



# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD MEETING

LOCAL ACTIONS NON-DAM (LAND) ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 2, 2021



LOCAL ACTIONS  
NON-DAM (LAND)  
ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL



# LOCAL ACTIONS NON-DAM (LAND) ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS

- LAND Alternative planning assumptions and outcomes
- Role and process for selecting new LAND Alternative Steering Group
- Work of a third-party consultant team
- High-level timeline to support the Board's decision-making

# PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

(1 OF 4)

## 1. Timeframe & Planning Horizon

Up to 30 years to implement the actions necessary to achieve the draft outcomes, while recognizing that different actions may take longer or shorter to implement.

## 2. Geographic Focus Area

Floodplain of the mainstem Chehalis River upstream of the confluence with the Skookumchuck River, and include the major tributaries: Skookumchuck, Newaukum, and South Fork Chehalis River.

All experiencing the most significant flood damage from current and future 100-year flood events.

## 3. Future Flood Conditions

Plan for the current and future 100-year flood conditions that are predicted for 2080 when considering outcomes and actions to include in the LAND Alternative.

## 4. Basin-Wide Coordination

Require any projects funded through the Strategy as part of the LAND Alternative to be designed, implemented, and mitigated to avoid making flood damage worse in other areas.

## 5. Focus on Existing Development

Focus on protection of existing development from flood damage, not address new development in the floodplain.

**NOTE:** Preventing new at-risk development will be addressed as part of the Integrated activities of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, including working with local and tribal governments on floodplain land use management ordinances and building code standards, and an acquisition program for acquiring undeveloped property &/or development rights.

## 6. Assume No Flood Retention Facility

Focus on solutions that would reduce damages in the absence of the proposed flood retention facility and airport levee project (the dam). This will likely include a mix of localized infrastructure, floodproofing/elevation, and acquisition/relocation strategies.

Staff proposes the Board acknowledge that the LAND Alternative:

- Will have different effects, benefits, and costs than the proposed dam, including social, ecological, and economic benefits and costs
- Will achieve flood damage reduction benefits through different means than water retention
- May include local actions that have effects beyond this area, and that some of these actions could become part of a comprehensive flood damage reduction strategy whether or not a dam is implemented



# DISCUSSION: PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- Do you agree with these six planning assumptions, especially the geographic focus area and focus on existing development?



# TARGETED MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

(1 OF 2)

## 1. Valuable Structures Protected from Mainstem, Catastrophic Flooding

The amount of existing homes, businesses, and public buildings in the focus area that could be vulnerable to flood damage by the 2080 predicted 100-year flood levels in the focus area would be significantly reduced, because they are protected by localized infrastructure, flood-proofed/elevated, or the structure has been removed.

## 2. Critical Facilities Protected

The amount of critical facilities in the focus area that could be vulnerable to flood damage by 2080 predicted 100-year flood levels would be significantly reduced, because they are protected by localized infrastructure, elevated/flood-proofed, or relocated.

# TARGETED MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

(2 OF 2)

## 3. Farmland and Rural Structures Protected

The number of locations where migrating river channels and bank erosion pose a high risk of near-term damage to valuable structures or loss of economically productive land uses would be significantly reduced while protecting ecological processes.

## 4. Environmental Justice Advanced

Communities with environmental justice concerns would suffer less hardship and damage from flooding, would not be adversely affected by actions to reduce flood damage, and would be improved by flood solutions.

# OUTCOMES NOT TARGETED BY LAND ALTERNATIVE

*Out of geographic focus area*

- **Homes & Businesses Protected from Seasonal Urban Flooding**
- **Lower Basin Properties & Businesses Protected from Coastal Storm Surges**

*Transportation-related outcomes addressed on a parallel track*

- **Transportation Routes Protected**
  - I-5 and the BNSF rail mainline
  - Key county and city intersections and interchanges
  - State Highways 6 and 12

# DISCUSSION: OUTCOMES

- Do you approve of the recommended outcomes to guide the development and evaluation of the LAND Alternative?
- What, if any, other changes to the outcomes are needed to create clear expectations for what the LAND Alternative should be aiming for?

# LAND ALTERNATIVE STEERING GROUP

- Responsible for recommending an alternative that achieves, to the greatest extent feasible, the outcomes identified by Board
- Use the expertise of a third-party consultant team with the land use planning, engineering, and community engagement expertise in developing their recommendations
- With OCB support, regularly engage with the Board and guide third-party consultant team during development and evaluation of LAND Alternative
- Consult technical experts from state agencies, local & tribal government, OCB technical consultants, and others with specialized expertise



# THIRD-PARTY CONSULTANT TEAM

- Will be selected via a competitive process
- Under direction of OCB and Steering Group, develop one or more options for an alternative that does not include the proposed dam
- Focus first on the need to address flood damage to existing at-risk development in the focus area defined in the planning assumptions
- Have expertise to develop a planning level program to move, relocate, and/or floodproof individual structures and use public infrastructure (levees, etc.) to provide flood protection based on current and future conditions.

# ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT STEERING GROUP

Will be made available as requested by Steering Group, through third-party consultant team or other available technical experts:

- Housing policy
- Floodplain management and land use planning
- Hydrology and hydraulic modeling
- Flood damage reduction solutions, including levees, floodproofing, acquisition, and relocation
- Natural areas management
- Cost/benefit analyses, including impacts on economically and socially vulnerable communities

# SCHEDULE / TIMELINE

- **September 2021:** Finalize membership of LAND Alternative Steering Group
- **October 2021:** Hire third-party consultant team(s)
- **October 2021 – June 2022:** Development of LAND(s) Alternative
- **June – September 2022:** Evaluation of LAND Alternative.

# BOARD DISCUSSION AND BREAKOUT ROOMS

