



# Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

*Erik P. Martin, P.E., District Administrator*

*351 NW North St  
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900*

July 27, 2021

Tyson E. Johnston  
Policy Representative  
Quinault Indian Nation

RE: '21 – '23 Biennium Budget – Additional Information

Mr. Johnston,

The District is committed to gathering critical facts and information to better inform stakeholders, including the public, the agencies, the Tribes, the Office of The Chehalis Board, and our Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors. Each of these groups will provide input to help make informed decisions on whether, and/or how, to proceed with the flood damage reduction project. Once Final Environmental Impact Statements are published, the District will make a decision whether to begin the project permitting process, and input from all of these stakeholders is critical to that decision.

The following is intended to revise the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's budget request documents to address the questions and concerns raised by the Quinault Indian Nation at our virtual meeting on July 22, 2021. We very much appreciate the Quinault's open and frank conversation about our project and appreciate the need to clarify many of our budget item descriptions. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

*These Q&A's and the attached tables address the questions raised by the document that Dave Bingaman sent out via email on July 19<sup>th</sup> to inform the conversation the District had on July 22 with the Quinault Indian Nation. We have tried to address each issue and question the in order in which it was asked in that document. Please refer to this document as a reference to these responses.*

Q: There are new items (#s 1, 2, 4, 5, and 18) included in the memo in the District's explanations (beginning on page 10 of the June 22 memo to the Board) that were not apparently in the original budget. Why were they included in the June 22 memo? How do they factor into the overall budget since no dollar amounts were assigned to these items?

*Sean D. Swope  
Chair*

*Gary Stamper  
Vice Chair*

*Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM  
Member*



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A: The items listed on pages 10 – 17 were requested by DOE and USACE for incorporation into the FEISs. All of the work activities that they identified have been incorporated into the District's original budget request to OCB. (See Table 1).

**Table 1**

DOE/USACE Request Item #	Description	OCB Budget Item	Description
1	Riparian Vegetation Height Estimates	38	Update VMP (VMP Implementation/construction phase)
2	Slope Stabilization	40	Sediment Transport/Geomorphology
4	Updated Vegetation Management Plan	38	Update VMP (VMP Implementation/construction phase)
5	Large Woody Debris Management	38	Update VMP (VMP Implementation/construction phase)
18	AMM Database	NA	This has been completed and is not funded by the 2021 biennium budget

Q: Additionally, the June 22 clarification #7 (land use) related to original budget item #36 adds information that seems to pre-determine the FRE will be built because it states "Include approach to FPAs," and confirms the County's approach to "land conversions" and addresses permitting and compliance requirements.

A: Budget item # 36 is a response to a specific DOE and USACE request for a description of the process for land purchase and change in jurisdiction from DNR to Lewis County. The updated information could affect land use analysis and findings in the FEISs.

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Q: Similarly, the June 22 clarification #9 related to original budget item #58 includes items that seem to pre-determine the FRE will be built: "Information on roads during construction and operation," including "Identify quantity of materials needed for new road construction..." and "contingency plans for inundated roads in the reservoir area..., vegetation management."

A: Budget item # 58 is a response to a specific DOE and USACE request for more information regarding access roads. DOE and USACE received a comment letter from Weyerhaeuser requesting that they specifically assess impacts to Weyerhaeuser-owned roads. This budget item will develop enough information about these roads to adequately address the comment in terms of impact assessment.

Q: The April 26, 2021, memo from USACE included dates for responsive documents that have passed (April 31, 2021 and June 30, 2021 (presumably June 30, 2020 was a typo)). Are they still needed given the requested timeframe has passed?

A: We have discussed possible submission dates with DOE and USACE and have been advised that we can still submit information. Depending on the EIS preparation schedule, the newly submitted information may not be incorporated into the analysis and impact findings but still could be incorporated into the mitigation chapters, which are prepared later. Furthermore, the FCZD has the option to request a pause of the EIS preparation to develop information.

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If you have any questions, please contact Erik Martin or Betsy Dillin at the District.

Best Regards,

Erik Martin, PE

District Administrator

CC: FCZD Board of Supervisors

Andrea McNamara Doyle, Office of the Chehalis Basin Director

Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology Director

Evan G. Carnes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Member



**Table 2 – Additional Info for Items Highlighted in 06-07-21 Letter from Quinault Indian Nation**

**NOTE:** The highlighted rows in the following table have also been updated to reflect the need for further clarification following our meeting on July 22, 2021. In general, the intended work remains the same, but descriptions have been revised to better show the intent of the work task.

#	Agency / Organization	Task Description	Budget – High (\$)	Requesting Agency and Reasoning	Reference #	Description of Work to be Performed	Timeframe
36	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Land Conversion Procedure	\$10,000	DOE, DNR and USACE; Updated information would affect land use analysis and findings	#7	This work will develop an approach for conversion of lands needed for the project. Issues that will be addressed include timing for conversion, approach for compliance with all applicable regulatory agencies, and approach to managing sensitive features under the critical areas ordinances and ecological functions identified in forest practices rules.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
37	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Confirm State Site Location Decision	\$50,000	DOE and USACE; This would inform alternatives analysis and cultural resources analysis	#6	Questions have arisen from agencies and stakeholders during the DEIS and Section 106 process that have caused the agencies to ask the FCZD to confirm and provide more information on the selection of the specific site of the proposed FRE.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
39	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Recreation Plan	\$20,000	DOE and USACE; This information would inform recreation analysis	#16	This work will clarify the intent to provide recreational opportunities within lands that are associated with the proposed project the objective is to avoid and minimize recreation impacts if the project were to move forward. This work is intended to inform the Recreation Analysis section of the FEISs.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
41	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Temporary Construction Facilities/Quarry Operations	\$110,000	DOE and USACE; This information would inform air quality and transportation analyses	#10	This work will develop additional information regarding proposed project elements such as: location and extent of the temporary construction facilities, construction equipment and equipment operations. It will also refine assumptions for the proposed quarry site location and potential extent of quarry development and operations during proposed construction. This information is intended to inform the air quality and transportation analysis of the FEISs.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
42	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Retention Facility Operations	\$80,000	Recommended by FCZD for consideration; This information would inform multiple resources, including water, earth, wildlife, fish, and land use and for the geomorphology model		Facility operations have the potential to impact several resource areas and questions have arisen from the EIS agencies about how the proposed facility may operate. This work will create preliminary project operations procedures to the extent necessary to assess impacts and with the objective to avoid or minimize impacts if the project was to move forward. A thorough and detailed operations manual and protocols will not be completed at this stage but will continue to be developed throughout the design and permitting stages of the project.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
43	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Update Air Quality Mitigation Commitment	\$ 5,000	DOE; This information would inform air quality analysis	#13	This work will review and update as necessary the District's commitment to avoid and minimize air quality impacts by avoiding practices such as burning cleared vegetation, use of electrified equipment and other measures.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
45	FCZD / HDR FEIS/AMM support	Update Pe Ell Water supply pipeline engineering assessment commitment	\$ 5,000	DOE and USACE; This information would inform public services analysis	#14	This task will review and update as necessary the District's commitment to assess and update Pe Ell water supply to avoid negative impacts to Pe Ell.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs



52	Ecology	Preliminary engineering (dam safety)	\$120,000	NA	NA	This budget item is for the Department of Ecology and we will defer to them to comment on the intended work scope	
53	FCZD	Project and Contract Management	\$600,000	NA	NA	This task is for required ongoing District project management support through either additional contractor/consultant assistance or additional District staff.	Work will proceed concurrently with FEIS process
54	WDFW	Preliminary engineering (fish passage)	\$106,461	NA	NA	This budget item is for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and we will defer to them to comment on the intended work scope	
56	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Airport Levee Phase 2	\$120,000	DOE and USACE; This would inform wetlands analysis and cultural resources analysis	#8	There are jurisdictional wetlands and cultural resources sites within a close proximity of the existing airport levee. This work will clarify how the levee raise could be constructed to avoid impacting any wetlands or culturally sensitive areas. This information is intended to inform the wetlands and cultural resources analysis of the FEISs.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
57	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Conceptual Construction Fish Passage Design	\$150,000	DOE and USACE; This would be used to determine the survivability parameter in fish models	#3	This work is intended to develop information regarding the temporary fish passage facility that could be in use during the construction of the FRE, if the project were to move forward. This information could be used to determine aquatic impacts in the FEISs with the objective of avoiding or minimizing impacts.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
58	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Access Roads	\$60,000	DOE and USACE; This information would inform transportation, land use, fish, wildlife, habitat, earth, and wetlands analyses	#9	This work will further define the project description related to permanent and temporary access roads in and around the FRE site and reservoir area. Locations of existing roads, potential for new roads, road usage and type, and materials needed will be among the information developed.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
59	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Power/Transmission Lines	\$60,000	DOE and USACE; This information would inform land use and habitat analyses	#11	This work will further refine the project description for power transmission and power facilities. This information is intended to inform the land use and habitat analysis of the FEISs with the objective of avoiding or minimizing impacts if the project were to move forward.	Will be developed for submission as part of FEISs
61	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Engineering Input to Draft HPA Permit Application	\$50,000	NA	NA	The preparation of the HPA permit is scheduled to occur after the Final EISs are completed and further work is authorized to move forward with the FRE project by OCB.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs
63	FCZD / KA mitigation	Mitigation Site Identification/Design/Land Owner Agreements	\$1,200,000	DOE, WDFW and USACE; The information would inform air quality, land use, earth, fish and aquatic habitat, wetlands, wildlife and transportation analyses	#15	This work responds to the WDFW's request to provide greater specificity to assess the feasibility of compensatory mitigation to address unavoidable impacts to aquatic habitats and species. The specificity sought by WDFW includes preliminary determination of landowner willingness, development of site-specific mitigation concepts, and characterization of mitigation benefits in terms of ecological functions and values as they pertain to specific species and life stages. This work will include preparation of draft mitigation plans for assessment of impacts to aquatic resources, wetlands, and terrestrial habitats. The work also includes landowner outreach and the development of a list of willing landowners of properties that are potential mitigation sites.	Work will proceed concurrently with FEIS process
65	FCZD / KA mitigation	Prepare preliminary draft HPA Permit application	\$120,000	NA	NA	The preparation of the HPA permit is scheduled to occur after the Final EIS's are completed, and further work is authorized to move forward with the FRE project by OCB.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs



66	FCZD / Land Acquisition	Land Valuation Coordination	\$250,000	NA	NA	This work will be done in coordination with project site land owners to obtain independent valuation of timber/land resources of the proposed project site and temporary reservoir area.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs
67	FCZD / Land Acquisition	Land Option Agreement Negotiation	\$310,000	NA	NA	This work will include negotiations with land owners and preparation of agreements for access to the property prior to purchase to undertake studies required for permitting that must be initiated during the final design and permitting phase.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs
68	FCZD / Land Acquisition	Land Option Payment	\$1,800,000	NA	NA	The option payment to land owner will be to obtain access during project permitting for more detailed collection of site information in support of required permit applications.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs
70	FCZD / Mitigation demonstration (KA)	Implement Hyporheic Exchange Enhancement Demonstration	\$560,000	DOE, WDFW and USACE; This information would inform mitigation feasibility determination	#17	The intention of implementing this project is to demonstrate the efficacy of a hyporheic exchange location in the Chehalis River Basin to assist the agencies in their assessment of this type of mitigation feasibility. This work will install existing condition monitoring, initiate monitoring, and construct exchange structure.	Work will proceed concurrently with FEIS process
71	FCZD / Mitigation demonstration (KA)	Implement Wetlands Mitigation	\$50,000	DOE, WDFW and USACE; This information would inform mitigation feasibility determination	#15	The intention of this work is to obtain options for available wetland credits and demonstrate there are sufficient credits available.	Work will proceed concurrently with FEIS process
72	FCZD / HDR Engineering	Initial Phase - 60% design	\$6,000,000	NA	NA	We do not anticipate this work to begin until after the Final EISs are completed, and the project is authorized to move forward by OCB. More information on the expectation of this work task is located in the FCZD letter to the OCB board dated 5/25/2021.	Work will begin after completion of FEISs

The FCZD submitted a budget proposal to the OCB totaling \$13.9M for the 2021-2023 biennium to advance the project through the Final EIS stage and into the permitting phase, which would be expected to occur after the Final EISs through the end of the biennium. The table below shows the totals of the budget line items categorized by timing.

**Table 3 – Timing & Amounts of FCZD Budget Request for 2021-2023**

Timing of Work Element	Requested Budget Amount
Items for FEIS inclusion	\$1.08M
Concurrently with FEIS	\$3.52M
Could occur after FEIS	\$9.33M
<i>Total '21-'23 Biennium</i>	<i>\$13.9M</i>

**\*\* Note:** This table has been updated to fix an error present in the previous version. The work proposed and total requested budget amount remain unchanged.