



# SEPA Draft EIS for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

## Chehalis Basin Board Briefing

February 6, 2020

# Draft EIS Comment Period

- 61-day extended comment period
  - 2 public hearings with open houses
  - Information will be available online for entire comment period
  - Comments can be made 24/7
- Information with different levels of detail for people to choose from
  - Focus sheet: quick overview
  - Presentation (online and at hearings)
  - Executive Summary: high-level summary
  - Draft EIS: reader-friendly format
  - Appendices: technical, detailed information

# Public Hearings and Open Houses

- **March 31** at Centralia College
- **April 2** at Montesano High School
- Meeting format:
  - Open house from 5:00 – 8:30
  - Short presentation on the EIS at 5:30
  - Take oral comments from 6:00 – 8:30
- Two court reporters, one for the main room and one in a quiet area
- Open house will have information and staff to answer questions

# Expansive Outreach

We are planning expansive outreach:

- Press release and social media
- Information online starting Feb 27
- Email to SEPA EIS LISTSERV of 800+ people
- Postcards sent to local residents near study area
- Legal notices in local newspapers on comment period
- Flyers for posting in local communities
- Notices in local newspapers prior to public hearings

# Coordination

- We request Chehalis Basin Board assistance on outreach
  - Let us know about any specific groups or individuals to include in our outreach
  - Provide the flyer on the comment period to stakeholders
- To provide information to the public on the use of the Draft EIS, the EIS introduction says:
  - *The Chehalis Basin Board is expected to use this EIS to inform its recommendations for the long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy.*
- At the March 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, we will present the findings from the Draft EIS

# Information for Advance Planning

- Email sent on Feb. 4 with information for planning to 800+ people on the SEPA EIS LISTSERV
- Flyer to hand out with information on comment period and hearings available now
- Websites updated with comment period information
  - How to comment
  - Public hearings and open houses

# Messages for Stakeholders

- The draft state environmental review will be released on **February 27, 2020** for review and comment.
- Ecology's goal for the draft SEPA EIS is to be an objective, thorough, and science-based document.
  - It will provide information for the public and decision-makers about the probable, significant, adverse environmental impacts from the proposed project.
  - It will not approve or deny the proposed project.
- Ecology is looking forward to hearing your comments on the draft environmental review. Please sign up for email updates.

# Next Steps

- Feb 27 Release SEPA Draft EIS
- Feb 27 Start of public comment period (61 days)
- Mar 5 Brief Chehalis Basin Board on EIS findings
- Mar 31 Public hearing & open house (Centralia)
- Apr 2 Public hearing & open house (Montesano)
- Apr 27 End of public comment period



# Where to Find Information

Information about the SEPA EIS and the comment period is available at:

Chehalis Basin Strategy website

<http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/sepa-process/>

Ecology's website

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS> .

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