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Please do not build the Chehalis River dam.

The Chehalis River is vital habitat for wild Chinook salmon, which are the primary limiting factor for the health and survival of the Endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW):
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-southern-resident-killer-whales-orci>

Protection of Chinook-producing watersheds is critical for recovery and long-term survival of SRKW population numbers. Construction of the dam would remove approximately 6.2 miles of critical Chinook spawning and rearing habitat, and would also reduce availability of Coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are Southern Resident prey.

Research shows that limitation of SRKW prey continues to be the dominant threat to their health, survival, and steadily declining population numbers. This is compounded by the collected impacts from vessel disturbance and contaminants in their habitat experienced throughout their range.
<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-01/srkw-5-year-review-2021.pdf>

The original 2020 draft EIS analysis stated that the dam would have significant adverse effects including reducing fall salmon runs and degrading water quality. While the suggested bypass channel is a potentially helpful solution, past projects with bypasses and fish ladders have seen mixed success; of significant concern are the challenges in replicating natural river conditions, ensuring that the fish use the bypass, and maintaining water quality during construction.

Instead of the dam, please use other options such as the Local Action No-Dam (LAND) Alternative which involves floodplain restoration, improved drainage systems, levee improvements, building elevation, land use planning, and voluntary buyouts.