



October 18, 2017

Ms. Chrissy Bailey  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Letter of support for Resurveying and Resetting Ecology Chehalis Basin Gages

Dear Ms. Bailey:

I am writing on behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority. I wish to encourage the WA Department of Ecology to prioritize resurveying and resetting Ecology gage datums (to NAVD88) for the six gages it operates in the Chehalis Basin as laid out in the following Ecology presentation made to the Flood Authority's multi-agency technical Gages Group on 9-20-2017: <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/DesktopModules/Documents2/View.aspx?tabID=37130&alias=1492&mid=69119&ItemID=5090>

Resurveying and resetting gage datums to NAVD88 is an activity the Flood Authority is currently collaborating with the USGS on for 16 USGS gages in the Basin. We think this is important and valuable work to do as:

- It enables consistency between reported elevation data on maps, in models, and from stream gages (e.g., FEMA's latest maps are using NAVD88 to report elevation while many gages in the Basin use NAVD29).
- It improves communication across the spectrum of gage users (i.e., citizens, emergency managers, forecasters, scientists, etc.) as the method of elevation measurement and reporting is the same (NAVD88 instead of sometimes NAVD88, sometimes NAVD29 and sometimes arbitrary).

Attached shows the current situation we face in the Basin where many gages are set at NAVD29, some at NAVD88, and several are arbitrary. As you'll note the difference in reported elevation for two gages proximate to one another where one is NAVD29 and the other is NAVD88 can be as much as three feet!

We again encourage Ecology to prioritize resurveying and resetting its gages to NAVD88. This is important "housekeeping" work to do to promote consistent and accurate information for all engaged in mapping, modelling, and forecasting in the Basin.

Please feel free to contact Scott Boettcher (staff to the Flood Authority) at 360/480-6600, [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie L. Raines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

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

CC: Correspondence File  
Brad Hopkins, Ecology  
Tom Clingman

Attachment  
NAVD29 vs NAVD88

# GAGE DATUM

