

April 21, 1995

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April 24, 1995 clerk Proposed No.: 95-206

ORDINANCE NO. **11766**

AN ORDINANCE directing the executive to update the current King County Emergency Operations Plan to include provisions to enhance the county's ability to respond and coordinate services in earthquake related emergencies

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. Based on history of past damaging earthquakes and the knowledge of the geological history of the Pacific Northwest, geologists from the University of Washington are certain that damaging earthquakes (magnitude of 6 or greater on the Richter Scale) will occur in the Puget Sound region, although they have no way to predict whether this is more likely to occur today or years from now.

2. Recent studies by the University of Oregon, the University of Washington, and the US Geological survey have confirmed the existence of a shallow fault line running East-West from Bainbridge Island to the Cascade foothills and that a shallow earthquake on this fault line could devastate the City of Seattle and the surrounding areas of King County.

3. According to, "Washington State Earthquake Hazards", a publication released by the University of Washington and the University of Oregon, earthquake hazards can be reduced by advanced preparation such as: coordinating emergency communications and activities across jurisdictional lines, preparing personal emergency plans and considering seismic hazards in land use plans and building codes, and planning for medical, utility, and emergency facilities.

4. Recent devastating earthquakes in California and Kobe, Japan have caused human casualties and wide spread destruction to infrastructure and economies of those areas.

5. It is the responsibility of the elected officials in King County to protect the health and welfare of the citizens and the economy of King County in the event of a major disaster.

6. Based on a review conducted by the Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee on February 1, 1995, it was determined by the committee that King County needs

1 to substantially improve its earthquake preparedness and
2 emergency response strategies, including the relocation
3 of the King County Office of Emergency Management to the
4 7300 Building at the King County International Airport.

5 7. In a letter dated February 2, 1995, the Chairman of
6 the Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee
7 requested the County Executive to form an ad hoc
8 committee to examine and evaluate King County's
9 earthquake-related emergency management.

10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

11 SECTION 1. It shall be the policy of King County that
12 key county emergency management personnel responsible for the
13 coordination of emergency response be located in county-owned
14 facilities that are adequately retrofitted to withstand a
15 major earthquake. Such facilities shall be seismically
16 stable and equipped with adequate power supply and other
17 features to ensure that proper emergency response is properly
18 facilitated in a major earthquake. This shall involve
19 relocating the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) from the
20 County Courthouse to the 7300 Building at the King County
21 International Airport by December 31, 1995.

22 SECTION 2. The Executive is hereby directed to include
23 as part of the 1995 update to the existing Emergency
24 Operations Plan provisions to enhance King County's ability
25 to respond and coordinate county services in earthquake
26 related emergencies. These provision shall be developed in
27 coordination with Federal, State, and County agencies
28 involved in emergency management for the region in order to
29 establish a unified command structure and promote
30 accessibility to region-wide resources. If necessary the
31 executive shall also initiate interlocal agreements to secure
32 cooperative and collaborative response efforts by all cities,

1 neighboring counties, and all other local jurisdictions in
2 the event of an area-wide earthquake.

3 A. By June 1, 1995, the Executive shall create a
4 permanent communications link between OEM and the Department
5 of Geophysics Seismology Lab at the University of Washington
6 to provide real-time confirmations of earthquake occurrence
7 and to aid in the assessment of likely damages.

8 B. The Executive shall initiate negotiations with
9 electronic and radio media in the region to enhance the
10 current Emergency Broadcast System with a coordinated
11 emergency broadcast plan to provide reliable and current news
12 broadcasts of minor to moderate earthquake information to all
13 citizens. Negotiations shall consider, but are not limited
14 to, the usage of television screen crawlers and pre-recorded
15 public information messages to notify the public of minor
16 earthquake events, urge calm, and provide advise.

17 1. As a benchmark, the Executive shall initiate
18 public information news messages for all earthquakes having a
19 magnitude of 5.0 or higher.

20 2. For earthquakes that cause damage or
21 significant public concern, the executive shall provide local
22 government and community briefings within the first six hours
23 of the earthquake. Subsequent briefings and updates will
24 occur around the clock, as appropriate.

25 C. By policy, the 800 MHz trunked radio network, a
26 system that can provide emergency management personnel and
27 other key personnel, such as police, a reliable
28 communications system, shall be the communications system of
29 choice for emergency management.

1 1. By June 1, 1995 a report on the development and
2 status of the 800 MHz trunked radio network shall be provided
3 to the County Council.

4 2. An inventory of all current users of the 800
5 MHz trunked radio system shall be completed and an analysis
6 shall be conducted to determine which departments, such as
7 public works, public health, etc., should be equipped to use
8 the 800 MHz system.

9 3. An analysis shall also be performed to
10 determine the extent to which upper management personnel of
11 county agencies, such as the director of health and human
12 services, be assigned radio pagers or other communications
13 equipment so they can be directly reached in the event of a
14 major earthquake or other disaster.

15 4. Based on the analysis in the above subsections
16 2 and 3, the Executive shall include in the 1996 CIP budget
17 adequate funds to acquire 800 MHz radio equipment for
18 identified departments to enable them to participate in a
19 comprehensive, coordinated, and reliable regional
20 communications network.

21 D. To clarify regional earthquake response
22 coordination, a response team organizational structure shall
23 be developed by systematically working with all King County
24 areas and jurisdictions to establish a region-wide command
25 structure that will clarify who is in charge who is in charge
26 of each component of disaster response.

27 E. The OEM in coordination with each county department
28 is directed to update or develop a 12-hour incident task
29 checklist for each department outlining departmental roles

1 and responsibilities immediately following a major earthquake
2 by July 1, 1995.

3 SECTION 3. A recovery plan shall be submitted to the
4 council by January 1, 1996 that will guide the provision of
5 ongoing county services to citizens and businesses and
6 provide a plan for county officials in carrying out county
7 business.

8 A. By July 30, 1996, a long term recovery plan shall be
9 submitted to the council establishing a method of
10 coordinating recovery efforts regionally and shall describe
11 the county's responsibilities to assist the region's citizens
12 and businesses in rebuilding their lives and livelihood.

13 SECTION 4. The OEM is hereby directed to develop a
14 county-wide disaster training and education program. The OEM
15 shall continue to deliver training to the citizens and county
16 employees to improve the community's ability to be self-
17 sufficient following an earthquake.

18 A. For schools in King County, the OEM shall provide a
19 minimum of three disaster preparedness seminars each school
20 year. The subjects shall include, but not be limited to,
21 earthquake safety for schools and post earthquake building
22 inspection. Each school district in the county shall be
23 contacted directly by the OEM regarding the availability of
24 the response training seminars.

25 SECTION 5. The OEM shall develop and implement a plan to
26 support the American Red Cross in their efforts to supply
27 local facilities, including schools, with materials to serve
28 as emergency shelters following major earthquakes.

29 SECTION 6. To maximize the learning opportunities of
30 the major earthquake exercise being conducted statewide on

1 April 26, 1995 the OEM shall assess the lessons learned from
2 the exercise and prepare a report for the county council by
3 July 1, 1995.

4 A. The Executive shall direct the OEM to conduct an
5 unannounced earthquake emergency response drill during non-
6 business hours to be held within the fourth quarter of 1995
7 to reassess King County's earthquake response readiness in
8 the event of a major earthquake. An assessment of the drill
9 along with a description of the criteria used to make the
10 assessment shall be submitted to the council within thirty
11 days of completion of the emergency drill.

12 SECTION 7. The OEM shall publish and make available to
13 citizens and county employees an earthquake and disaster
14 guide booklet which shall contain at a minimum: a summary of

1 the County's earthquake response strategy, an outline of the
2 responsibilities of county departments during a disaster, and
3 basic emergency preparedness information, including a list of
4 emergency phone numbers.

5 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 20th
6 day of March, 1995.

7 PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 24th day
8 of April, 1995.

9 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
10 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11 Kent Puller
12 Chair

13 ATTEST:

14 Gerald A. Peterson
15 Clerk of the Council

16 APPROVED this 9th day of May, 1995.

17 Doug Locke
18 King County Executive

19 Attachments:

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