



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) UPDATE FOR CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD

CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROPOSED PROJECT

November 4, 2021



PURPOSE OF AN EIS

Under SEPA, an EIS provides information:

- At an early stage of a project.
- To identify likely significant adverse impacts.
- For the public and decision-makers to consider.
- For public review and comment.

An EIS does not approve or deny a proposed project.

SEPA EIS UPDATE

- Work to prepare the SEPA Final EIS is underway, with plans to issue the document in **early 2023**
- Ecology continues to coordinate with multiple state agencies in their areas of expertise for development of the Final EIS
- Ecology meets regularly with the Corps to ensure consistency in data and methods, as appropriate
- Ecology meets regularly with the applicant, the Flood Control Zone District, on the EIS process and for clarification on their proposed project
- Ecology has offered government-to-government consultation with the Quinault Indian Nation and the Chehalis Tribe

WHAT THE SEPA FINAL EIS WILL DO

- Recognize all comments received on the Draft EIS and provide responses to substantive comments from the public, tribes, agencies, and organizations
- Include revisions based on public comment and new information
- Evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project
- Identify mitigation plans and measures that would avoid, minimize, or compensate for adverse impacts at a high level (more design, analysis, and modeling will be needed for the specific mitigation included in permits)

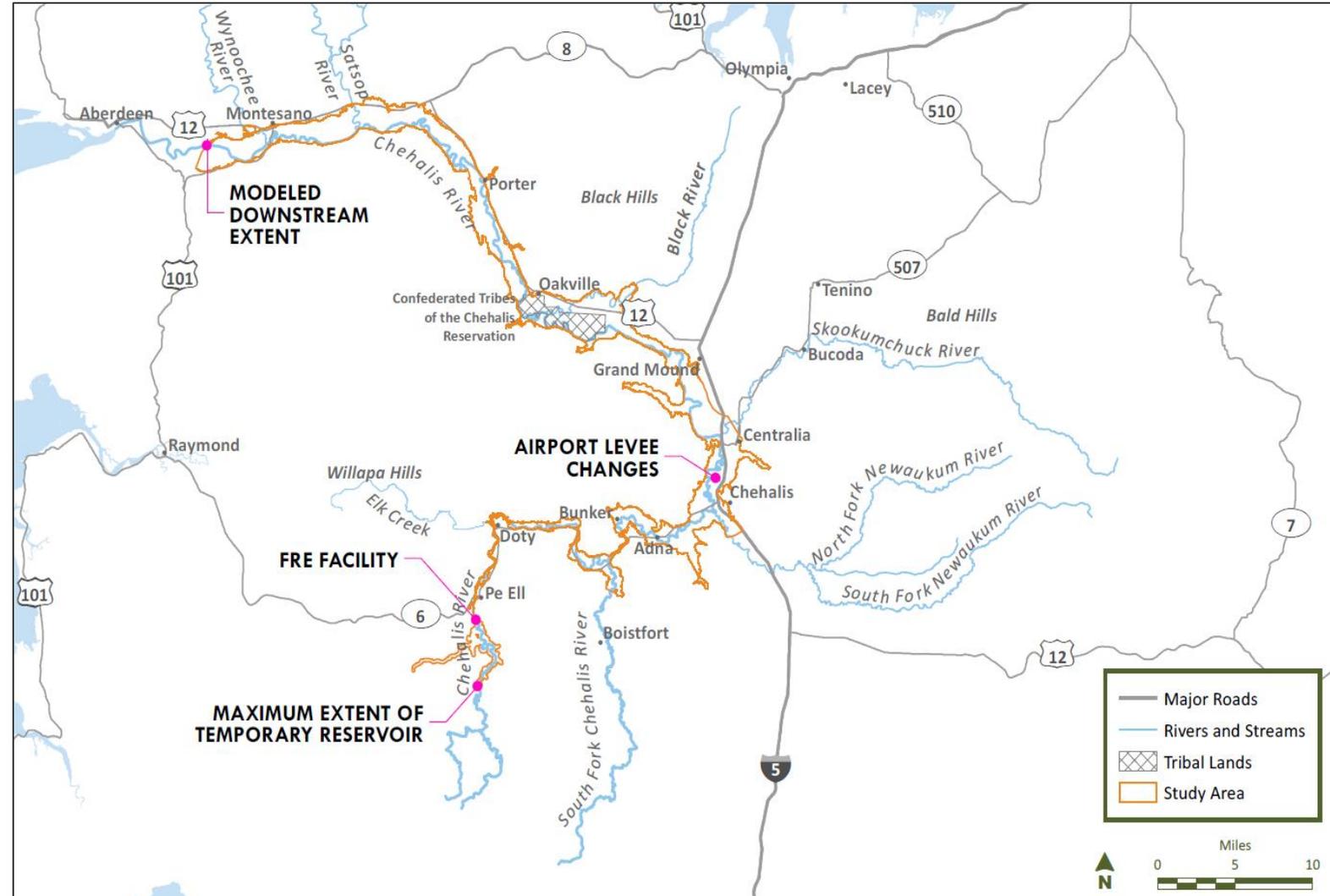
WHAT THE SEPA FINAL EIS WILL NOT DO

- It will not approve or deny the proposed project
- It will not include a decision on permit(s)
- It will not include a cost-benefit analysis
- It will not include site-specific, detailed mitigation—that would be part of the permitting processes as required by their regulatory authority. For permits, more detailed engineering and design information is usually required, which affects the specific mitigation measures required in permits.
- It will not answer every question in every area—other documents are expected to be used and considered by decision-makers

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF SEPA FINAL EIS

The geographic scope of study is based on where probable, significant environmental impacts from the proposed project could occur

(Graphic from DEIS)



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Final EIS will include a range of potential impacts based on the most recent modeling done by the University of Washington Climate Impact Groups:

- High climate change model
 - Increase in extent and duration of floods without the project
 - Increase in frequency of FRE operations
- Medium climate change model
 - Used in the Draft EIS
- Existing conditions
 - Used in the federal Draft EIS

SEPA FINAL EIS ALTERNATIVES

- The SEPA Final EIS will analyze the same alternatives as the Draft EIS
 - Proposed Project (flood retention facility and levee)
 - No Action Alternative
 - Local Actions Alternative
- The No Action Alternative is the expected future if the proposed project is not built
 - It will include new, relevant projects and efforts, such as future-funded ASRP work
- The Local Actions alternative is based on local-scale and nonstructural efforts to reduce damage and improve floodplain storage to retain or slow down flood waters
 - It will incorporate information developed for the LAND approach, as available

SEPA FINAL EIS RESOURCE AREAS

The Final EIS will address same resource areas as the Draft EIS

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Earth
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Environmental Justice
- Fish Species and Habitats
- Land Use
- Noise
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Visual
- Water
- Wetlands
- Wildlife Species and Habitat

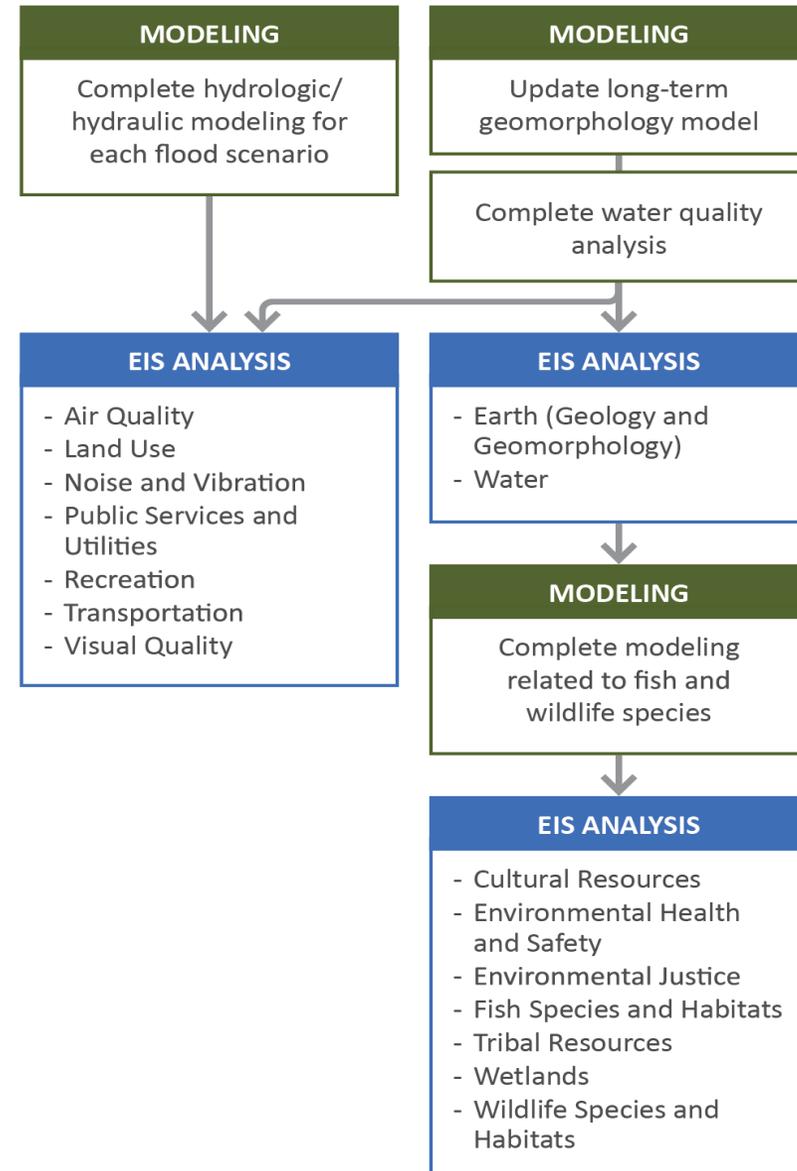
EIS SCENARIOS

The Final EIS will include the same scenarios as the Draft EIS:

- Major flood
 - 38,800 cfs or greater at Grand Mound gage
 - Similar to the 2009 flood
- Catastrophic flood
 - 75,100 cfs or greater at Grand Mound gage
 - Similar to the 1996 flood
- Recurring flood
 - 3 consecutive years of major floods or larger

SEPA FINAL EIS PROCESS — MODELING

- Models will incorporate high and medium climate change predictions
- Outputs from one model provides inputs for next model
- Modeling will be done in Q1 and Q2 of 2022



SEPA FINAL EIS —TECHNICAL DISCIPLINE REPORTS

- Technical Discipline Reports provide detailed technical analyses
- Will be updated to incorporate:
 - Reports prepared for Chehalis Basin Strategy work
 - Updates based on public comments for the Draft EIS
 - Updated modeling inputs and outputs
 - Other new or updated studies

APPLICANT PROJECT UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Flood Control Zone District provided project information in June 2021 and September 2021.

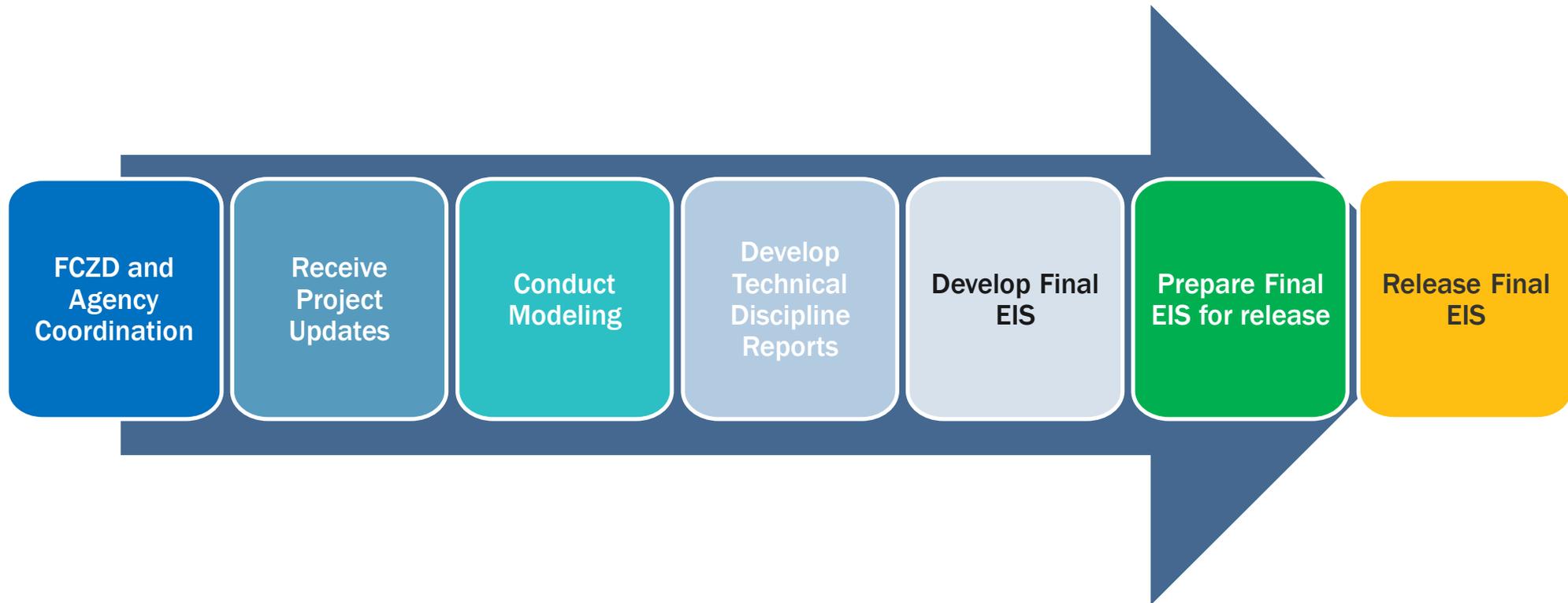
Based on regular coordination meetings, the applicant will provide:

- Dec. 17, 2021 - Additional project updates and clarifications
- January 2022 – Construction fish passage design (10% design)
- February 2022 – Updated airport levee design
- May 31, 2022 - Proposed applicant mitigation plans

FINAL SEPA EIS TIMELINE

Fall 2021 | 2022

| 2023 Q1



WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Information about the SEPA EIS is available at:

Chehalis Basin Strategy website

<http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/sepa-process/>

Ecology's website

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS>

Questions?

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