



Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Honorable David Burnett, Tribal Chairman
420 Howanut Road, PO Box 536
Oakville, WA 98568

September 7, 2011

Dear Chairman Burnett:

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority is working on opportunities for addressing flooding issues in the Chehalis River Basin. The Flood Authority appreciates the involvement of the Chehalis Tribes in the past. We would like to invite consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation on this effort to address flooding in a way that helps protect people, property, and the environment.

Under ESHB 2020 and a recently signed inter-local agreement, the Flood Authority is working with the Governor's Office and Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) on a number of different studies. These include a study to develop, construct, operate and fund flood control measures throughout the Chehalis Basin; extension of a study to examine the effect of possible retention structures on fish in the basin and a new study to look at potential enhancement opportunities; examination of the impacts of bridges and other mitigation measures; and a hydraulic model for the Chehalis River to calculate flood levels, flood damages, and benefits of proposed flood mitigation projects for the lower portions of the river. The Flood Authority will also be working with OFM on its "Alternative Measures" report to look at a wide variety of potential solutions to flooding.

Among other issues, we would like to confer with you about your concerns related to flooding, as well as to discuss any other related studies or efforts you may have underway. For example, we understand that the Tribes may have issued a request for qualifications for hydraulic modeling in and around the Sickman Ford Bridge and may have other on-going studies. To maximize resources and minimize duplication, we would like to coordinate and collaborate where possible.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to come meet with you and other appropriate representatives you desire to invite consultation and coordination on potential flood mitigation efforts. We'd like to identify concerns you may have and reach mutually agreeable decisions and procedures for future consultation while taking into account the interests of the Tribal, State and Federal governments, and the interests of the Flood Authority.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. I will be in touch with your office to ask about scheduling a meeting to discuss these matters further. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (360) 590-4100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie L. Raines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vickie L. Raines
Chair, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

cc: Keith Phillips, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Executive Committee, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority