

LEXINGTON FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT

of Cowlitz County, Washington
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Detention Structure Improvement Project - South Fork McCorkle Creek

The Lexington Flood Control Zone District (LFCZD) was established to provide flood protection from the Cowlitz River and interior streams throughout the Lexington area. It operates and maintains an interconnected system of levees, dikes, pipes, storm drains, pump stations, drainage ditches and a water detention facility. On occasion, it is necessary to construct new, or reconstruct existing, system infrastructure.

Since the late 1960's, flooding has occurred along the lower portion of McCorkle Creek, which has impacted residences and businesses in the Lexington area. The flooding potential increased after the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens when more



than 50 homes in the Ponderosa area were flooded in 1986 due to overwhelmed flood control facilities. In spite of multiple flood protection improvement projects completed by the Lexington Flood Control Zone District in the McCorkle Creek drainage basin, flooding continues to be a concern. The district authorized Gibbs & Olson, Inc. to conduct a thorough analysis of the flooding issues, and to recommend mitigation measures. The report determined that raising the South Fork McCorkle Creek Detention Structure, located at the west end of Sparks Drive, was the most cost effective method of providing increased flood protection for the lower portions of the drainage basin.

The three-phase detention structure improvement project will raise the existing water detention structure by 13 feet, and provide the capacity to retain the runoff from a 100-year rainfall event. Phase 1 consists of constructing a large preload fill section just north of the existing spillway that will allow the soils to compress prior to construction of the dam in that section. Nutter Corporation, a company with considerable experience in this type of construction, was the successful bidder for Phase 1. Construction is scheduled to begin in late-October of 2020 with completion expected in early 2021. An earthen dam will be constructed south of the spillway during Phase 2, scheduled for spring through summer of 2021. A new spillway and outlet pipe will be completed in Phase 3, which is scheduled to begin in late-2021. Project completion is expected in the spring of 2022.

The pre-load phase will require a short-term increase in truck traffic. In cooperation with the contractor, we will strive to minimize the impact. We believe that any short term nuisance this project creates is well worth the additional flood protection for Lexington.

Project Funding will be provided by \$770,000 Lexington Flood Control Zone District funds and a \$4,700,000 Public Works Trust Fund Loan.

Please contact Patrick Harbison, our diking engineer at harbisonp@co.cowlitz.wa.us or 360-577-3030 ext-6536 with any questions or concerns.