

Christopher Lish

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Subject: Reject proposal to dam the free-flowing Chehalis River -- Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology Casey Sixkiller:

As a native Washingtonian, I strongly oppose the construction of any dam on the Chehalis River. The proposed dam would permanently damage one of Washington's last free rivers.

Better, smarter, and safer science-backed non-dam flood solutions already exist, such as restoring floodplains, strengthening local infrastructure, and investing in resilience. A dam won't stop major flooding long-term, but it will destroy irreplaceable habitat.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement clearly lays out the reality that this dam will have catastrophic impacts on ecosystems, salmon, wildlife, and tribal treaty rights. The Chehalis is critical for the area's salmon, elk, birds, steelhead, lamprey, beavers, and otters, among other species. This river also carries cultural, ecological, and spiritual importance that a dam would violate.

Washingtonians deserves real flood solutions, not a project that harms wildlife and waste public dollars.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA