



More than 130 local fish and flood projects have been completed across the Chehalis basin coordinated and funded through the Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB). The diverse OCB board is comprised of local officials as well as tribal and environmental representatives. These projects are done in cooperation with the Flood Authority, local governments, tribes and the Aquatic Species Restoration team. Together these projects are action steps of the Chehalis Basin Strategy to restore aquatic species and to reduce flood damage for families and communities.

Ramer Street Pump Station Paves Way For West Hoquiam Economic Revitalization [Hoquiam, WA]

Summary

The Ramer Street pump station project had two key elements:

1. Discharge -- Construct a new, more reliable pump station to discharge flood waters to a new, more reliable outfall into the Hoquiam River.
2. Conveyance -- Replace existing undersized utility pipelines in the Ramer Flood Basin to better convey flood waters as recommended by the City's Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan.

The Problem

This Ramer Street pump station project corrects flooding that has plagued north Hoquiam residents and businesses for decades due to tidal influence from the Hoquiam River.

The Project

The purpose of the Ramer Street pump station project was to replace a key older, aging pump station with a new modernized version having better, more reliable, pumping capacity and to construct a new outfall into the Hoquiam River for the pump to discharge flood water. The project not only provides flood protection for approximately 200 homes, the Lincoln Elementary School, a commercial yacht builder, and 8 acres of prime development property, but also implements a key element of the City's portion of the future Aberdeen/Hoquiam Northshore Levee.

The Impact

In January 2022, the Basin was hit by a big flood. The new Ramer Street pump performed flawlessly.

- It pumped water continuously for 30 hours (51,000,000 gallons of water!).
- As a result, for the duration of the event, the Ramer Street basin stayed dry with homes, business and important facilities staying dry (this was not the case elsewhere in the city).

Ramer Street Pump Station Project	
Cost	\$1,300,000
Start	10/26/2016
End	4/24/2018
Days to Complete	544 (1 year, 6 months)
Value Protected / ROI	\$14,119,806 / 11 to 1
Future Damage Avoided (Per Event) / ROI	\$2,642,691 / 2 to 1

Quotes

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority funded the Ramer Street Pump Station project in 2016. The project was completed in 2018. The project is a significant step along the way to economic revitalization for West Hoquiam. Said Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay, “without the generous support of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority West Hoquiam wouldn’t be where we are today . . . flood ready, flood protected.” Shay further adds, “flood ready and flood secure communities are also economically viable and economically secure communities, the two-go hand-in-hand.”

The investment in a new pump station was not only a solution to chronic flooding, but also part of larger community and economic revitalization strategy for the City of Hoquiam. “Removing the barriers from flood impacts and flood insurance requirements significantly levels the environmental justice challenges facing our community compared to other parts of our state,” said Shay.

The Flood Authority’s investment in the Ramer Street pump station was not its only investment in pump stations. In 2018 the City of Chehalis completed a new pump station to replace the aged (and no longer properly functioning) Chehalis-Centralia Airport pump station. That project was funded by the Flood Authority and has performed very well. For the 2021-23, and 2023-25 state funding cycle, the Flood Authority has made significant investments in lower basin pump planning, purchasing and construction. For example, the City of Hoquiam received key funding in the 2023-25 budget to construct a badly needed new 10th Street pump station and to design, engineer, and permit a new pump station to replace city’s existing Queen Ave pump station. Said Flood Authority staff Scott Boettcher, “pump stations provide an important solution for communities with few options to evacuate flood waters. Boettcher goes on to add “pump stations, while significant infrastructure investments, have terrific return on investment, provide meaningful flood reduction for decades to come, and offer communities with little hope what they need most . . . hope.”

Photos

Ramer Street Pump Station

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4 (Location)



<https://goo.gl/maps/wrckjfXvqH2MmXJR9>

Also

Pic 6 -- North Shore Levee with West Segment



Pic 7 -- 10th St. Pump Station



Pic 8 -- Queen Ave. Pump Station

