Tukwila & Renton: The Valley's North Gate Where Desimone, I-405, and 737 Rail Meet

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

Tukwila and Renton form the northern neck of the Green River Valley—hosting Starfish Space, BlackSky, The Radiation Team, Boeing Renton, and the Desimone Levee reach where SR 167 meets I-405 and BNSF.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Tukwila hosts Starfish Space (665 Andover Park W), BlackSky, and The Radiation Team (Tukwila/Renton), while Renton hosts Boeing's 737 assembly line and space-adjacent precision shops.

• The Desimone Levee in Tukwila is the northern hydraulic bottleneck; its Dec 15, 2025 breach drove evacuation orders across Tukwila, Kent, and Renton.

• Northbound freight exiting the valley funnels through the I-405 / SR 167 interchange or crosses to I-5—both adjacent to Boeing Field (BFI).

Tukwila & Renton North-Gate Chokepoints

Node	Location	Role	Documented Risk
Desimone Levee	Tukwila (Green River)	Protects north valley floor	Breached Dec 15, 2025; 2031 fix
SR 167 / I-405 Interchange	Renton / Tukwila	Valley-to-Eastside connector	WSDOT I-405/SR 167 program
BNSF Renton Branch	Renton	Delivers 737 fuselages	Single-track urban rail spur

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Eastside Redmond/Bothell/Bellevue satellite firms receiving parts from Kent/Auburn suppliers depend on the Tukwila-Renton I-405 gate staying open.

• During Green River Phase 3/4 flood alerts, route Kent-to-Redmond vans via SR 18 -> I-90 -> I-405 rather than SR 167 north through Tukwila.

• Coordinate BFI air-charter pickups with Tukwila local street flood closures along Interurban Ave / East Marginal Way.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

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

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

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

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

• **Facilities / EHS Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-facilities-ehs-desk-brief/

• **In-Space Servicing Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-in-space-servicing-continuity-exposure/

• **City of Tukwila Official Portal:** https://www.tukwilawa.gov/

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

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

Provenance Note: Census locations from #1394 (Renton) and #1397 (Tukwila); Desimone breach dated Dec 15, 2025.