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Lewis County, Washington

LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Sheila Unger
Board Administrator

May 13, 2008

Office of Financial Management
Attn: Sandi Triggs
PO Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Re: Formation of the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Authority and a request for funding under the 2008 Budget and House Bills 3374 and 3375

Dear Ms. Triggs:

In response to the need for a coordinated study, analysis and implementation of flood control projects in the Chehalis River Basin, the legislative representatives from Lewis, Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties; the cities of Chehalis, Centralia, Montesano and Aberdeen; a representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; and the Mayor of the Towns of Pe Ell and Bucoda entered into an interlocal agreement pursuant to RCW 39.34.030 and formed the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority. At their last meeting, May 22nd, the Flood Authority determined that it was necessary to request the funding that has been authorized in the 2008 Budget so that it could begin working toward a Chehalis River Basin-wide solution to address flood issues. This letter is a formal request to provide the funding for that effort as authorized.

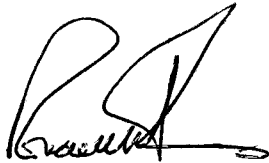
Lewis County has been designated as the lead agency to receipt and expend budget monies on behalf of the Flood Authority. Robert Johnson, Lewis County Director of Community Development has been assigned as the lead staff member to coordinate the process. Mr. Johnson will be in contact with you and has authority to prepare whatever paperwork is necessary to accomplish the receipt of funds.

Initially, the Authority, acting through the lead agency, will need to contract with a facilitator to coordinate with the Flood Authority preparation and distribution of material, setting dates for and conducting meetings, and other tasks necessary and preparatory to contracting for other technical consultants, formulation of appropriate studies and reports, and ultimately, formation of a flood control district including transitional services once the district is formed.

The Authority is firmly committed to evaluating options for the entire Chehalis River Basin before endorsing any flood control project, including the levee/dam

project proposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers after the 1996 flood ("the Corps project"). The Authority understands that the State may evaluate the effect of the 2007 flood on the potential performance of the Corps project, and has the authority to update the project technical model, and to recalculate the potential benefits and costs of the project in consideration of updated land use information for the Centralia and Chehalis area. This information will be useful for the Authority to consider as part of the basin wide study effort. The Authority may also seek independent review of the updated information. The Authority's desire for this updated information is for the purpose of re-evaluating the Centralia/Chehalis project and does not signify an endorsement of advancing the design work at this time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Averill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Cc: Flood Authority members
Keith Phillips
Sen. Dan Swecker
Rep. Richard DeBolt
Rep. Gary Alexander