

## ShoreScore Update - April 2021



### In This Issue - **FLOOD DISTRICT PLANNING** and **FLOOD INSURANCE**

#### **County Flood Control District (FCD) Update**

**"King County Widens Its View"** - That was our announcement in [last month's issue](#) of ShoreScore.

Subsequently, on April 7th the Executive Committee of the FCD met online and, despite testimony from WSSA and several lakeside residents, they approved a complex, long-term program to "solve" Lake Sammamish flooding issues. It would be called the "Sammamish Capital Investment Strategy" or CIS.

WSSA submitted detailed documentation of [our concerns](#) prior to the FCD meeting. We encourage you to review that critique. Also, a video of the entire FCD [committee meeting](#) is available online as well as a shorter version with [just our testimony](#).

**Does the County's Revised Approach Present Problems?** - We posed this question in last month's ShoreScore and, following the Flood District action, reported above, asked ourselves again if we are being needlessly concerned. We believe all of us on the lake should be concerned. Why? Because accepting this program or its promise of County financial assistance might:

- Signal your acceptance of seasonal flooding of your property and an elevated OHWM.
- Limit your right to any future legal action.
- Impose tighter, costly re-development standards on your property.

In addition, there are no immediate flood relief actions included beyond re-advertising a contract for the Dynamic Weir analysis. Worse, the County's suggested remediation efforts, such as floating docks, have already been rejected for not being fish friendly. Essentially, their message is that we are the problem!

Please dig deeper into the specifics of the County CIS program by clicking [here](#). This online document indicates in **GREEN**, **YELLOW**, and **RED** highlighting WSSA's level of concern (GOOD, BAD, or UGLY) on each of the motion statements that will guide the CIS.

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#### **100 Year Floodplain and YOU - FEMA's Erroneous Mapping Addressed**

**More on FEMA Map Error** - Last month we reported that some lake residents had received notifications that their property is in the [FEMA 100 year floodplain](#), and therefore need flood insurance. Aware that his home is well above the lake, Bellevue resident Jim Mackey pursued the issue. His scrutiny revealed the fact that an error had been made when FEMA superimposed an elevation contour map incorrectly on a map of the shoreline. Jim has recently reported how he went about receiving what is called a Letter Of Map Amendment (LOMA) - lifting the requirement for him to have insurance and gaining him a refund.

**But What About You?** Should you be concerned? Do you really need flood insurance? What if you did/did not receive a notice? It seems quite possible, for example, that someone selling their home, but

unaware they have been erroneously mapped into or out of the 100 Year Floodplain, might be in for a surprise. So, citing Jim Mackey's experience, we've prepared some [guidance steps](#) for you.

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## Closure

**Your Support Is Needed** - While we will continue to attempt to work with the County to achieve short-term flood protection, we need legal assistance to help interpret the nuanced language the County has approved. For example, would accepting assistance from the County to modify your dock or shorefront compromise your ownership in some manner? More importantly, is the continued delay in returning the flood control system to an operable level of flow contestable by lake residents?

Join with us to enlist the necessary legal and other professional advice.

We are asking that you donate \$500 or more to assist us<sup>1</sup>.

(Of course, we are always appreciative of any amount contributed.)

Please make checks payable to: WSSA and mail to PO Box 6773, Bellevue, WA 98008

If you would prefer to donate online, [click here](#) for PayPal and credit card contributions.

Thank you!

Feel free to contact us at: [sensibleshorelines@gmail.com](mailto:sensibleshorelines@gmail.com)



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<sup>1</sup> Washington Sensible Shorelines Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for a contribution. Our Tax ID is 80-0508969. In addition, we can now accept stock contributions and matching corporate donations through Benevity.