

# Public Hearing Information Guide

## SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement

For the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

## Public Hearing Meeting Agenda

### Open House:

5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Staffed exhibits
- Opportunity to provide written comments
- Court reporter available to record private verbal comments

### Welcome and Presentation:

5:30 p.m.

- Welcome

### Verbal Public Comments:

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Short presentation on Draft EIS
- Lottery style verbal comment period
- Adjourn

## The SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District has proposed to construct the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) determined the Proposed Project could have significant adverse environmental impacts. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identifies and analyzes how the Proposed Project is likely to affect the environment. Ecology has prepared a Draft EIS under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements in the Washington Administrative Code 197-11. A SEPA EIS does not approve or deny a proposed project. It provides information about the probable, significant, environmental adverse impacts of a proposal. Local and state agencies will use the information in this SEPA EIS, along with other information, for making decisions on permits. The Chehalis Basin Board is expected to use this SEPA EIS to inform their recommendations for the long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Ecology is holding a 61-day public comment period for the SEPA Draft EIS on the Proposed Project from **February 27 through April 27, 2020**. Comments received on the SEPA Draft EIS during the comment period will be compiled and reviewed by Ecology. Substantive comments will be considered in preparation of the SEPA Final EIS. Ecology anticipates the SEPA Final EIS will be published in 2021.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP FOR THE EMAIL LIST

Chehalis Basin project EIS website:  
[chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis](https://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis)

Ecology's project webpage:  
[ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS)

### CONTACT US:

#### SEPA EIS Contact

**Diane Butorac**

*Ecology SEPA EIS Project Manager*

Ph: 360-407-6573

email: [diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov)

#### Media Contact

**Curt Hart**

*Ecology Communications*

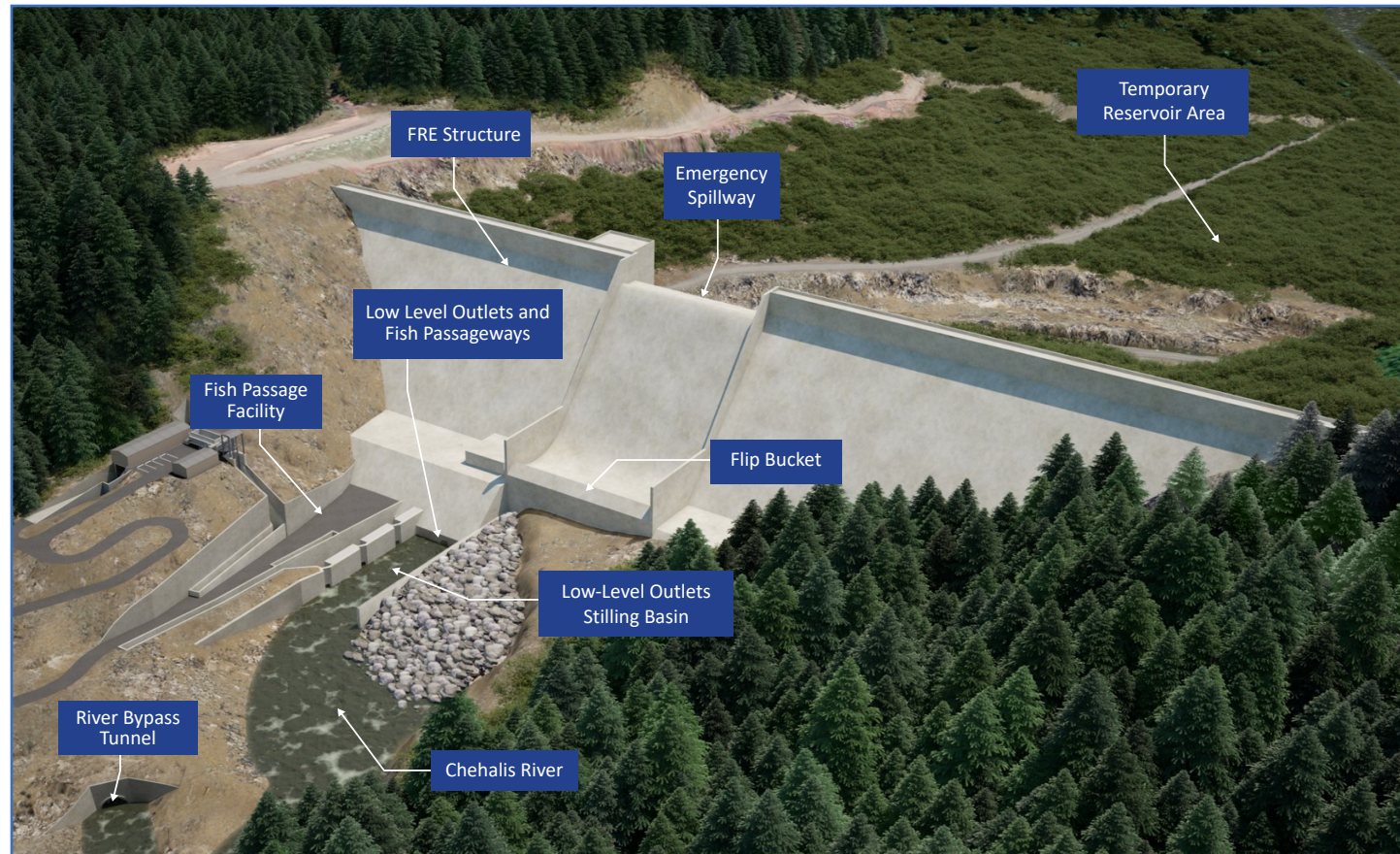
Ph: 360-407-6944 | Cell: 360-701-1220

email: [curt.hart@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:curt.hart@ecy.wa.gov)

Twitter: [@ecologyWA](https://twitter.com/ecologyWA)

### Equal Access

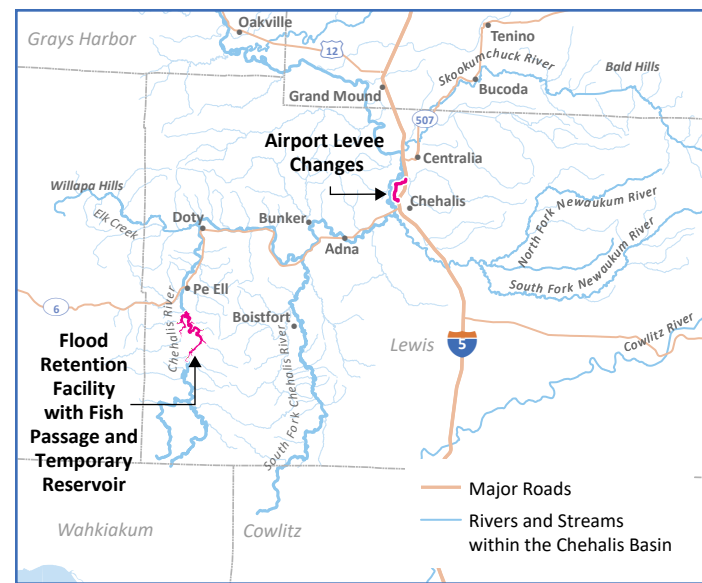
To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341. All meeting-related requests must be received 72 hours in advance; please call 206-903-3331.



Flood Retention Facility and Associated Temporary Reservoir



Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee Changes



Vicinity Map

## Applicant's Proposed Project

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (the Applicant) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir near the Town of Pe Ell, Washington, on the Chehalis River and make changes to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee in Chehalis, Washington, to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis-Centralia area. Project elements include:

**The flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir** is intended to reduce peak flood levels during a major flood or larger from storms in the Willapa Hills. The flood retention facility outlet gates would close when a major flood or larger is predicted (based on the water flow at the Grand Mound stream gage) and the temporary reservoir would hold water. The water in the reservoir would be released back to the Chehalis River over time. At all other times the river would flow through the outlets at its normal rate.

**Changes to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee** would include raising the levee 4 to 7 feet, widening the levee, and raising a portion of NW Louisiana Avenue to reduce flood damage from a catastrophic flood.

### Flood Terminology

**Major Flood:** Size of a flood when the water flow is measured as 38,800 cubic feet per second at the Grand Mound stream gage. This is similar in size to the 2009 flood.

**Catastrophic Flood:** Size of a flood when the water flow is measured as 75,100 cubic feet per second at the Grand Mound stream gage. This is similar in size to the 1996 flood.

## Participating in the SEPA Draft EIS Public Hearing

**Public Comment Period: February 27 through April 27, 2020**

During the comment period you can learn about the Applicant's proposal, the probable environmental impacts from the proposal, and provide public comments on the SEPA Draft EIS. There are multiple ways to submit comments. All public comments are considered equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

- In person: Attend a public hearing on March 31 and April 2
- Online: [chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form)
- By mail: *SEPA Draft EIS for the Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project*  
c/o Anchor QEA, LLC  
1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 2600  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Each Public Hearing Will Include:**

- A welcome area where you can learn about the meeting format and obtain a ticket to provide verbal comments
- An open house where you can review information on the Draft EIS and talk to staff
- A quiet area where you can provide comments either by filling out a comment form or by talking to a court reporter
- A short presentation on the Draft EIS
- A public comment area where you can provide verbal comments to Ecology

# Public Hearing Ground Rules

Ecology is committed to providing safe and effective public hearings. Public input is an important part of the SEPA process. Public hearings offer the public an opportunity to be involved in the environmental review process and provide Ecology with suggestions, questions, and concerns.

The ground rules are intended to provide a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard. Individuals who do not follow the ground rules and create an unsafe or intimidating environment will be asked to leave public hearings.

Ecology asks all participants to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for each meeting, and allow everyone's voice to be heard equally. Use of these ground rules will support productive and civil meetings.

## Ground Rules

1

Intimidating behavior will not be tolerated because it creates a disrespectful and threatening environment. Examples of intimidation that are prohibited include:

- Confronting, blocking, or interfering with attendees when they approach, enter, or engage in the public hearing venue
- Conducting rallies or demonstrations at the entrance or within the public hearing venue

2

Ecology may close the space to additional attendance if facility capacity is reached. When people depart and space becomes available, additional people will be allowed to enter.

3

Ecology reserves the right to close the meeting at any time if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for participants to make oral comments before an audience or if there is a safety risk.

4

In anticipation that many people will want to provide oral comments to the agencies, Ecology has established a 2-minute time limit per speaker for all public hearings, and this limit will be enforced.

- Speakers will be chosen by a lottery drawing method to provide an unbiased selection of speakers.
- Silent expressions of support or opposition by giving a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" or raising one's hand, or a small sign for a few seconds are allowed if they do not disrupt speakers.
- Clapping, cheering, or jeering disrupts speakers. Such noise contributes to an intimidating atmosphere and is prohibited within the public hearings.
- Speakers may be stopped when disruptive behavior such as sign waving or a mass activity like standing up as a group occurs. These actions will reduce the overall time allotted for people to speak and therefore fewer people will be able to provide comments.
- Signs no larger than 100 square inches (such as 10" x 10") are allowed in the public comment areas. Signs should not be held up for extended periods as they block the view of others.