienced several cases of flooding, endangering hundreds of homes, local business, two schools in the area and other public infrastructure. The new project is 90% complete as of November 2014 and residents in the area will soon enjoy much greater protection from floods that are common to the area. People are also saving money from lower flood insurance rates, showing the investment in the flood district is already paying off.

The City of Orting also partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Department of Ecology, and Salmon Recovery funding board to reduce the financial burden on the flood district and begin construction as soon as permits were received. The total project cost is $ 18.6 million.





Logs spurs along the bank of the new Calistoga Levee in the City of Orting go deep into the ground to help break up river flow along the face of the levee and provide fish habitat.

Project Progress Report

Another significant project underway is the **Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant Floodwall**, which ranked second highest in the District's priority list. Without the floodwall, the Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant is unprotected on the landside of the plant and vulnerable to floodwaters, posing an enormous environmental and economic risk to the region. If pollution from the plant entered into Commencement Bay, it would cause significant harm to the environment, trade and our economy in general. It would also pose a public health risk.

During large storm events, the plant receives and treats more than 130 million gallons of wastewater a day before it flows into Commencement Bay. Eighty percent of that comes from Tacoma, but the plant also treats the wastewater from about 19,500 customers in Fife, Milton, Fircrest and unincorporated Pierce County.

Fortunately, technology is playing an important role in protecting citizens from this potential harm. The treatment plant will get 2,500 feet of floodwalls on three sides of the plant. The walls extend 25 feet down into the ground to protect the plant from flooding and groundwater seepage. There will also be roadway access gates that rise if flooding conditions occur. The total project cost is $7.5 million and the District is contributing up to $6 million.

If any FCZD project is completed under budget, the district shares the savings with the jurisdiction.

To find out about other projects in the District's Capital Improvement Plan, please visit www.piercefloodcontrol.org.





Onlookers see the metal slates that will comprise the majority of the Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Wall. Once they are placed in the ground, only a portion of the metal will be visible to the public.

Opportunity Fund

Cities in Pierce County are eligible to apply for opportunity fund dollars from the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District (District) to use toward flood control and storm water related projects. Cities can receive up to ten percent of the funds their jurisdiction contributes to the flood district levy.

According to state law, cities can use opportunity funds for flood control, storm water control and cooperative watershed management projects, and for studies and monitoring programs that support these projects.

Potential eligible projects might include:

- Developing green infrastructure such as rain gardens and stream flow controls
- Building compensatory storage for flood relief
- Maintenance and operations projects
- Acquisition of Vactor equipment

To receive opportunity funds, cities must enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the District and submit a Notice of Intent for how the funds will be used. To find out more about how your jurisdiction can apply for the funds and how much is available for your city, please visit www.piercefloodcontrol.org and look for District Funding.

"Flooding is a critical regional problem that needs to be addressed. This is also an opportunity for cities to work on local needs as well,"

Joyce McDonald
Supervisor and District Chair





This berm and the plants provide water quality treatment to water flowing from nearby Golden Givens Road before it enters North Fork Clover Creek.

Budget

Each year the Board of Supervisors approves a budget for the Flood District. In 2014, the District budgeted $9,190,963 for flood projects such as the Calistoga Setback Levee and the Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Wall you read about in this report. That included $4,968,005 from 2013 that had not yet been used but were dedicated for projects once they were ready for construction.

The 2014 budget included $1,414,152 for the Opportunity Fund for cities to use on local projects. The District also set aside $1 million for projects that will qualify for federal funding after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' General Investigation Study is complete.

$1,086,723 went to Operations and Maintenance of existing flood management infrastructure and $210,655 was budgeted for Administration costs for the District.

In October the Board of Supervisors will approve a budget for 2015, as well as a Capital Improvement Plan for the next round of flood projects in the District.

2014–2019 Projects

***Calistoga Levee**
Orting

***Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant Floodwall**
Tacoma

***North Levee Rd Setback Levee**
Fife/Puyallup

Upper Nisqually Revetment Retrofit
Ashford/Mt. Rainier Park Entrance

Alward Rd Setback
Orting/South Prairie

Clear Creek Levee
Tacoma/Puyallup

Orville Rd Revetment (Kapowsin Creek)
Southwest of Orting

Orville Rd Channel Migration Protection
Southwest of Orting

***Carbon River Levee Bank Stabilization/Flow Deflection**
Orting

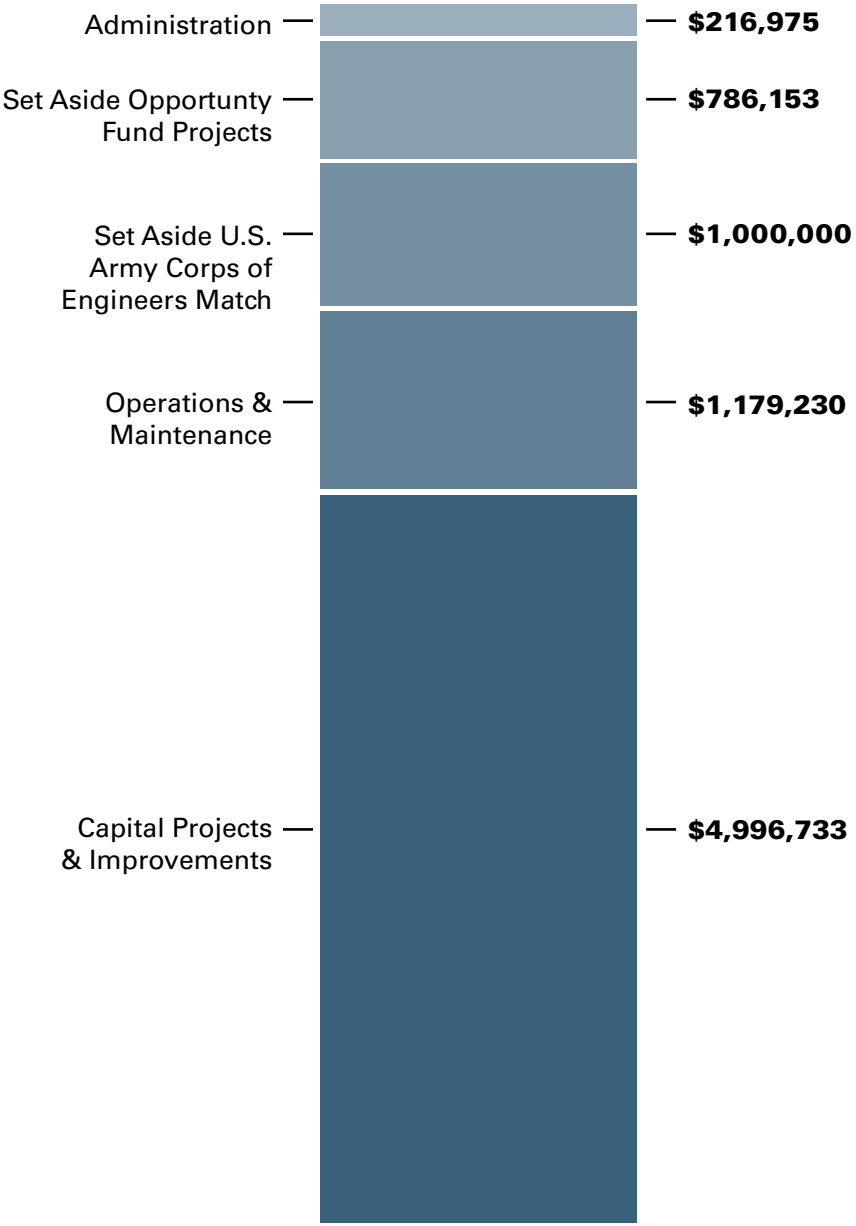
Puyallup River Gravel Removal Project
County Wide

Neadham Rd Acquisition/Channel Migration Protection
Southwest of Orting

* funding in 2016

2015 Total Budget—$8,179,091

New Revenue—$7,861,531 • Carry Forward—$317,560



What To Do In Case of a Flood

Before a flood:

- Know if you are in a flood-prone area. For a free map showing the flood risk on your property, call (253) 798–2725 or email pcwater@co.pierce.wa.us.
- Buy flood insurance. Visit www.floodsmart.gov or contact your insurance agent.
- Develop an emergency plan for your family, farm or business.
- Know several safe routes from your home, school or business to high ground.
- Establish meeting places in case family members are separated.
- Designate an out-of-state contact to call if local lines are busy or down.
- Assemble an emergency kit. For more information, visit www.piercecountywa.org/dem.
- For emergency pet sheltering services, contact PCART at (253) 798–6595.
- Move vehicles, equipment, livestock and pets to higher ground.
- Store valuables and household chemicals above flood levels.
- Ensure underground storage tanks are fully sealed and secure.
- Get sand and sandbags ahead of time and learn how to use them.

During a Flood (SAFETY FIRST)

Do not walk, wade or drive through flooded areas.

- Monitor local news for emergency updates.
- Be prepared to evacuate. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it and walk to safety in the direction you came from.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes - shortcuts may be blocked.
- If you are unable to safely leave a building due to rising water, call 911. Then, move to a higher floor or the roof. Take warm, weatherproof clothing, a flashlight, a cell phone and a battery or solar powered radio.
- If you have time before evacuating, close your main gas valve and turn off all utilities at the main power switch. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area.

After a Flood:

Listen to local news, and only go home when authorities say it's safe.

- Before re-entering your home, be cautious of potential structural damage, gas leaks, electrical shorts and live wires.
- Have a professional check your heating, electrical panel, outlets, and appliances for safety before using. Call utility companies to have utilities turned back on.
- For safe clean up of food, water supply and property, visit www.tpchd.org.
- Document your losses, photograph damages, record repair costs and contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.
- Mark the highest point where water was in your home or damaged structure.
- Pump-out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage.



Approximately 400 acres of farm and residential properties in the lower Clear Creek area outside of Puyallup and Tacoma suffered from flooding in the fall of 2008.

Know Your Home's Flood Risk

For a free floodplain map of your property, contact Pierce County Public Works and Utilities at (253) 798–2725 or email pcwater@co.pierce.wa.us. Please include your parcel number or address in your request.

To view your property's flood risk online:
Go to www.piercecountywa.org; click on "E Services"



Click on "About My Property;" accept "Terms of Use"



Select "Search by parcel or address;"enter your parcel number or address

Click on "Tell Me More" next to "Flood"

If you have questions about your property's flood risk, please contact Pierce County Planning and Land Services at: **(253) 798–3739 or email pcpals@co.pierce.wa.us.**





Voights Creek Fish Hatchery and nearby homes suffered flooding during the 2008/2009 flood season.



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Contact Info
www.piercefloodcontrol.org

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