

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION TO SPONSOR AND APPLY FOR PERMITS FOR) RESOLUTION NO. 17- 001
A WATER RETENTION FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES)
ON THE UPPER CHEHALIS RIVER SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF PE)
ELL AND TO RAISE THE CENTRALIA-CHEHALIS AIRPORT LEVEE)

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (hereinafter "the District") wishes to reduce damages to families, communities, businesses, schools, churches, farms, livestock, utilities, Interstate 5, state highways, county roads, rail lines, parks, trails, recreational facilities, and other facilities and properties from catastrophic flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, the legislature, state and federal agencies, tribes, and communities within the basin represented by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority), have joined together in an organized process, the development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, to produce the best science for solutions to the problem of reducing catastrophic flood damage and to restore habitat for aquatic species within the basin; and

WHEREAS, the Chehalis Basin Strategy as currently developed has identified (1) construction of a water retention facility and associated facilities on the main-stem of the Chehalis river south of the Town of Pe Ell and (2) elevation of the Centralia-Chehalis Airport levee as components of an integrated strategy that will provide significant basin wide damage reduction from catastrophic flooding (hereinafter "the Project"); and

WHEREAS, these components of the Project were evaluated by the Washington State Department of Ecology in its State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is projected to reduce (1) the duration of catastrophic flooding, such as reducing the inundation of Interstate 5 from five days in 2007 to one day or less during a similar event, as well as reduce (2) the elevation of those floodwaters, such that the peak elevation of the 2007 flood and the 100-year flood on the Chehalis River at the Doty gage would be reduced by more than ten (10) feet, the peak elevation at Mellen Street in Centralia would be reduced by more than 1.5 feet and the peak elevation at Grand Mound would be reduced by more than 1.0 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been evaluated as part of a basin-wide aquatic species restoration and flood damage reduction strategy pursued and funded by the State of Washington, and the Project will only be funded by the State if the Chehalis Basin Board includes it in the long term strategy being evaluated in the 2017-2019 biennium and it is developed concurrently with a basin-wide project to significantly restore aquatic species habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Chehalis Basin Strategy also includes near term actions such as flood proofing of homes and other structures vulnerable to flooding, other local flood damage reduction projects, land use actions by local governments to ensure new floodplain development does not impact ecological function or cause harm to residents and structures that are located in the floodplain, and buying out homes and other structures subject to repeated flood damage; and

WHEREAS, permit applications, triggering a project-level State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), are now needed in order to complete the process of developing the best science to determine whether the Project can be built consistent with local, state and federal regulations and with the overall objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy; and

WHEREAS, evaluating the Project through a project-level SEPA/NEPA EIS requires a permit, a permit applicant and Project sponsor in order to complete the development of the best science; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners has requested that the District act as sponsor of the Project, subject to the District reaching mutually acceptable agreements with the State of Washington and other potential funding sources regarding reimbursement of costs, technical support and other assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District finds that it is in the interest of the District to serve as a permit applicant and sponsor of the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the District at this time and by this Resolution agrees to serve as Project sponsor and applicant, leaving the determination of who will construct, own, operate and maintain the Project to be made in the future after consultation with and agreement among interested parties, including but not limited to the state and local and tribal governments within the basin; and,

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the determination to serve as Project sponsor and permit applicant, Section 214 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) requires the District to request the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the federal lead agency for the permit application, to enter into an agreement regarding staffing of the proposed NEPA evaluation of the Project;

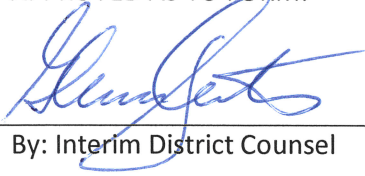
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District, as follows:

1. To authorize the District to act as permit applicant and sponsor of the Project, including a water retention facility and associated facilities on the Chehalis River south of the Town of Pe Ell and raising of the Centralia-Chehalis Airport levee, subject to the District reaching satisfactory agreement with the State of Washington and other potential funding sources for the reimbursement of costs and for technical and other assistance; and
2. To authorize the District Administrator to send a letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers requesting to enter into a Section 214 WRRDA agreement; and
3. To leave the identity of the entity to construct, own, operate and maintain the potential water retention facility and associated facilities to be determined in consultation with the State in the future based on the results of the project-level SEPA/NEPA EISs, permit requirements, the cost of operation and maintenance, or other considerations.

The foregoing resolution was ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District at a regular open public meeting this 6th day of July, 2017.

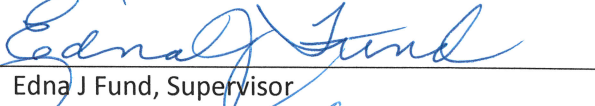
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CHEHALIS RIVER
BASIN FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT

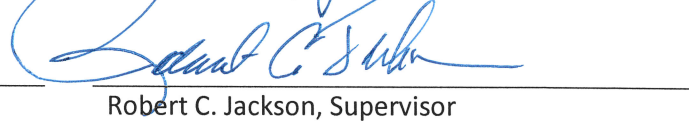

By: Interim District Counsel


Gary Stamper, Supervisor

ATTEST:


Edna J Fund, Supervisor


Lara Seiler, Interim Clerk of the Board


Robert C. Jackson, Supervisor

