

## Executive Summary

In the mid 1990's, residents in the vicinity of the mouth of Connor Creek and its outlet to the Pacific Ocean began to experience dramatic erosion of their properties as the mouth of the creek began to migrate rapidly to north. This area is a rural unincorporated community within Grays Harbor County lying midway between Ocean City and Copalis Beach. Historically the mouth had meandered north and south dependent on the time of year and weather conditions, but stayed primarily in a general area of about one-fourth to one-half mile in width. Some man-made interventions to the south created a condition that eliminated capability for a southern meander, which may have precipitated the steady migration of the creek mouth northward. Whatever the cause, it began to erode substantial amounts of property and to sever access to the ocean, first private, then public access.

In 1997, the community requested assistance from the County. In response, the County formed a flood control zone district and commissioned a study and analysis to determine if anything could be done to correct this problem. An initial analysis was completed by the County and a proposal was developed to relocate the mouth of the creek to its historical location. At the time of this work, the mouth had migrated approximately one and one-half miles north and was showing no signs of stopping. Today the mouth is approximately two miles north of the historic location and still moving. The County approached the resource agencies in the initial effort, but the agencies took the position that this was a natural phenomenon and estimated that it would most likely not continue and would cause little to no adverse affect. The County and District attempted to answer agency questions before trying to obtain permits. The Communities resources were exhausted prior to applying for permits.

Now, four years later as the mouth continues to migrate north and is at risk of conjoining with the mouth of the Copalis River, which could have significant adverse impacts on the environment and the community, the County and the District elected to initiate further studies to provide a Natural Resource Assessment, Regulatory Issues Summary, and a Preliminary Engineering report.

Using the first effort for baseline information, Grays Harbor County and their consultant have developed the analysis, assessment, and this report, which expands the analysis of physical processes, and has developed alternatives for review by the community and resource agencies to address the problem.





## **Preliminary Engineering Report**

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Connor Creek Erosion Control Project  
Grays Harbor County

Prepared for:

Grays Harbor County  
Montesano, Washington

Prepared by:

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