



# memorandum

date May 12, 2011  
to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
from ESA  
subject Project List

At the April 21, 2011 meeting, the Flood Authority expressed a desire to hold a workshop on potential projects in the basin using the list of potential projects included in the Flood Plan (pages 9-6 and 9-7). The project list was developed as part of a broader process that lasted from January to September of 2009. This memo will outline that process and the conclusion the Flood Authority made at that time in order to provide context and background for the projects workshop to be held on May 19.

In January 2009, the Flood Authority started work on its Flood Plan. As part of that process, the Authority decided to start a list of potential projects throughout the basin. From January through June, the Authority compiled the list from the following sources:

1. Project lists in existing member jurisdictions Flood Plans
2. Public input solicited at public meetings held throughout the basin in February 2009
3. Project forms filled out by member jurisdiction staff
4. Brainstorming sessions held at Flood Authority workshops

In summer 2009, the Flood Authority developed a set of criteria that could be used to prioritize projects on the list. The criteria can be found on pages 9-8 and 9-9 of the Flood Plan. Subsequently, the Flood Authority asked the Board Advisory Committee to use the project criteria to prepare a preliminary prioritization of those projects on the list that included a construction element.

In a memo dated September 10, 2009, the Board Advisory Committee and ESA reported that they were unable to prioritize the projects because none of the projects were well enough defined to answer any of the prioritization questions. The BAC determined that all of the projects required some preliminary analysis and engineering in order to apply the criteria and determine whether they were worth pursuing. At that time the BAC also determined that the Flood Authority did not have the funding either to further define the projects or to carry out any of the projects.

The Flood Authority instead decided to focus its efforts in three areas: 1) the Early Warning System, which would help prevent flood damage in the basin in the short term; 2) basin-wide studies, such as the

Ecosystem Services analysis and the upstream storage feasibility studies, to help gather information that could be used to evaluate projects in the future; and 3) formation of a flood district that could raise funds to prepare a detailed capitol plan and investigate, prioritize, and eventually carry out flood control projects in the basin.

Flood Authority members have recently indicated they no longer want to form a flood district and want to focus efforts on developing projects. This will require a shift in the approach to carrying out projects. To support this effort, we have attached the following chapters of the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan:

- A portion of Chapter 6, which identifies flood problem areas in the basin;
- Chapter 7, a list of structural and nonstructural mitigation alternatives commonly used to address flood hazards; and
- Chapter 9, which identifies recommended actions, including major regional capital projects, regulatory program recommendations, the potential project list, and the Authority's project selection criteria.

On May 19, we (ESA) will start the work session with a brief presentation summarizing past efforts to develop selection and ranking criteria and reviewing the current state of the project list. Following the presentation, we will be available to help the Flood Authority as needed with the discussion of projects.