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SEPA Revised Draft EIS for Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project  
c/o Bobbak Talebi  
Southwest Region Office  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
Applicant: Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (NWS-2014-1118)

RE: 202504854

Dear Bobbak Talebi,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

I am writing to object to a flood retention facility being placed on the Chehalis River I stand with the Quinault Tribe and Conservation Northwest on this issue and incorporate their comments as my own feelings toward this venture.

I became involved with the Chehalis Basin Partnership in 2000 when I was approached by members Terry Willis and Lee (Napier) Hansmen. They ask me to join this group because I had just finished an intensive education in Watershed Analysis in 1996 and had expertise they wanted to tap into.

One of the things that always bothered me was that DNR was never at the table for any of these meetings; they should have been there. I went to a meeting to find out why DNR was not participating and to see if I could get a representative sent to the Partnership meetings. I just by chance went to the February 13, 2008 meeting and got to see the DNR presentation on the floods of December 2007 and the devastation into the Chehalis River and what had gone wrong with logging practices and slope failures. It was just luck that I had attended that meeting, because when you are doing watershed analysis, our timber land is a big part of the picture. Some of our logging practices had exasperated the problem.

I worked with the partnership on their steering committee and the water quality committee until sometime in 2009 when the dam funding started to be discussed. One of the last steering committee meetings I attended was in Olympia at Fish and Wildlife, down town by the farmers' market. At this meeting the dam was brought up and the Corp. of Engineers Representative politely told us all, that they were tearing dams out, not giving permits for them. This made me very happy to hear because all the projects we were doing were basically environmental bioengineering projects to protect the fish runs, stop erosion and clean up the water quality. Our funding was mainly for protecting the fisheries. This was an interesting meeting.

There was also a representative from Ecology at that meeting, might have been Gordon White, that stated that Grays Harbor was as built out as much as it should be and that they should now consider tearing out old buildings that need replacing. This had to do with stipulations on funding from the Federal Government for fisheries and protecting our endangered species. I found this very interesting. This subject on funding never came up again in any other conversations, while I was attending meetings or in minutes from meetings that I have read. I quit attending meetings when the legislature gave money to the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority to do a feasibility study for the dam. To me it seemed a huge slap in the face after all the years of volunteering for this group; because for the last 70 years that I know of; the area between Chehalis and Centralia has flooded; and the people of Lewis Counties bad land use choices, filling and building in areas that should have been left as flood plain, were not something I had ever agreed with.

The cumulative impacts of the dam proposal are too great and outweigh any benefit that the dam would provide. Ecology's documents are pretty clear on that point.

The significant losses in habitat for Steelhead, among other salmon spawning is far to great for the amount of money we have spent over decades now to save them.

The wetland loss and degradation are significant the effect will be felt across all species, including us. Your wetlands discipline report Appendix O states "Wetlands classified as slope wetlands under the HGM classification were the most numerous (66) in the temporary reservoir. These wetlands are primarily associated with drainages, and form in areas where the slope flattens out such that surface or groundwater moving downslope slows and inundates or saturates the soils. They are typically small. Slope wetlands included all combinations of Cowardin wetland types encountered in the study area." Sloped wetlands have been a high priority to save since my wetland's education began and now there are 66 in the area that you want to wipe out due to this dam. Sorry, that is not acceptable to me.

When are we going to start working with the land and not against it.

Please explain your justification for over a billion dollars in funding that has been spent to save these salmon runs an than turn around and add a dam?

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Teri J. Franklin