



January 27, 2017
WP62029

Charles Ifft
Levee Safety Program Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Re: Pierce County System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) - Transmittal

Dear Mr. Ifft,

On behalf of Pierce County, I am pleased to forward our proposed SWIF plan to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review and acceptance. The process to develop the plan formally began in 2014 when Pierce County submitted a letter of intent to the Corps to develop a SWIF. This plan reflects the efforts of our SWIF Team and our local stakeholders represented by the SWIF Community Technical Group (CTG) to develop a plan that meets the requirements of the USACE; as well as our objective of developing a plan that reflects our unique considerations here in Pierce County.

This SWIF plan was prepared using best available technical information and an analysis of flood risk to prioritize the schedule of maintenance and improvements consistent with the USACE PL 84-99 program Continuing Eligibility Inspection (CEI) program and criteria for developing a SWIF. This plan reflects the complex economic, social, and cultural conditions in the watershed; the regulatory framework (e.g., federal, state, and local requirements); and legal agreements (e.g., with local tribes and USACE). This plan has also been developed as an implementing measure of the *Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan* (RFHMP) adopted in 2013. The geographic scope of the RFHMP includes the floodplains of the major rivers in Pierce County (i.e., the Puyallup and Nisqually rivers) and their major tributaries, with a primary focus on areas adjacent to the Pierce County system of levees and revetments.

We are looking forward to sitting down with yourself and others to go over the details of our SWIF, and look for your guidance on how to best coordinate with the Corps Division and Headquarters review of this plan. Perhaps a coordinated joint web meeting would be beneficial for all to be presented the same information and share comments. It is our intent to take comments generated back to our County

Charles Ifft, USACE
SWIF Plan Transmittal
January 27, 2017
Page 2

Executive branch and Council in consideration of a formal Resolution of support by the Pierce County Council including any revisions necessary to obtain full acceptance of our SWIF plan by the Corps.

We appreciate the USACE developing the SWIF process as a means to maintain eligibility in the USACE PL 84-99 program and over time reduce flood risk within our community. We look forward to working with your agency in our joint effort to reduce flood risks within Pierce County through implementation of our SWIF plan for the levee systems on our rivers.

Should you have any questions or require additional supportive information, please do not hesitate to call me at (253) 798-2492, or email: rwenman@co.pierce.wa.us.

Sincerely,



Robert Wenman, Senior Planner
SWIF Project Manager

cc: Brian Ziegler, Public Works Director
Anthony C. Fantello, Maintenance & Operations Manager, SWM
Anne-Marie Marshall-Dody, Planning & Programming Manager, SWM
Harold Smelt, Manager, SWM
File

Enclosures: SWIF Plan
Attachments