

## **Flood Authority Local Projects**

### **Description**

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority) funds implementation of local-scale flood damage reduction projects to protect people, property, and infrastructure, and to improve communities' flood readiness. Consisting of representatives from 13 basin jurisdictions, the Flood Authority prioritizes and funds projects in coordination with OCB, state agencies, Tribes, local sponsors, and the Chehalis Basin Board. Over time, the Flood Authority has shifted its funding approach from projects unsystematically identified through biennial calls for projects [i.e., a "reactive" approach] to projects strategically identified through local investment planning [i.e., a "proactive" approach].

### **Potential Principles**

**Principle 1:** The Flood Authority provides an important conduit for connecting state investments (and potential future federal investments) to local flood damage reduction and multi-benefit projects derived from the priorities of local governments.

**Principle 2:** Protecting people, property, businesses, farmland, and critical infrastructure through Flood Authority investments enhances community safety, resiliency, economic stability, and maintains tax revenue.

**Principle 3:** Flood Authority projects should complement the efforts of other OCB programs such as the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) and the Erosion Management Program, and should benefit (or at minimum, not be in opposition to) the Chehalis Basin Strategy's aquatic species restoration goals.

### **Key Components**

The Flood Authority funds several types of projects, including:

- **Local-scale flood damage reduction projects** that improve flood preparedness, flood readiness, and protect valuable structures, infrastructure, homes, properties, and businesses; farmland and rural structures; and critical facilities and transportation routes.
- **Local investment planning processes** intended to strategically identify and sequence local flood damage reduction projects and priorities over extended

planning horizons. Local investment planning is used where there are particularly large, complicated, multi-jurisdictional, and expensive flooding issues to resolve. Local investment planning identifies discrete projects, priorities, and implementation sequences.

## **Cost**

**Total estimated 30-Year Cost:** \$127,000,000

Costs estimates are based on historic appropriations averaged from 2012 - 2025 (\$4,230,769/year) and do not include inflation assumptions. These costs include funding for the Flood Authority's fiscal agent (currently Lewis County), and consulting staff engaged to administer, facilitate, and coordinate Flood Authority programs and operations including administering local projects and overseeing the Flood Warning System. Implementation of the system is described as a separate Element.

## **More Information**

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Refer to the [Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority](#) website for more details.