



November 9, 2011

Honorable David Burnett
Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
PO Box 536
Oakville, WA 98568

Dear Chairman Burnett:

Per your request, the Flood Authority is contacting you to request consultation on a number of different studies and efforts it is pursuing. These include additional hydraulic modeling for the lower Basin, potential fisheries enhancement for the upper Basin, a pending fisheries impact study, and the development of a broad project list to address flooding impacts.

Hydraulic Modeling for the Lower Basin

The Flood Authority is currently pursuing additional hydraulic and hydrologic modeling for the lower Chehalis River Basin using funding provided by the 2011 Capital Budget, ESHB 2020. The Flood Authority's contractor, Watershed Science and Engineering, has teamed up with West Consultants, the entity performing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' hydraulic modeling effort on the lower Basin. These two consultants are working closely to coordinate their efforts and leverage both state and federal resources. As the lead contractor for the Flood Authority, Larry Karpack from Watershed Science and Engineering has developed a work plan. As he continues to refine this work plan, he would like to coordinate with the Chehalis Tribe and is seeking the following information:

- What level of hydraulic modeling and analysis has the Chehalis Tribe done or is planning to do on the Chehalis River or its tributaries?
- The following specific information would be helpful:
 - what reach or reaches were modeled,
 - when was the work done,
 - when were cross section surveys taken (if any),
 - what topographic data was used for the study,
 - was floodplain mapping produced,
 - is there a study report, and
 - are the hydraulic models and data developed for the study available?

The Flood Authority's goal with the additional hydraulic and hydrologic modeling is to develop the most accurate information and model for the entire Chehalis River Basin, especially the lower basin. We are hoping this information will enable all of us to better understand how

different areas within the Basin are affected by flooding and what would occur upon implementing any potential projects to mitigate the impact of flooding. Any information the Chehalis Tribe might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated, particularly any information related to the Sickman-Ford Bridge. In addition, the Flood Authority welcomes the on-going opportunity to consult as the study effort evolves.

Fisheries Enhancement

The second area the Flood Authority is formally requesting consultation on relates to the development of a comprehensive salmon enhancement plan for the Chehalis River mainstem and its tributaries in WRIA 23 upstream of river mile 33 near Porter. The Flood Authority's consultant, Anchor QEA, is developing a list of habitat enhancement projects by compiling existing information on habitat limiting factors and input on habitat enhancement opportunities identified in other studies in the basin, and identifying additional restoration opportunities to address habitat limiting factors.

Anchor QEA recently began this process by hosting a workshop to start gathering input on a list of potential habitat enhancement project opportunities. Following the workshop, Anchor QEA is working on updating the list and prioritizing it based on identified habitat enhancement opportunities. In addition, the Flood Authority anticipates adding this information to the project list it is currently developing, and discussed further below.

Please let me know if you or your staff would like to talk further with the Anchor QEA staff to review the purpose of this particular study, the information compiled so far, and next steps.

Fish Study Review

The legislature required the Flood Authority to conduct a study to determine the effect of possible retention structures on fish in the basin. The report of this study will be released on November 17. We would appreciate any feedback on this report the Chehalis Tribe may have.

Project List

Finally, we would appreciate any input or thoughts the Chehalis Tribe might have on potential projects to mitigate the impacts of flooding. The Flood Authority is working to develop a broad list of potential projects, including structural and non-structural, to address flood impacts. The Authority is working through a newly created Project Sub-Committee to develop and refine this list more fully. As we are putting this list together and identifying potential projects and potential funding sources, any feedback would be much appreciated.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to consult with the Chehalis Tribe as we move forward on these important studies and efforts. I look forward to hearing back from you on how best to engage on these specific topics.

Sincerely,



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