



# Chehalis River Basin

## Flood Control Zone District

*Erik P. Martin, P.E., District Administrator*

*351 NW North St  
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900*

June 4, 2021

Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology  
Brandon Clinton, USACE

Re: Post-Draft EIS Information Submittal

Governor Inslee’s July 22, 2020 letter to the Office of the Chehalis Basin Board requested that the board “Continue evaluating the issues raised regarding the retention project and other flood risk reduction projects and the potential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the identified impacts.” To support the Board in this effort, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (the District) as the project applicant had engaged our project team to identify reasonable measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate (AMM) impacts identified in the SEPA Draft EIS to further the understanding of the implications of undertaking the FRE project.

During the past several months the District has completed a number of tasks to identify such measures or to further understand the nature and magnitude of the potential project impacts.

At this time the District would like to submit the following reports and memorandum to Ecology and the USACE to support your efforts to prepare the Final SEPA and NEPA EIS’s.

Attachment	Report/Memorandum	Purpose
1	Mitigation Capacity and Species Benefits	This memorandum further defines the extent potentially available sites for aquatic species mitigation and the specific benefits associated with the mitigation actions proposed. This memorandum is in response to comments and request for additional information on the Conceptual Aquatic Species Mitigation report previously submitted by the District.
2	Slope Stabilization Mitigation	This report summarizes the available information on the location of known potentially unstable slopes in the area of FRE construction and within the area subject to inundation. It includes a commitment to an ongoing monitoring program for these know areas.

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3	Avoidance and Minimization of Rainbow Falls and Fisk Falls Lamprey Fishery Impacts and Related Cultural Effects	This memo summarizes potential FRE operational impacts on two specific tribal fishing locations and the associated lamprey fishery in the upper Chehalis River Basin, and identifies possible methods to minimize impacts through operational modifications at the FRE facility.
4	Alternative Quarry Site Selection	This report evaluates the three proposed Quarry sites documented in the SEPA Programmatic EIS and SEPA and NEPA Draft EISs and concludes that one of the sites, the Huckleberry Ridge site should be eliminated from further consideration.
5	Operation under Climate Change Conditions	At an OCB Board meeting a question arose regarding how the FRE facility would operate during a 100-year flood event under climate change conditions where flood flows are project to be on the order of 50% greater than current projects. This memorandum describes how the FRE is presumed to operate under these conditions.
6	District Committed AMM Measures Catalog (MS Excel data base)	The District has compiled into this catalog all of the avoidance, minimization and mitigation measure commitments that have been cited in the various documents submitted by the District. It should be noted that this document is not static. As additional work is completed and commitments made to additional AMM measures they will be added to this catalog.
7	Transfer Land Use and Jurisdiction	This letter outlines the District's assumptions for land acquisition and transfer of jurisdiction and the FRE and associated reservoir site.
8	Short Term Aquatic Species Benefits	This memo summarizes the potential viability of implementing short-term measures to increase salmonid species abundance over several reproductive cycles, and whether such measures could potentially stabilize populations of

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		anadromous salmonids in the most affected reaches when implemented in conjunction with habitat mitigation.
9	All Species Fish Passage Facilities Research	This memo presents example fish passage facilities constructed to accommodate all aquatic species and life stages or that incidentally accommodated a wider range of species and life stages based on existing documentation or observation by others that could be used throughout construction of the flood retention facility for temporary fish passage. The available technologies and their potential application (or viability for consideration) at the Chehalis project site are summarized.

In addition to these already completed tasks the District submitted a Water Quality Sensitivity Analysis Report and associated input files in April 2021.

Our project team is also currently initiating efforts to prepare material to respond to recently received requests for project description and AMM information.

Respectfully yours,

*Betsy Dillin on behalf of Erik Martin*

Erik Martin, District Administrator  
Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

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