



**A RESOLUTION OF THE CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD AUTHORITY CONTINUING ITS SUPPORT FOR A BASIN-WIDE SOLUTION TO FLOODING AND AQUATIC SPECIES RESTORATION ~~AT A CRITICAL POINT IN TIME.~~**

**WHEREAS**, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority ("Flood Authority") is comprised of local government representatives from communities across the Basin including Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Montesano, Oakville, Grays Harbor County, Bucoda, Thurston County, Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Pe Ell and Lewis County and all are impacted negatively by periodic Chehalis River flooding in the Basin, the largest source of which originates from the mainstem Chehalis River above Pe Ell.

**WHEREAS**, the Flood Authority continues to foresee a future through the Chehalis Basin process where our families and communities are protected from the worst of the periodic catastrophic floods that hit our Basin and where aggressive habitat restoration projects have turned a declining fishery into a vibrant fishery.

**WHEREAS**, We see the forecasts of larger and more frequent catastrophic flooding due to climate change and we need to continue pursuing strategies that will allow our communities to adapt and thrive in the face of more flooding.

**WHEREAS**, the Chehalis Basin strategy includes the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore and West Segment of the North Shore levee, continued development of local flood and fish projects, a basin-wide aquatic species restoration plan, and a proposed flow through dam for flood control ~~potential flood storage~~ facility that will retain 625,000 acre-feet of flood water during catastrophic storms that will lower peak flood levels from Pe Ell to Cosmopolis.

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2020, through the State Environmental Policy Act process, the Flood Authority stated its support for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project with the view that the institutional governance capacity existed in the Basin to identify and implement sufficient "technically feasible and economically practicable" mitigation as required (see "Final CRBFA Letter re DEIS 4-21-2020" in the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's Local Resolutions Library below).

**WHEREAS**, on November 13, 2020, through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Flood Authority again stated its support for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project with the view that the District's project, if considered at a Basin-wide scale along with other local flood damage reduction and habitat restoration measures, would substantially benefit aquatic species and people, property and livelihoods (see "CRBFA Letter Re NEPA DEIS 11-13-2020" in the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's Local Resolutions Library below).

**WHEREAS**, in the NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process the US Army Corps of Engineers reviewed 61 different alternatives for reducing catastrophic flood damage and found that only

those alternatives that included a proposed water retention facility met the objective of flood damage reduction to a level sufficient to proceed to full DEIS-level analysis, a view consistently held by the Flood Authority as part of its long-standing support for balanced, Basin-wide solutions to address flooding and aquatic species restoration in the Basin.

**WHEREAS**, the WA State Department of Ecology's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, as well the US Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement, show the District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project delivering significant reductions in catastrophic levels of flooding for Basin communities and providing substantial reductions in impact and flood inundation for thousands of structures, including homes, schools, churches, small businesses, state highways and I-5, provided adverse impacts, however negligible, are acceptably mitigated.

WHEREAS the Flood Zone District, supported by state funding through the Office of Chehalis Basin, is not pursuing a traditional fish and sediment blocking dam but instead is advancing an innovative design that will operate as a dam only briefly during catastrophic flood periods and at all other times allow fish and sediment to pass unaided through the facility.

WHEREAS in advancing the design of the proposed flow through dam for flood control the district has engaged top level engineering and aquatic species enhancement expertise to address environmental concerns and produced solid answers as to how to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts.

**WHEREAS**, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Office of Chehalis Basin, Chehalis Basin Board, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District, and Chehalis Basin Strategy together provide a well-structured governance and funding framework that has delivered much positive "flood" and "fish" benefit to the Basin since the catastrophic floods of 2007 and 2009.

**WHEREAS**, these are challenging times with financial resources and capacities stretched thin as a result of the global pandemic.

**THE CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD AUTHORITY HEREBY DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

To express continued support for the proposed flow through dam for flood control and the hope that it offers families and communities along the river of reducing the peaks of future catastrophic flooding. and offer continued participation in the integrated processes and actions outlined above of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Office of Chehalis Basin, Chehalis Basin Board, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District, and Chehalis Basin Strategy as the best way to continue to efficiently deliver the most beneficial combination of flood hazard reduction and aquatic species restoration all Basin citizens, stakeholders, and "flood" and "fish" interests deserve.

**ADOPTED** by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September or October 2024 January, 2021.



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