



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 7, 2012

Vickie Raines, Chairperson
Chehalis Flood Authority
2025 NE Kresky Avenue
Chehalis, WA 98532

Subject: Update on temperature data collection

Dear Vickie:

In August 2011, the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority (CBFA) authorized the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to continue monitoring temperature using the network of "Tidbit" temperature sensors installed by Anchor QEA under their contract with the Flood Authority. We wanted to give you a brief update on that monitoring.

When Ecology took over the monitoring, we provided the CBFA with a technical memo describing our work. That memo commits to monitoring the Tidbits through June 2012, and to entering the data into Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) System by September 2012.

Last October, Betsy Dickes of Ecology's Southwest Region met with staff from the Chehalis Tribe and checked the Tidbit sites. She was able to access and recover data from five sites. In January, Betsy checked on the Tidbits again and recovered data from seven sites.

Tidbits have not been recovered since May 2010 from three sites. Two were near public access and appear to be stolen and one is inaccessible due to high water and brush. Some of the Tidbits that were recovered are getting covered by sediment or are in an area of bank erosion. The ability to continue monitoring at these locations over the coming months is uncertain.

Ecology's Scott Collyard will be entering the temperature data into EIM, including all water quality data from the beginning of the project collected by Anchor QEA. This data should be



fully quality checked and available through the EIM portal by the end of June. Of course, raw data collected to date are available at any time from Ecology upon request.

Tidbits will be checked again in early spring, and then the sensors will be collected and their calibration checked in early summer. The exact dates will depend on flow and weather conditions.

A project request has been made through Ecology's annual internal project planning process, and if accepted and agreeable to the CBFA, temperature data collection will continue for another year. These data will also be quality checked and posted to EIM.

Please contact Christine Hempleman at (360) 407-0239, Christine.hempleman@ecy.wa.gov or Paul Pickett at (360) 407-6882, paul.pickett@ecy.wa.gov if you have any questions about this work.

Thank you,



Chris Hempleman, Senior Planner
Southwest Regional Office



Paul Pickett, Environmental Engineer
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