



City of Aberdeen
200 E Market
Aberdeen, WA 98520

City of Hoquiam
609 8th Street
Hoquiam, WA 98550

May 4, 2021

Office of Chehalis Basin
c/o Andrea McNamara Doyle, Director
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Chehalis Basin Strategy

Dear Chehalis Basin Board Members:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project, which consists of the North Shore Levee, and the North Shore Levee-West Segment. As you know, this project is imperative to the Aberdeen and Hoquiam communities to build resiliency in the face of future flood events, retaining existing businesses, jobs, and residents, which have been on the decline in the community.

We are writing to provide you with a project update and a request that within the budget you allocate \$4 million to the North Shore Levee-West Segment, and that you fully fund the local project list at \$9 million. Combined with the \$10 million that the Office of Chehalis Basin previously allocated to the North Shore Levee and other funds that the cities have secured through other sources, the \$4 million would allow the entire Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project (the North Shore Levee and the North Shore Levee-West Segment) to be construction-ready during the 2023-25 biennium.

Previously, the Office of Chehalis Basin Board received a much higher funding request from the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. This request for \$4 million and full funding for the local project list is a significant reduction in our request and reflects our commitment to continuing to identify additional funding sources at all levels of government. For example, due to strong legislative leadership of the 24th and 19th Legislative District Legislators and new opportunities created by the passage of the federal American Rescue Plan, we were able to secure \$8.975 million dollars for the Fry Creek Pump Station, a critical stormwater project and key component of the North Shore Levee, in the 2021-2023 Washington State Capital Budget.

An investment of \$4 million dollars from the Office of Chehalis Basin would fund the final design and ROW-acquisition for the North Shore Levee – West Segment, and is the final amount needed to get both levees to construction-ready status prior to the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. Additionally, the cities would like to advocate that the Board fund the Local Project



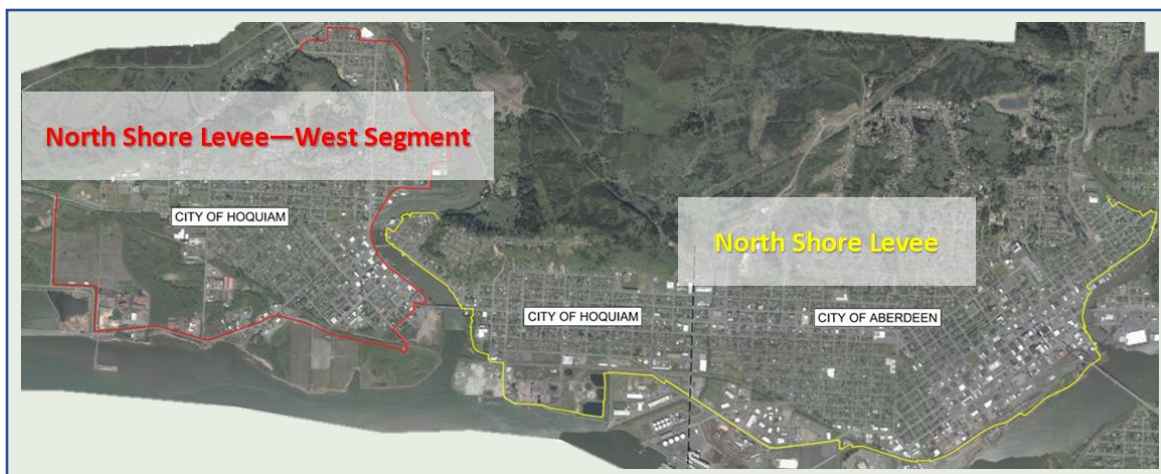
List, which is comprised of several local stormwater projects for the entire region – including three projects in the Aberdeen/Hoquiam Area.

We appreciate the Board's previous support, current support, and future support. Beyond the request for this session, we are hopeful that the Board will continue to be a funding partner as we move to the construction phase of the project. Completing the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project would be a win for our cities, our region and our state – we look forward to sharing that win with the Office of Chehalis Basin.

Background:

North Shore Levee: The North Shore Levee is a 6.2-mile levee across the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, providing critical flood protection and removing over 3,100 properties from FEMA's mapped Special Flood Hazard Area. The total cost of the North Shore Levee is \$78 million.

North Shore Levee – West Segment: The North Shore Levee—West Segment is a 4.7-mile levee bordering the west side of Hoquiam which will protect over 2000 properties. A conditional letter of map revision was submitted to FEMA with preliminary engineering reports in 2020. The total estimated cost of the North Shore Levee – West Segment is \$40 million.



Future Phasing and Funding Requests: The Cities are very appreciative of the leadership of the Chehalis Basin Board and look forward to an ongoing partnership to support the needs of the region. The Cities will continue to aggressively pursue all funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal level as well as continue to seek the support of the OCB. Looking ahead, the following is an outline of the current and future needs of the *Aberdeen Hoquiam Flood Protection Project*.

North Shore Levee - \$78 million

- **Current Phase:**
 - Previous funding allocations have been used or committed for design, ROW acquisition, and grant match.



- The \$8.975 million from the 2021 Washington state Capital Budget will be used to construct the Fry Creek Pump Station and complete all remaining tasks to get the project to construction-ready status for the 2023-2025 Biennium.
- *Future Phases:*
 - Construction Phase 1: Levee Construction to the east of the Port of Grays Harbor
 - Construction Phase 2: Levee Construction to the west of the Port of Grays Harbor
 - Stormwater Improvements: Ongoing as funding is secured

North Shore Levee – West Segment - ~\$40 million

- *Current Phase:*
 - \$4 million is requested from OCB to complete the final design and right of way acquisition to achieve shovel-ready construction status by 2023.
- *Future Phases:*
 - Construction: Formal timeline to follow after final design is completed.