

# Kristen Bryant

Hello,

After review of the proposed Chehalis River Basin project with SEPA comment period ending February 4, 2026, my comment is that this project's environmental harm is too great. Myself and millions of other residents repeatedly support doing more to protect our natural areas and wildlife. The planet and our region is in serious trouble with endangered species and lack of habitat as well as pollution and climate change.

Alternatives to restore riparian zones, and move people out of flood-prone areas are the best long-term solution. The cost may be high, but long-term a dam always needs maintenance and is subject to failure. As one who has lived in the shadow of the Howard Hanson dam and watched our massive investment over the years, while productive farmland was turned to shopping malls, and rivers polluted and fish and animals destroyed, I have observed that dam building is a bad decision.

Stop throwing away approximately \$2 Billion on a dam proposal that will cause more harm. That \$2 Billion could be used to do good for the environment instead or relocate the most at-risk businesses. We need to plan for climate change in a way that does NOT do MORE harm to the environment and cause more climate change.

In the "EIS Appendix 1: ... Alternatives..." the option of changing forest practices is mentioned. This needs strong consideration. We are still losing too many trees and too much forest habitat to clear cuts. Aerial maps make this clear.

From EIS Appendix 1 on page 85 (pdf pg 91 of 104):

"Changes to Forest Practices: Some additional research was conducted in 2022 to evaluate the relationship between contemporary forest practices and streamflow in the Chehalis Basin. At this time there is not sufficient information to identify an alternative that could be carried forward.

...

The Chehalis Basin has a high probability of experiencing major and catastrophic floods, and this probability increases with climate change in the future. Implementation of the Proposed Action, if permitted, would not be expected to foreclose other options to reduce flood damage in the future."

Thank you,  
Kristen Bryant