



DRAFT

January 17, 2019

Washington State Legislature
Senate Ways & Means Committee
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Washington State Legislature
House Capital Budget Committee
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: Chehalis Basin Board's Capital Budget Recommendation for 2019-2021

Dear Washington State Capital Budget Legislative Leaders:

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority is writing in full support of the Chehalis Basin Board's recommendation that the legislature approve \$73.2 million in 2019-21 State Capital Budget funding to continue to implement the Chehalis Basin Strategy and 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 165% increase in sign-ups for the system's email alert capability. See www.chehalisriverflood.com.
- We've completed 40 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 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, 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. Did you know, since 2007, our local communities have invested three local dollars for every ten state dollars to ensure citizens and businesses are safer and more flood-ready. This shared contribution is foundational to our basin and will continue.

We urge the legislature to fully fund the Chehalis Basin Board's \$73.2 million recommendation. We know we have the organizational capacity, organizational 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 citizens of the basin, but is also good for citizens of our state.

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.

Sincerely,

Vickie Raines, Chair
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Grays Harbor County Commissioner
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CC: Correspondence File
Andrea McNamara Doyle, WA State Office of Chehalis Basin
Chehalis Basin Board members