



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

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Chehalis, WA 98532-1900*

June 16, 2022

Attention: Rich Doenges
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Attention: Brandon Clinton
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3164

RE: Submittal of the Draft Flood Retention Expandable Facility Mitigation Plan and the Draft Wetland Mitigation Plan for the Flood Damage Reduction Project Proposed by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), published Draft Environmental Impact Studies (EISs) for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) proposed flood damage reduction facilities near Pe Ell and at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport (proposed project). In response to the Draft EISs, the District has developed a Draft Flood Retention Expandable Facility Mitigation Plan: Aquatic Species and Habitat, Riparian and Stream Buffer, Wildlife Species and Habitat, Large Woody Material, Surface Water Quality (Draft FRE Mitigation Plan), and a Draft Wetland Mitigation Plan. These plans propose to mitigate for the impacts to wetlands, aquatic species and habitat, riparian stream buffer, wildlife species and habitat, large woody material, and surface water quality that were identified in the Draft EISs. These two plans are hereby submitted to Ecology and the USACE to inform the agencies regarding the additions and changes to the project configuration and measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential project impacts. The District commits to implement the measures outlined in these documents to address impacts listed in the Draft EISs, subject to their final determination by agencies with jurisdiction during the project permitting process. These mitigation plans are submitted to assist Ecology and the USACE in the development of NEPA and SEPA Final EISs.

In the SEPA Draft EIS, Ecology recommended the preparation of eight mitigation plans corresponding to specific resources. Because avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts can be interdependent among resources, a number of the resource specific plans have been integrated into the Draft FRE Mitigation Plan. These include the Fish and Aquatic Species and Habitat Plan, Surface Water Quality

Mitigation Plan, Stream and Stream Buffer Mitigation Plan, Large Woody Material Management Plan, Wildlife Species and Habitat Management Plan, Riparian Habitat Mitigation Plan, and Vegetation Management Plan.

Both the Draft FRE Mitigation Plan and the Draft Wetland Mitigation Plan are extensive and comprehensive documents. Accordingly, the District would like to have the opportunity to meet with your agencies to provide a briefing on their contents and development to aid in your review. If possible, we would like to schedule these briefings prior to the next Chehalis Basin Board meeting where they will also be presented.

Please contact Matt Dillin at (509)289-9078 or by e-mail at Matt.Dillin@lewiscountywa.gov or myself at (360)740-2679 or by e-mail at Erik.Martin@lewiscountywa.gov if you have any immediate questions or wish to discuss a date for a briefing.

Submitted By,



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Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
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360.740.2697 Office

CC with Attachments

Evan Carnes – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Diane Butorac – Department of Ecology
Andrea McNamara Doyle – Office of the Chehalis Basin

Attachments:

1. Draft Flood Retention Expandable Facility Mitigation Plan: Aquatic Species and Habitat, Riparian and Stream Buffer, Wildlife Species and Habitat, Large Woody Material, Surface Water Quality
2. Draft Wetland Mitigation Plan