

Since 1845



*Lewis County, Washington*

# LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LEWIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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**RON AVERILL**  
First District

**RICHARD GRAHAM**  
Second District

**F. LEE GROSE**  
Third District

**Sheila Unger**  
Board Administrator

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Brian Baird  
US Congressman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
120 Union Avenue  
Suite 105  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Congressman Baird:

The Chehalis Basin Flood Control Authority (Flood Authority) was formed and ratified by the legislative representatives from Lewis, Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties, the cities of Chehalis, Centralia, Montesano, and Aberdeen, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, and the Mayors of the Towns of Pe Ell and Bucoda. At the last meeting, the Flood Authority determined that it was necessary to seek funding so that a coordinated study, analysis and implementation of flood control projects within the Chehalis River Basin may commence without delay. To that end, the Flood Authority has drafted a letter to the Washington State Office of Financial Management requesting funds set aside in the Governor's 2008 Supplementary Budget. \$2.5 million was allocated to assist the Flood Authority. Additional funding is needed to conduct the needed basin studies and to fund the coordination of efforts in forming a formal three-county flood control district.

It is our understanding that there is already a request for \$1.5 million for the Corps project and a request for an additional \$1 million in federal funds to match the "Study" money allocated in HB 3375 and earmarked for the Corps of Engineers. We respectfully request that any federal funding to assist in flood studies within the basin be authorized for use by the now-existing Flood Authority rather than the Corps. The Flood Authority is eligible to receive state and federal funding and we believe that the money would be better spent in addressing solutions to flooding throughout the basin rather than allocating money to a federal study that has focused on only parts of the overall flooding challenge.

When leveraged with the money already allocated from the state, the additional \$ 1 million would provide for more extensive and thorough examination of the issues and potential solutions to flooding throughout all three counties.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have additional questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact Ron Averill, Chairman, Lewis County Board of County Commissioners. Lewis County is the Lead Agency for the Flood Authority. Commissioner Averill can be reached at (360) 740-1283.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Averill', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Averill, Chairman  
Lewis County Board of County Commissioners  
Lead Agency for the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Authority

Cc: Sen. Patty Murray  
Sen. Maria Cantwell  
Congressman Norm Dicks  
Members of Flood Authority  
Keith Phillips  
Sen. Dan Swecker  
Rep. Richard DeBolt  
Rep. Gary Alexander