



October 15, 2014

TO: Flood Authority Members
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: Use of Current Flood Proofing Funds

The purpose of this memo is to update and make recommendation on vent retrofits and home elevations as directed by the Flood Authority at their 9/18/2014 meeting. We will discuss this material on our Flood Authority conference call on Thursday, October 16th. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

I. Background

At the Flood Authority's 9/18/2014 regular meeting in Rochester, the Flood Authority directed staff to develop and recommend a process for consideration at their next meeting (10/16/2014) to utilize unspent 2013-15 Capital Budget funds on vent retrofits and home elevations. This was necessary as several proposals were submitted as part of the Flood Authority's 2015-17 small project solicitation process that appeared consistent with the purpose of the ~\$1.5M in 2013-15 funds still available to "reduce damage to residential and other structures in the floodplain, through flood proofing and buyouts." These project proposals were specifically identified as:

- "B" proposals as viewed here <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=z33VOynYGAcw.kKZZEVZorhWw>; and
- projects for 2015-17 as follows:
 - Thurston County, [Independence Road Flood Reduction Feasibility Study](#).
 - Thurston County, [Elevate Three Residential Structures](#).
 - Bucoda, [Vent Retrofit](#).
 - Bucoda, [Elevate Two Residential Structures](#).

Staff met with the Washington State Department of Ecology, French and Associates, and HDR on 10/06/2014 to develop a process to utilize the unspent funds for projects such as those submitted by Thurston County and Bucoda. The recommendation outlined below is the product of that meeting.

II. Recommendation:

At the 10/06/2014 meeting with Washington State Department of Ecology, French and Associates, and HDR, meeting participants agreed on a three-part process to utilize the ~\$1.5M in unspent funds. The following outlines that process:



Part I – Vent Retrofits (10/16/2014-7/01/2015):

- Improperly installed vents create a substantial additional hazard to homeowners and as such should be addressed immediately.
- Retrofitting improperly installed vents is not thought to be particularly expensive, i.e., likely less than \$2.5k average per dwelling unit.
- It is not known how many vent retrofits are needed throughout the Basin; however, it is known there are likely more than those identified by Bucoda.
- A Basin-wide approach to vent retrofit is needed and should be implemented as follows:
 - 10/17/2014 -- Flood Authority staff (a) notify Basin governments that grant dollars are available to retrofit improperly installed foundation vents in their communities, and (b) solicit interest in participating in community assessment pilots at Part II below.
 - 11/07/2014 – Requests for vent retrofit grant funds are due as well statements of interest from basin governments interested in participating in community assessment pilots.
 - 11/10/2014 -- Ecology, French and Associates, HDR and Flood Authority staff meet to (a) review vent retrofit proposals, tally total costs, and develop scopes of work for OFM contracting; and (b) select community assessment pilots for Part II.
- **Note:** Based on response the Washington State Department of Ecology, French and Associates, HDR, and the Flood Authority staff team will decide the merits of a single contractor versus utilization of multiple contractors.

Part II – Community Assessment Pilots/Home Elevations (11/13/2014-7/01/2015):

- A community assessment (area analysis) is a precursor to home elevations and requires a Basin government to conduct an assessment of their community for where the greatest risk and loss potentials are (above and beyond FEMA repetitive loss figures) and to develop a prioritized strategy for conducting home elevations, buyouts, and other flood proofing applications.
- 11/10/2014 -- Once funds remaining after vent retrofit requests are known, the Ecology, French and Associates, HDR, Flood Authority staff Team will meet to outline a process and requirements for participating in a pilot and for conducting a community assessment and doing prioritized treatments (elevations, buyouts, flood proofing, etc.)
- 11/13/2014 – Recommendation for utilization of Part II funds is presented to the Flood Authority at their 11/13/2014 meeting for consideration and approval.

Part III – Technical Assistance (\$100K, 11/13/2014-7/01/2015):

- Provide technical assistance (entity TBD) to help communities and property owners undertake self-help flood protection measures and to help communities address repetitive loss areas.