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Constructing a dam on the Chehalis River is irresponsible, dangerous, and will prove to be extremely detrimental to the biodiversity of the area.

Data from NOAA shows that Southern Resident continue to target Chinook salmon as their preferred prey year-round, and that outer coast Chinook is an important food source, particularly in the winter. Tagging data also shows that Southern Resident orcas are likely foraging off Grays Harbor at the mouth of the Chehalis. Chehalis River salmon are part of the Washington Coast stock which is listed as a priority Chinook stock for the critically endangered Southern Resident orcas.

This population of whales is already starving due to the other dams already impacting yearly salmon runs. The dam would drown critical salmon and steelhead spawning habitat, degrade water quality and wildlife habitat, and result in increased water temperature.

We have to do everything we can NOW to protect what is left of our salmon stocks. Their incredible annual migration return nutrients to surrounding areas directly and indirectly. Installing this dam will further push our society closer to climate collapse. There are better solutions for flood mitigation such as planting native plants and trees and making a concerted effort to clearing invasive species.