



February 3, 2025

**SENT Via Email**

Washington State Legislature  
Sen. June Robinson, Chair  
Sen. Chris Gildon, Ranking Member  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
P.O. Box 40466  
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Washington State Legislature  
Rep. Steve Tharinger, Chair  
Rep. Mike Steele, Ranking Member  
House Capital Budget Committee  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: Chehalis Basin Board's Capital Budget Recommendation for 2025-27

Dear Washington State Capital Budget Legislative Leaders:

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority) is writing in full support of the Chehalis Basin Board's recommendation that the legislature approve \$80M in 2025-27 State Capital Budget funding to continue implementation of the Chehalis Basin Strategy in order to protect people, property, fish, and habitat.

The mission of the Flood Authority is to minimize hazards associated with flooding and catastrophic flooding and do so without further impact to people, property, and the environment. The Flood Authority has an enviable track-record delivering results. Since the 2007 and 2009 catastrophic floods, the Flood Authority has delivered on many key elements of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

- We've implemented a state-of-the-art, real-time Chehalis Basin flood warning and alert system which enables early action by citizens and emergency responders. Since 2014, we've seen a 1,094% increase in alert sign-ups.
- We've completed over 100 cost-efficient local projects that protect people, property, and infrastructure, in addition to improving readiness, response, and resiliency. Our communities are safer now through local actions to:
  - Protect essential drinking water supplies in Boistfort and Bucoda, as well as wastewater treatment infrastructure in Montesano and Pe Ell.
  - Ensure emergency response facilities remain open and functional across the three counties, including the Chehalis-Centralia Airport and I-5.

- Provide community-based flood protection in Aberdeen, Adna, Bucoda, Centralia, Chehalis, Cosmopolis, Elma, Grays Harbor County, Hoquiam, Lewis County, Montesano, Napavine, Oakville, and Thurston County.
  - Invest in flood warning infrastructure, field instrumentation, and river models across the Chehalis Basin to ensure early and accurate flood warning and action.
- We've constructed 26 farm pads and farm evacuation routes across the basin to protect the assets and livelihoods of farmers so severely impacted in 2007 and 2009. These projects not only provide farmers with flood protection and safety for their herds, but also provide funders with a cost-efficient 14:1 return on their investment!

Our success is not just our own. Our success is due to a steadfast commitment to open and transparent decision-making, engaged and collaborative partnerships, and shared financial contribution. What's more, our communities around the basin share in our view (through many local resolutions) that the best solution for the Chehalis basin is a balanced solution focused on fish, flood, large projects, small projects, and early-warning (see Flood Authority local resolutions library [here](#)).

We urge the legislature to fully fund the Chehalis Basin Board's \$80M recommendation. We know we have the organizational capacity, structure, proven track-record, and leadership necessary to continue to realize the many substantial benefits of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. Continuing to invest in the basin is not only good for basin citizens, but is also good for Washington citizens as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions. You may also contact Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) at 360/480-6600, [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Vickie L. Raines' and the signature on the right is 'Edna Fund'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vickie Raines, Chair  
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
360/590-4100  
[VRaines@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:VRaines@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

Edna Fund, Vice-Chair  
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
360/269-7515  
[dutch@localaccess.com](mailto:dutch@localaccess.com)

CC: Jeff Zenk, WA State Office of Chehalis Basin  
Michael Bezanson, Senate Ways & Means, Capitol Budget Coordinator  
John Wilson-Tepeli, House Capital Budget Committee, Staff Coordinator  
Chehalis Basin Board Members