



Chehalis River Basin

Flood Control Zone District

Matthew F. Dillin, P.E., District Manager
Erik P. Martin, P.E., District Administrator

351 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900

May 30, 2022

Andrea McNamara Doyle, Office of Chehalis Basin Director
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504

Ms. McNamara Doyle,

As you are aware, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) is the project applicant for the proposed FRE water retention structure being evaluated under the state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes. One purpose of the EISs is to identify potential impacts from a project, then give the applicant the opportunity to find and commit to ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. For the FRE facility, this process has been working as it is designed and has recently resulted in the need to evaluate if the facility would be better situated at an adjusted alignment approximately 1,000 feet upstream or downstream from the currently proposed location. Such an alignment modification could have multiple potential benefits, including being able to avoid direct impacts to a sensitive cultural resource and potentially minimizing the impacts on migrating fish during the construction phase of the project. It may also have the potential to reduce construction cost, schedule, and complexity. The overall flood damage reduction benefits would remain the same for the adjusted alignments.

Even though the potential adjustment is very minor in the overall scope of the project it will require additional engineering work to prepare sufficient project description material to input into the EIS processes and to be certain of their viability. This work is estimated to take seven months. Given the extent of potential benefits, the District feels that the additional time and resources for the investigation of these alignments are an important and worthwhile investment for the EIS processes. The District has already requested the initial funds to begin investigating these alignment modifications. However, the full scope of work will require authorization by the Office of Chehalis Basin Board (OCB) for expenditure of funds to complete the EIS work. The District would like to brief the OCB board members at the June 2nd meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/

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