# Kent's Space Cluster on the Valley Floor: Levee Reach, SR 167 Access, and Pad Elevation

**Pillar:** The Valley | **Basis:** Agency Figure + Census | **Primary Source:** King County Flood Services / BC ESG Census | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

Kent anchors the Green River Valley's highest concentration of launch and propulsion hardware—including Blue Origin, Stoke Space, Relativity Space, and PowerLight—all sharing the SR 167 and BNSF valley floor.

## Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Kent hosts Blue Origin, Stoke Space, Relativity Space, PowerLight Technologies, and space-adjacent Exotic Metals Forming on the Green River Valley floor.

• While the Dec 15, 2025 Desimone breach occurred just north in Tukwila, evacuation orders spanned Kent, Renton, and Tukwila, and the 6-mile SR 167 closure severed north-bound valley freight.

• King County Code 21A.24 requires Zero-Rise floodway compliance and +3 feet above Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for new/substantially improved structures in mapped floodplains.

## Kent Valley Space Cluster Corridor Dependencies

| Corridor / Asset | Role for Kent Facilities | Documented Vulnerability | Primary Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| SR 167 Expressway | North-south freight & shift spine | Closed 6 miles Dec 15, 2025 | King County / WSDOT |
| BNSF Valley Mainline | Heavy rail & transcontinental link | Shares valley floor grade | WSDOT / BNSF |
| Green River Levee System | Flood protection for industrial parks | Desimone fix delayed to 2031 | King County DNRP |
| I-5 Fallback (Modeled) | Only parallel north-south freeway | Saturated in County Annex | WA EMD Recovery Annex |

## Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Kent facilities on high-bay concrete pads often survive shallow street flooding, yet lose outbound truck windows and second-shift staffing when SR 167 closes.

• Audit dock-apron elevations, sump pump backup power, and hazardous-material storage (WAC 173-303) above +3 ft BFE.

• Maintain pre-approved east-west escape routes via SR 516 / Kent-Kangley or SR 18 toward I-90 when SR 167 floods.

## Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

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

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

• **Blue Origin WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/blue-origin-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Facilities: Waste, PSCAA & Floodplain:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-facilities-waste-pscaa-floodplain/

• **King County Floodplain & Levee Rule:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-rule-king-county-floodplain-levee-live/

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

• **WSDOT I-405 / SR 167 Corridor Program:**
https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/i-405sr-167-corridor-program

• **WA EMD Regional Plans (Recovery Annex):** https://mil.wa.gov/plans

*Provenance Note:* Company locations from BC ESG Census (#1388); flood exposure bounded to King County floodplain and Dec 2025 SR 167 closure records.