

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 129

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY APPROVING RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S CHEHALIS BASIN WORK GROUP AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, THAT EIS ALTERNATIVE NO. 1 BE IMPLEMENTED AS THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR REDUCING FLOOD DAMAGE AND RESTORATION AQUATIC SPECIES HABITAT IN THE CHEHALIS BASIN

WHEREAS, the Chehalis Basin, the second largest watershed in Washington State, suffers from the dual problems of catastrophic flooding and significant degradation of aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, climate change projections forecast drier, hotter summers and more intense winter storms with disastrous consequences for the basin's fishery and for the families and communities across the basin and for the state's transportation system from a 60 percent increase in the level of extreme floods in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology has prepared a Programmatic Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates a combination of actions to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat; and

WHEREAS, "no action" is totally unacceptable for aquatic species, for basin residents and for the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group has been tasked by the Governor to make recommendations for a long-term strategy to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat; and

WHEREAS, Alternative 1 in the EIS provides significant reductions in flood damage from the combination of a dam, flood proofing structures, improvements to land use management and local projects; and

WHEREAS, Alternative 1 will include a range of habitat restoration actions that will significantly increase salmon population as well as improve or maintain populations of other native aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority comprised of appointed representatives from the following basin cities and counties: Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Oakville, Montesano, Grays Harbor County, Bucoda, Thurston County, Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Pe Ell and Lewis County, have voted unanimously to recommend Alternative 1,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Grays Harbor County to recommend to the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group and State Department of Ecology, that Alternative 1 should be implemented as the long-term strategy for reducing flood damage and restoration aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis Basin, and the next state biennium 2017-19 budget should include significant funding to advance the immediate and long-term actions outlined in Alternative 1.

ADOPTED this 14 day of November, 2016.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY**

Attest:

Lori Weiss
Lori Weiss, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Vickie L. Raines
Vickie L. Raines, Chair

Wes Cormier
Wes Cormier, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

Wanda Stille
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

OPPOSED
Frank Gordon, Commissioner