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December 28, 2010

Keith Phillips
Governor's Executive Policy Office
PO Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Mr. Phillips,

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority greatly appreciated you coming to their November meeting and discussing the possibility of the State becoming the nonfederal sponsor for the Chehalis Basin General Investigation (GI). In your remarks you indicated that you were willing to take a proposal to the Governor if the Flood Authority could agree to some conditions for doing so.

Subsequently the Flood Authority discussed your offer and at their December 16, 2010 meeting asked me to formally request that the State become the nonfederal sponsor for the GI.

In making this request for the State to be the nonfederal sponsor, the Flood Authority pledges to work with the State and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Grays Harbor County (the current nonfederal sponsor), and other interested stakeholders to fulfill the potential of this study to improve conditions in the Chehalis basin.

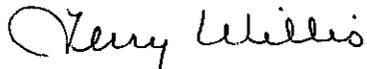
At our meeting on November 18, you asked us to inform you of our decisions on several key policy issues. We discussed those issues on December 16 and agree with you that the best approach is to do the following:

- Amend the current Project Management Plan (PMP) to be a dual purpose plan for both ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction.
- Analyze potential alternatives in the PMP under two different base line "without-project condition" assumptions -- one assuming the Twin Cities project is constructed and a second assuming the Twin Cities project is not constructed.
- Use funds currently accrued by the Chehalis Basin Partnership as match for both ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction.
- Request the Corps undertake the GI in a timely manner so that the feasibility scoping meeting for potential projects (including water retention) occurs prior to or concurrently with the decision regarding construction of the Twin Cities project. This will facilitate critical project and budget decisions anticipated to occur in three to five years.
- Request that the State support the staffing efforts to coordinate the GI.

The Flood Authority believes that the citizens of the Chehalis Basin and the State will be well served by undertaking a basin wide investigation that is comprehensive and open to all alternatives that can reduce flood risks and enhance the ecosystems of the Chehalis basin.

On behalf of the Flood Authority, I want to thank you for your support and I am requesting the State become the nonfederal sponsor for the Chehalis Basin General Investigation as soon as practicable.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Willis".

Terry Willis
Chair of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Grays Harbor County Commissioner

Cc: Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority