RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3

A Resolution of the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors Relating to the Lower Puyallup River; Initiating the Planning Process for an Action Plan; Directing the Formation of a Task Force to Make Recommendations; and Directing the Development of a Legislative Strategy for State and Federal Support.

Whereas, the Puyallup River Watershed originates on the glaciers of Mount Rainier in the Cascade Mountain range, draining 1,040 square miles of water downstream to the Lower Puyallup River Floodplain; and

Whereas, the Lower Puyallup River Floodplain is characterized by a variety of land uses ranging from industrial near the outlet to Commencement Bay, to heavily urbanized residential and commercial in cities, as well as agricultural and rural; and

Whereas, the Lower Puyallup River Floodplain was historically ecologically diverse but has been heavily modified by dredging, levees, construction, and impervious surfaces due to urbanization; and

Whereas, the Lower Puyallup River Floodplain has experienced and is at risk of increased flooding that results in damage to both rural and urban areas throughout the basin; and

Whereas, flooding disproportionally affects people living in mobile home and recreational vehicle parks which are more likely to be located in mapped flood hazard areas than conventional stick-built homes; and

Whereas, the Port of Tacoma is located at the mouth and the lower reaches of the Puyallup River, is a federally-designated Strategic Seaport, and is considered by the U.S. Maritime Adminsitration as crucial for deploying military equipment and forces during contingencies and other national defense emergencies; and

Whereas, ECONorthwest prepared a Flood Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis for Pierce County in 2022 to provide an analysis of the county-wide conditions and impacts to property and infrastructure associated with current and future flooding in Pierce County; and

Whereas, the economic analysis found that damages from a large flood event in Pierce County are estimated at $838.9 million for roads and bridges, with road closures causing up to $3.0 million in costs due to transportation disruptions, and a catastrophic levee breech could cost $59.3 million from transportation delays; and

Whereas, sea level rise is expected to inundate large portions of the Port of Tacoma, which is a central hub for imports and exports for Pierce County and is a source of 42,100 jobs and almost $3 billion dollars of economic activity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) found basis for preparing a flood risk management general investigation to address flood risk and issued a draft integrated feasibility report and environmental impact statement in 2016; and

Whereas, the draft feasibility report issued by the Corps found that damage due to the 0.2% chance annual flood event in the Lower Puyallup River floodplain could exceed $3.4 billion; and

Whereas, Pierce County and partners have reduced flood risk by strengthening regulatory guidelines and investing more than $50 million into flood reduction measures since 2013; and

Whereas, Pierce County is updating the current flood maps and understanding of existing flood risk for the Lower Puyallup reach; and

Whereas, additional investment strategies need to be identifiedin flood reduction measures have been identified for future projects; and

Whereas, additional investment strategies need to be identified to continue the efforts; **Now Therefore,**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District:

Section 1. The Pierce County Flood Control Zone District (PCFCZD) Board of Supervisors (Board) directs the PCFCZD Executive Director in partnership with the District Administrator to develop an action plan that provides a programmatic approach to updating and advancing flood risk reduction in the Lower Puyallup as identified in the District's Comprehenive Plan of Development, the Pierce County Comprehensive Flood Management Plan, and based in part upon the findings of the GI.

Section 2. The Board directs the formation of a Task Force to be chaired by the Chair of the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District to advocate for, accelerate the implementation of, and support the investment and funding of approved actions, while providing input to the development of the action plan. Invitations to participate on the Task Force shall be extended to elected officials from:

- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Pierce County;
- Port of Tacoma;
- City of Fife;
- City of Puyallup; and
- City of Tacoma

Section 3. The Board directs the PCFCZD Executive Director and District Administrator to develop a scope of work to guide the proposed approach in 2027.

Section 4. The Board directs the PCFCZD Executive Director and District Administrator to develop a legislative agenda for state and federal engagement with the Lower Puyallup strategy for consideration by the County Executive, County Council, and Board by November 30, 2026.

ADOPTED this 8th **day of** April **, 2026.**

ATTEST:

Brenna Price
Clerk of the Board

PIERCE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT
Pierce County, Washington

Dave Morell
Flood Control Zone District Chair