Auburn's Dual-River Pinch: Green River, White River, and BNSF Auburn Yard

Pillar: The Valley | **Basis:** Historical Event + Agency Figure | **Primary Source:** WSDOT / King County / City of Auburn | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

Sitting at the convergence of the Green and White river valleys, Auburn hosts BNSF's Auburn Yard and space-adjacent precision suppliers—exposing it to both Green River levee events and White River/Pacific breaches.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Auburn sits at the south end of the Green River Valley near the White River convergence, just north of the December 16, 2025 Pacific levee breach.

• BNSF's Auburn Yard—located south of SR 18 and east of SR 167—is a primary Pacific Northwest classification yard and the western staging gateway for Stampede Pass.

• Per BC ESG's frozen Census (#1391), Auburn hosts 0 core space companies and 2 space-adjacent aerospace/precision suppliers (Tessera and Orion Industries).

Auburn Valley Convergence: Corridors & Flood Exposure

Infrastructure	Function	Flood / Disruption Exposure	Source
BNSF Auburn Yard	Car classification & Stampede staging	Historic Green/White floodplain	WSDOT Rail Plan
SR 18 Corridor	Links I-5 / SR 167 east to I-90	Commuter curfews + pass weather	WSDOT CVO
White River (Pacific)	South boundary inflow	Dec 16, 2025 ~120-ft breach	KCFCD / USACE

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Auburn suppliers feeding Kent and Renton primes sit directly between the Dec 15 Desimone breach (north) and Dec 16 Pacific breach (south).

• SR 18 is the critical eastbound bypass from Auburn toward I-90 and Moses Lake, but carries peak commuter curfews for oversize loads.

• Verify supplier-pickup windows in Auburn against both Green and White River flood-phase alerts.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Auburn WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/auburn-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Moses Lake WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/moses-lake-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Supply-Chain & Procurement Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-procurement-lead-desk-brief/

• **Components & Materials Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-components-materials-continuity-exposure/

• **City of Auburn Official Portal:** https://www.auburnwa.gov/

• **King County Flood Services:** https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services

• **BNSF Railway Network:** https://bnsf.com/

• **WSDOT Commercial Vehicles & OSOW:** https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/commercial-vehicles

Provenance Note: Auburn Census (#1391) documents 0 core and 2 adjacent space operators (Tessera, Orion); rail and flood facts from WSDOT and KCFCD.