



PRESS RELEASE

Senate Capital Budget Includes \$18.5M for the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project

This week the Washington State Senate released their Capital Budget which includes **\$18.5M** in funding during the next biennium for the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project. Additional language is included in the Senate Budget proviso to indicate the Legislature will allocate an additional **\$17M** in the 2025-2027 biennium for a total investment of **\$35.5 million** over the next four years. The House Capital Budget is expected to be released on Monday. The Legislative Session is scheduled to adjourn by April 23rd and should have adopted a final budget by that time.

To reach full construction funding the cities have been advocating for a Washington State Budget allocation of **\$35.5 million**. This amount secures the required federal match, retaining almost \$100 million in federal support and ensures that federal awards stay in our state.

With extreme high tides and intense rain, the cities have long struggled with frequent flooding and damage to the community. Residents and businesses alike face financial burdens through steep flood insurance premiums totaling a minimum of \$2.2 million annually.

The Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project will construct two critical levees, the North Shore Levee (4.1 miles) and the North Shore Levee-West Segment (3.8 miles). This project is vital to protect **5,100 properties, 1,354 businesses and 1,292 jobs** from future flooding. Furthermore, along with providing stability to the local economy and eliminating burdensome flood insurance requirements, it is estimated that the levee construction will generate **\$10 million** in state sales tax and will kick start economic growth. The total project cost is **\$160.45 million**, and the amount secured to date is **\$124.95 million**, of which **\$99.5 million** is federal funding.

“This is tremendous news for the citizens of Aberdeen and Hoquiam,” **said Aberdeen Mayor Pete Schave**. “We are thankful to all of the Senators and Representatives who advocated and supported our vision of investing in the resilience of our communities. We hope these levees will bring financial relief to our residents.”

Hoquiam Mayor Ben Winkelman shared “The flood levees will be a game changer for the communities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam who are at a major disadvantage compared to most of

our state with so many of our properties within the flood zone. When the project is complete our cities will see significant economic development from existing home and building owners who can now renovate or their properties and vacant landowners who can now develop their properties without the restrictions of being in a flood zone.”

“Moving forward with the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project is a win-win – it means the community can address flooding and avoid future property damage,” **said Representative Derek Kilmer**. “It also means we can enable future investments in affordable housing and economic development in the region by pulling some of these properties out of the flood plain. And it means we won’t see so much money leaving the community in the form of flood insurance payments. I’m thrilled to see our State move forward with the necessary cost share of the more than \$99 million in federal dollars I’ve helped secure for the project. This is a major step towards completing this project for people in Grays Harbor County.”

Aberdeen and Hoquiam launched a partnership to solve the communities’ flooding problems after the historic flooding and landslides in January 2015. “We would not be where we are today without the teamwork and partnerships built between federal, state and local elected officials and staff,” said **Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay**. “We developed a strategic plan in 2016 and with hard work and dedication by everyone involved, we are on the cusp of implementing that plan.” We truly appreciate the support of our senators and representatives within the 19th and 24th districts who championed our request before the Legislature.

Aberdeen City Administrator Ruth Clemens echoed the importance of the Senate budget allocation announced and the partnerships stating, “An investment by the Legislature of \$35.5M will give the cities the confidence that both the North Shore Levee and the North Shore Levee West segments will be bid for construction as soon as final design and all permitting is completed, expected by early 2025. Our team will have the financial resources coupled with our commitment to bring this project to the finish line. “This is an exciting time for our communities!”

For more information about the Aberdeen-Flood Protection Project please visit https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1825/35437/default.aspx.