

OUR
GREEN/
DUWAMISH

An orange speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the left, containing the text "Share Connect Thrive".

Share
Connect
Thrive

Welcome

Christie True

Steve Lee

January 21, 2016

WAG MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Recap of project and completed activities
2. Phase II Scope of work and approach
 - Understanding the November WAG survey
3. Potential Phase II focus areas presentations
 - Climate Resilience in the G/D Watershed
 - Air Conditions in the G/D Watershed



TODAY'S AGENDA

1:00 PM – Welcome

1:05 PM - Review Agenda

1:15 PM - Recap of Completed Activities

1:25 PM - Phase II Kickoff

1:55 PM - Climate Resilience in G/D

2:45 PM – BREAK

3:00 PM - Air Quality in G/D

3:45 PM – WAG Schedule & Next Steps

3:55 PM - Thank you



WAG PURPOSE

- Foster a shared vision for a clean, safe and healthy Green/Duwamish Watershed
- Help the project team inventory existing or planned actions in the watershed to improve land, air, or water
- Review public and stakeholder input, background data, and other information and advise the project team on prioritizing actions to improve land, air, or water
- Communicate the purpose and expected benefits of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy to constituents and other stakeholders
- Serve as stewards of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy as it is implemented



WAG MEETING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

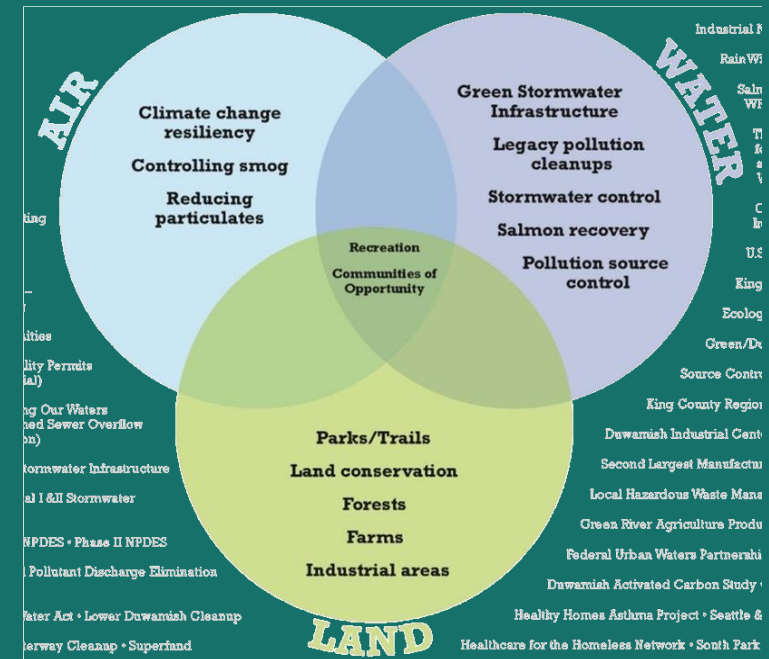
- Everyone participate, no one dominate
- Expresses your views, we need to hear from you
- Share time so that all can participate, speak concisely
- Stay focused
- Speak one at a time
- Please put cell phones on vibrate or turn off



Watershed Strategy Update

Sarah Ogier

Heidi Kandathil



PROJECT UPDATES

- UW GFL Partnership
- PRR Contract
- KC Staff & Internal Project Team to provide
 - Technical Expertise
 - Provide context for key focus areas
 - Engage partners to enrich all aspects of project



PHASE I - REVIEW



- Procured UW and PRR support
- Formed Watershed Advisory Group
 - WAG met May 15th & Sept 16th
- Background research:
 - GIS data collection
 - Review of current initiatives/projects/plans
- Watershed listening tour
- Identified watershed challenges & opportunities
- November focus area survey

PHASE I PRODUCTS

Completed by UW Green Futures Lab

- Summary memo of Phase I
- List of plans and programs
- Plans and program inventory
- Challenges and opportunities
- Draft maps of existing conditions
- Synthesis Cards

To be completed by King County:

- Background Report

KEY PLANS / PROGRAMS
NPDES – TMDL Water Quality
(EPA + DOE) - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Act (NPDES) - National Compliance required by Clean Water Act states restore their

PSRC Regional Economic Prosperity Partnerships
government, business, and community

KEY CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges:

- Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase, contributing to climate change
- Climate-driven flooding, storm surge, and precipitation changes will adversely affect livability within the watershed and disrupt industry
- Anticipated temperature increases and more extreme weather events will tax the resources and health of people and ecosystems in the watershed

Opportunities:

- Pursue management of stormwater, flooding, and storm surge comprehensively, as an interconnected system
- Advance efforts to increase tree canopy and other

biodiversity
in the green duwamish watershed

BACKGROUND

The Green Duwamish watershed is home to an impressive array of wildlife species. Their varieties include marine, intertidal, and freshwater aquatic species living and traveling within and between important habitat from the highly modified Duwamish Estuary to the upper reaches of the Green River. The watershed is also home to birds of prey, charismatic mammals, and a stunning palette of plants, fungi, old growth trees, and much more. The landscapes that provide food and shelter to many of these varied species are actively conserved, protected, and restored through the actions of numerous government agencies, non-profits, community groups, and individuals.

In spite of these many concerted efforts, habitat within the watershed is threatened by urban development, invasive species, and climate change, among other factors. As a result, historically abundant aquatic species such as Chinook salmon and steelhead, for instance, have been declared endangered as a result of decades of habitat degradation. Increases in water temperature, changes to water quality, and

KEY PLANS / PROGRAMS

EPA Record of Decision for Love Canal Superfund Site - "To be protected, the environment," the cleanup will reduce flood risk to people and

Floodplains by Design (DOE + I) - grant program for flood protection and reduce flood risk to people and

Puget Sound Action Agenda (P) is driven by six goals mandate Legislature to restore the health of the Puget Sound by 2020. Outcomes are measured by restored and net miles of shoreline

Near Term Actions for South Puget Sound Specific recommendations for the South Puget Sound Area. Multiple targets to reach protecting, and restoring flood

economic prosperity for the region include those that support technology and innovation, grant communities, and education for students



Core Plus
and education for students

KEY CHALLENGES

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OUR GREEN/DUWAMISH WEBSITE

www.ourgreenduwamish.com



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HomeWhat is Our Green/Duwamish?People + PartnersGet Involved

[← Duwamish Alive! activities at Cecil B. Moses Park](#)[Swim Duwamish video highlights early action cleanup work →](#)

On to the next phase of the project


Posted on [November 10, 2015](#) by [kcwtd](#)

After soliciting input from stakeholders with strong ties to the watershed, the Our Green/Duwamish team has wrapped up the [Phase 1 Listening Tour](#). Thank you to everyone who participated in this process!

As promised, the team prepared a series of **documents** that summarizes what we've heard to date:

[Our Green Duwamish Summary Memo Phase I](#) This is a brief summary of the key findings from the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy stakeholder engagement process.

[List of Plans and Programs](#) This is a list of existing plans and programs addressing biodiversity, climate change, human health, social equity and the economy.



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PHASE I FINDINGS

There is a lot going on in this watershed!

- Existing organizations and programs are working on many community priorities
- Some priorities are well defined and may just need additional “horsepower”
- Other challenges are less defined and could use additional exploration

Propose focusing on a few key areas where we (the watershed) are not as well organized for implementing solutions



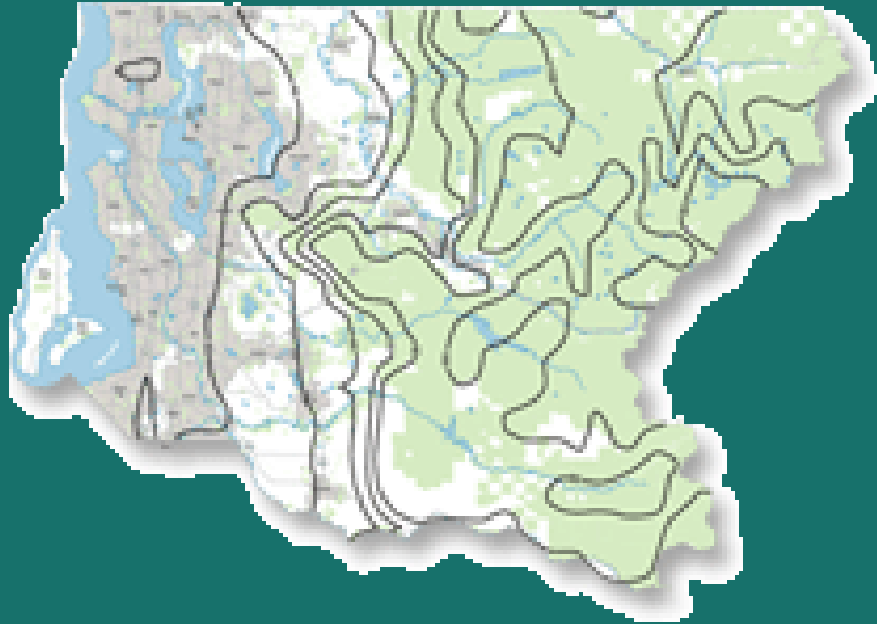
POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR PHASE II

- Watershed-wide stormwater management strategy
- Watershed-wide open space plan
- Integration of climate change resilience and preparedness programs/activities
- Improve air quality to advance public health

NOVEMBER 2015 – FOCUS AREA SURVEY

- Purpose:
 - Feedback on the direction of Our Green/Duwamish
 - Are these 4 focus areas useful to investigate?
 - Discuss any other important focus areas
- Audience: WAG members & interested parties
- Questions:
 - Should the focus area be moved forward?
 - Which agency/organization is best suited to lead this focus area (up to 3)?
 - Which agency/organization is best suited to partner?
 - Are there any other focus areas that should be further investigated?
- Sent to over 70 people
 - 26 responded

WATERSHED-WIDE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

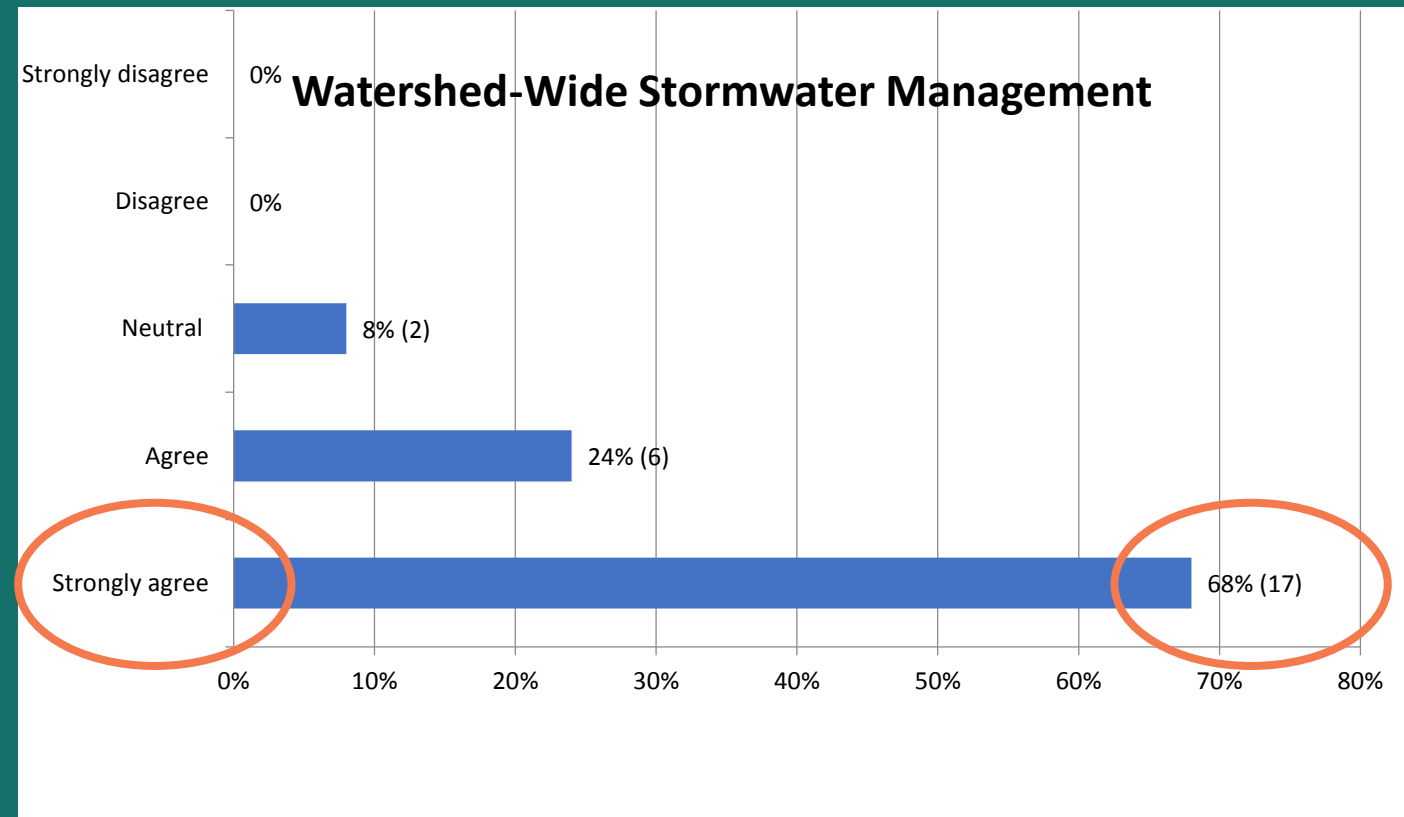


Create a watershed-wide stormwater management strategy to reduce priority toxic pollutants that impact human health and the environment.

Consider innovative methods for improving and implementing stormwater programs, facilities, and infrastructure consistently across the watershed.

SURVEY RESULTS - STORMWATER

Should this focus area be pursued (% & # of respondents shown on graph)?



SURVEY RESULTS - STORMWATER

Which organization is best suited to lead this focus area?

Stormwater	
Lead Agency	# of Votes
Ecology	13
KC	11
City of Seattle/SPU	4
EPA	3
PS Partnership	2
Municipalities	2
Nature Conservancy	2
WRIA 9	1
WEC	1
PS Natural Resource Alliancee	1
Stewardship Partners	1
KCD	1

Respondent Comments:

“Management at the watershed level provides the necessary flexibility to assess sources of pollution and implement innovative solutions, such as water quality trading, and green infrastructure to produce an overall improvement in water quality resulting in notable social and economic benefits in diverse neighborhoods. This approach provided the opportunity to counterbalance solutions between point and non-point sources.”

“There are existing programs that can be built upon -- the new municipal stormwater permit requirements (i.e., LID and basin planning) as well as the Pollutant Loading Assessment model.”

“The current uncoordinated efforts (driven by the fragmented jurisdictional structure) could be (partially) remedied by a watershed-scale approach.”

WATERSHED-WIDE OPEN SPACE PLAN

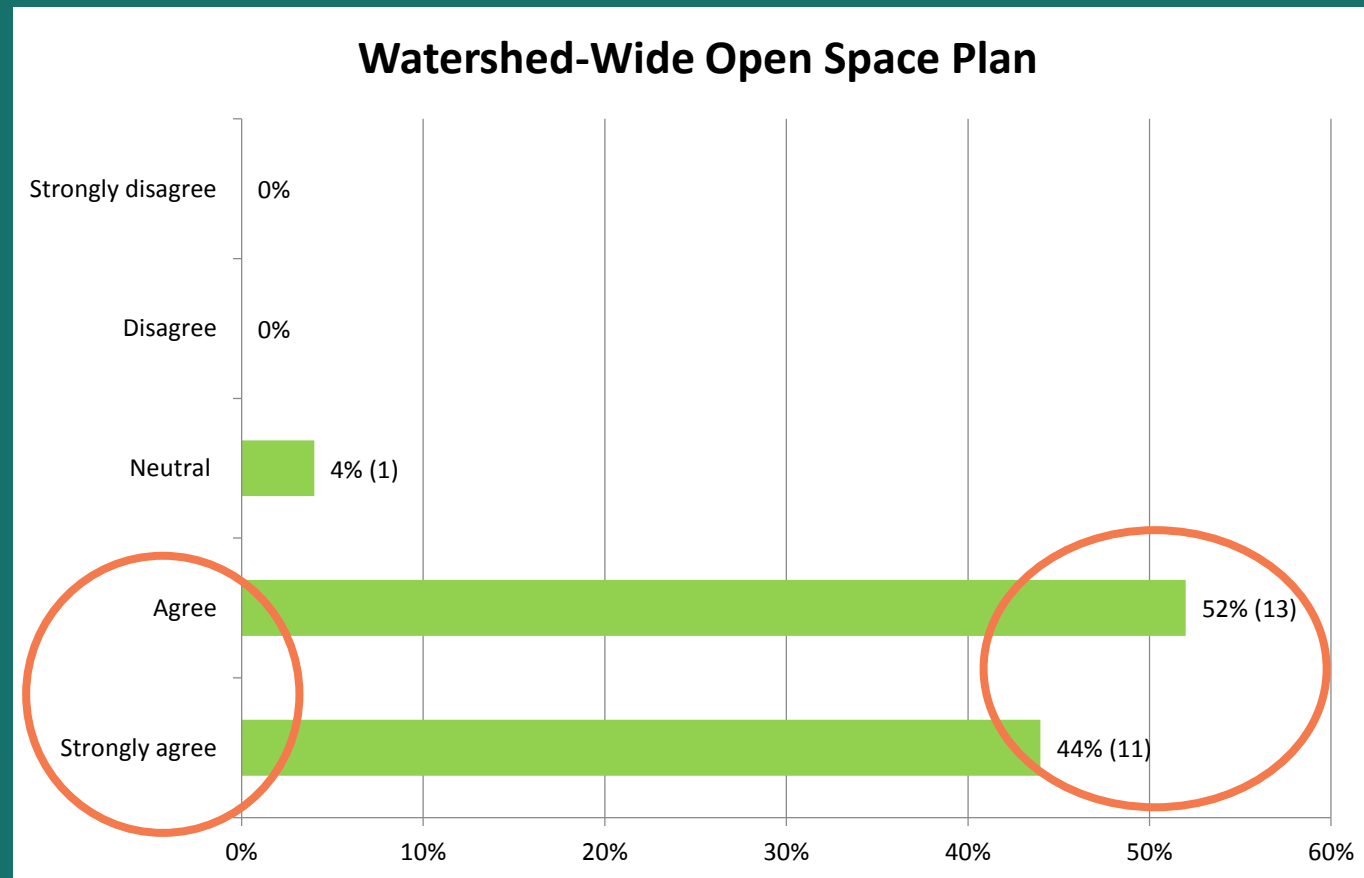
Develop a watershed-wide open space plan prioritizing areas that protect the most valuable open space, habitat, recreation lands and farmland.

Strategies could focus on acquiring new, and enhancing existing lands for city, county and state parks, urban forestry, salmon habitat, water quality improvement, agriculture, recreation, trails and floodplain functions.



SURVEY RESULTS – OPEN SPACE

Should this focus area be pursued (% & # of respondents shown on graph)?



SURVEY RESULTS – OPEN SPACE

Which organization is best suited to lead this focus area?

Open Space	
Lead Agency	# of Votes
KC	13
ROSS	3
Nature Conservancy	2
Municipalities	2
C of Seattle	2
American Farmland Trust	2
Ecology	2
WRIA 9	1
WDFW	1
Tribe	1
State DNR	1
PCC Farmland Trust	1
Neighborhood Groups	1
KCD	1
Forterra	1

Respondent Comments:

“This is an arena where we suffer from fragmented approaches that limit the value of our investments and efforts. a watershed scale approach could help advance open space management in a way that brings more open space services to those whose access level is the lowest.”

“There is a great need for an overall, comprehensive plan to protect natural habitat for people and our natural environment in the watershed. ... this focus area should only be pursued if all jurisdictions with public lands along the Green River participate and are willing to come to the table with the long-term view in mind. Specifically, that people are dependent on the environment to provide ecological services, and that we need to allow for a greater predominance of natural processes in order to achieve those services.”

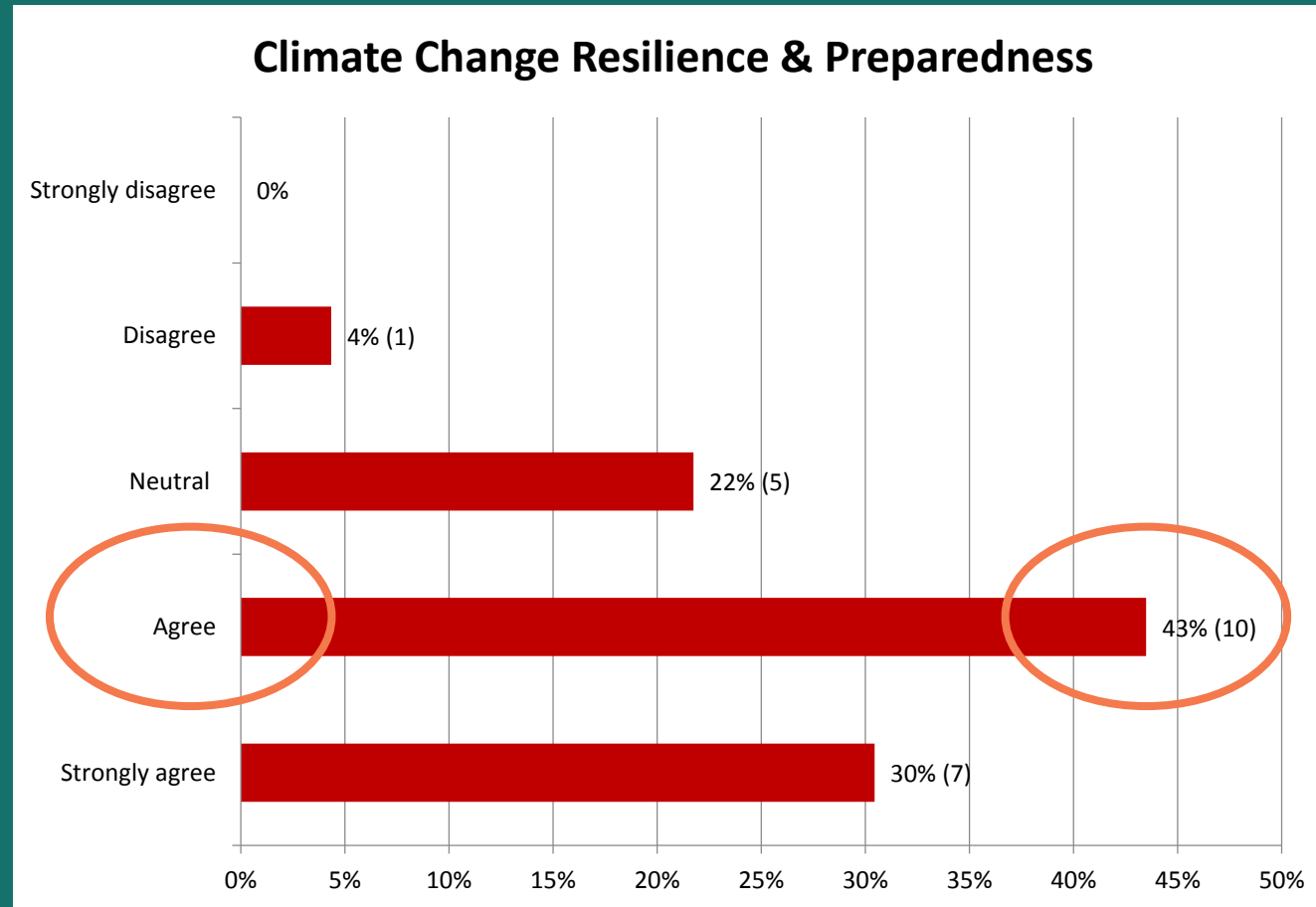
INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE & PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

Integrate climate change resilience and preparedness activities to provide a stronger response to current and future conditions and build a more resilient landscape across the watershed.



SURVEY RESULTS – CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Should this focus area be pursued (% & # of respondents shown on graph)?



SURVEY RESULTS – CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Which organization is best suited to lead this focus area?

Climate Change Resilience	
Lead Agency	# of Votes
KC	8
Ecology	3
UW Climate Impacts Group	3
EPA	2
Municipalities	2
Power/Utility companies	1
C of S	1
PSCAA	1
APA	1
Climate Change Action Team	1
K4C	1

Respondent Comments:

“Climate change resilience and preparedness are important issues and should be taken into account in the watershed. The forecasted continuing changes in weather conditions will impact stormwater management, natural resources, land use and water supply, among other activities. However, in general the scale of the impacts of climate change and the strategies for resilience and preparedness are more regional and agency-specific than watershed-specific.”

“The strategy to build resilience from climate change is regional, rather than a watershed based issue. The amount of additional resilience and preparedness needed to respond to changes in tidal influences, storm magnitudes, etc. will be needed throughout western Washington.”

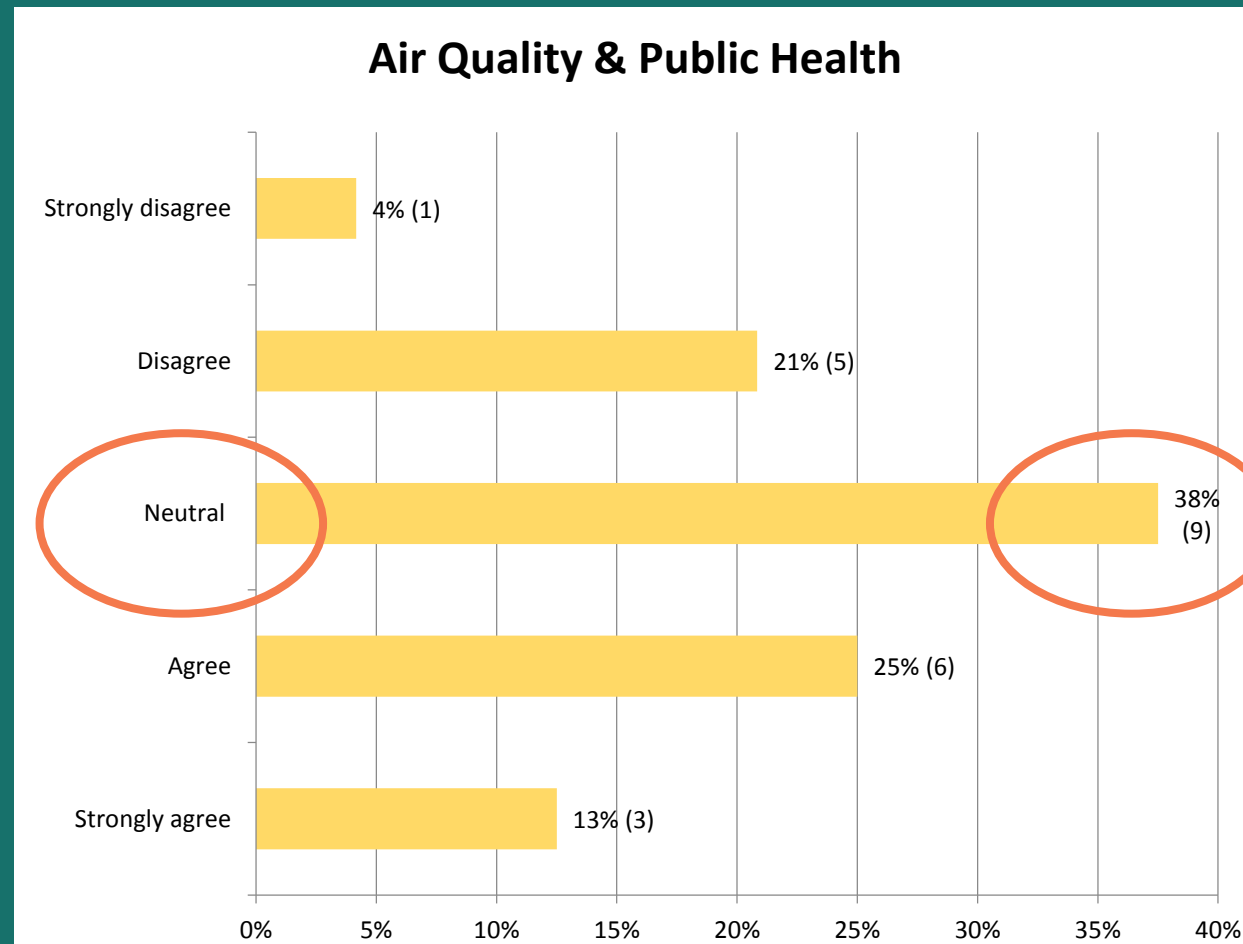
AIR QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Develop a strategy to improve air quality and reduce the incidence of air quality related health impacts across the watershed.



SURVEY RESULTS – AIR QUALITY

Should this focus area be pursued (% & # of respondents shown on graph)?



SURVEY RESULTS – AIR QUALITY

Which organization is best suited to lead this focus area?

Air Quality & Public Health	
Lead Agency	# of Votes
PSCAA	10
EPA	2
Ecology	2
KC	2
American Lung Assoc	1
Open Space NGOs	1

Respondent Comments:

“Air quality and the incidence of related health impacts are important issues and should be taken into account in the watershed. However, the impacts of air quality and the strategies to respond to it are more regional than watershed-specific.”

“This is better handled on a more comprehensive level. When asked, air quality experts had little to say about this that didn't apply to the region in general..”

“This seems like it is only an issue in the Duwamish, and is related to federal air quality standards and industrial zoning, as well as pollution from vehicles. I would like to see a strategy to improve air quality, and if it could be led from the local level, with regulatory authority, I would be supportive. However, I don't think it is realistic to expect a quick fix....”

LEADERSHIP ROLES IN PHASE II

- King County is prepared to lead next steps on:
 - Watershed-wide open space plan
 - Watershed-wide stormwater management plan
- More discussion needed on:
 - Climate resilience & preparedness
 - Air quality & public health

Phase II (2016)

- Prioritize and select focus areas
- Conduct a more in-depth evaluation of focus areas with community reps and experts
 - Evaluate focus area problem (EIR)
 - Brainstorm solutions and actions
 - Develop alternatives (EIR) & assess feasibility
 - Refine alternatives
- Develop recommendations



Phase III (2016)

- Action strategy from Phase II recommendations:
 - Funding analysis
 - Potential pilot projects
 - Implementation steps
- Final watershed strategy?



QUESTIONS?

WAG SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS

- Next WAG meeting: March 17, 2016
- Scoping workshops over the next few weeks
 - Topic areas:
 - Watershed-wide stormwater strategy
 - Watershed-wide open space plan
 - Engage subject matter experts and community representatives
 - Work with the WAG to obtain your input
- Identify approach for additional topic areas:
 - Air Quality & Public Health
 - Climate Resilience & Preparedness

THANK YOU

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