



CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the CHEHALIS RESERVATION

February 28, 2011

Commissioner Willis, Chair
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
100 West Broadway, Suite #1
Montesano, WA 98563

Dear Chair Willis,

This letter will serve as the Chehalis Tribes official notice of withdrawal from the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. We participated in several flood groups addressing flooding issues in the Chehalis Basin with the intent to help find a basin-wide solution that was based in science, helped protect people, property and the environment. We have been on some form of flood authority for the last 10 years, and have always hoped to find a scientifically sound solution to the issue.

We expected that science would be given higher consideration than politics and economics. We also expected there would be serious considerations of a wide variety of ideas. Unfortunately, the flood authority has looked at one solution, being dams; just as previous flood groups looked at one solution as being levees. The Flood Authority seems to be trying to make dams be a "one size fits all" approach and is now left without time or money necessary to put forth realistic solutions that might benefit all jurisdictions.

It appears that a few members of the flood authority do not take the flooding issue seriously as a matter of protecting lives and property, but rather a means to increase economic base and continue to add to the negative impacts that increase flooding. As long as this continues, we do not believe this group will be able to move forward in a manner that arrives at a basin-wide solution.

We will continue to seek solutions that benefit the Chehalis Tribe, reduce impacts of flooding, improve minimum flows, and improve fish habitat; and will oppose solutions that impact our culture and have negative impacts on the environment. We wish you well with your attempt to generate a solution that each jurisdiction will find acceptable.

Sincerely,

David Burnett
Chairman

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