

North Shore Levee - Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

The Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam have experienced perennial flooding throughout their histories. Our low areas are significantly impacted by the effects that tides and storms have on our rivers, the harbor, and our drainage systems. Levees have been built along some of our waterways to protect against flooding. They were built around downtown Hoquiam in the early 1900s, along the Chehalis River in South Aberdeen in the 1990s, in East Aberdeen as part of development projects, and in other areas. Some of these levees have been certified and accredited through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to change flood maps, while others do not meet FEMA's extensive requirements for a map change.

THE PROJECT

The need for a real, long-term solution to flooding in our community has been highlighted in recent years by notable flood events and increasing flood insurance rates. The North Shore Levee – a proposed system of earthen dikes, floodwalls, raised roadways, and pump stations – is a partnership between the Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam to provide comprehensive flood protection and flood insurance relief to our community. Continuing where Aberdeen's Southside Levee left off, the North Shore Levee's target area of protection is bordered by the Hoquiam River on the west, Grays Harbor and the Chehalis River on the south, and the Wishkah River on the east. This project is the next step towards the ultimate goal of providing protection for all our lowland areas.

RELATED WORK

In addition to the North Shore Levee project, the cities are in the process of developing the Timberworks Master Plan, which will identify priority multi-benefit projects for flood control, environmental enhancements, and community development. The North Shore Levee is one component of this broad strategy to protect against flooding and increase the vitality and long-term sustainability of our community.

TIMELINE

The North Shore Levee is a major public infrastructure project that will take several years to implement. The major phases of the project are:

- Preliminary Design and FEMA CLOMR (2016 - Summer 2017)
- Final Design and Permitting (Summer 2017 - 2018)
- Construction (2018 - 2020)
- Certification and FEMA Accreditation of Levee (following construction)

***Flood insurance **will** be required for properties until the levee is constructed and accredited by FEMA*

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This project is a major investment in the long-term success and vitality of our community, but its construction will not come without impacts. The Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam are committed to an open planning process. We are holding an open house on **Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm at the Rotary Log Pavilion** (1401 Sargent Blvd in Aberdeen). This meeting will be an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project, ask questions, and discuss concerns. Another community meeting will be held in November to review and discuss the selected levee alignment. We are interested in hearing your concerns and encourage you to attend!

PROJECT WEBSITE: <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/aberdeenfloodrelief>

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North Shore Levee Map

