

# Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meetings

for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

October 16, 2018 (Montesano City Hall)

October 17, 2018 (Centralia College)



# Overview

- Welcome, Meeting Purpose, and Agenda
- Meeting Ground Rules
- Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Processes
- Proposed Project
- How to Provide Scoping Comments
- Scoping Comments

# Meeting Agenda

## **Open House**

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## **Oral Public Comments**

5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Staffed exhibits
- Opportunity to provide written comments
- Court reporter available to record private oral comments
  
- Welcome
- Short presentation
- Lottery style oral comment period
- Adjourn

# Meeting Ground Rules

# Meeting Ground Rules

## **Purpose**

- Provide safe and effective scoping meetings
- Create a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard

All participants are asked to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for each meeting.

# Meeting Ground Rules

## **Providing Oral Comments**

- Speakers will be chosen by a lottery drawing method.
- Silent expressions of support or opposition are allowed if they do not disrupt speakers.
- Activities or behaviors that may be intimidating are prohibited.

# SEPA and NEPA EIS Processes

# Scoping Overview

- **What is an Environmental Impact Statement?**

An EIS provides a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. This analysis is necessary before an agency can act on any permit.

- **What is Scoping?**

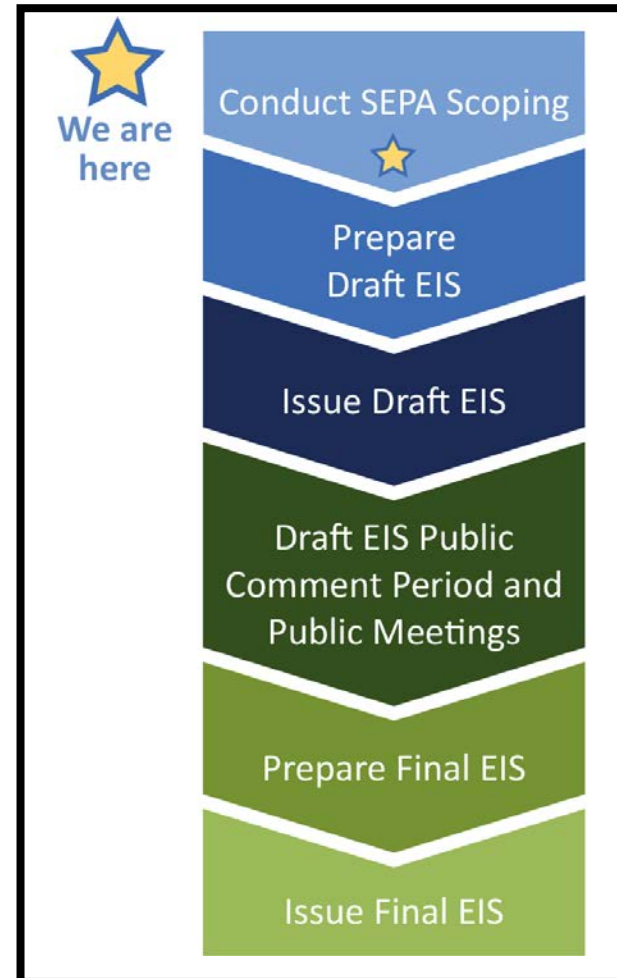
Scoping is the first step in the EIS process. The purpose of scoping is to receive public input on the project to identify probable impacts to environmental resources and alternatives.



# SEPA Process

## What is SEPA?

The State Environmental Policy Act – or SEPA – requires agencies to take environmental factors into consideration before taking action on state and local government decisions, such as issuing permits for projects. The EIS will be used to inform permit decisions but no permit decisions can be made until the environmental review process is complete.



# SEPA Process

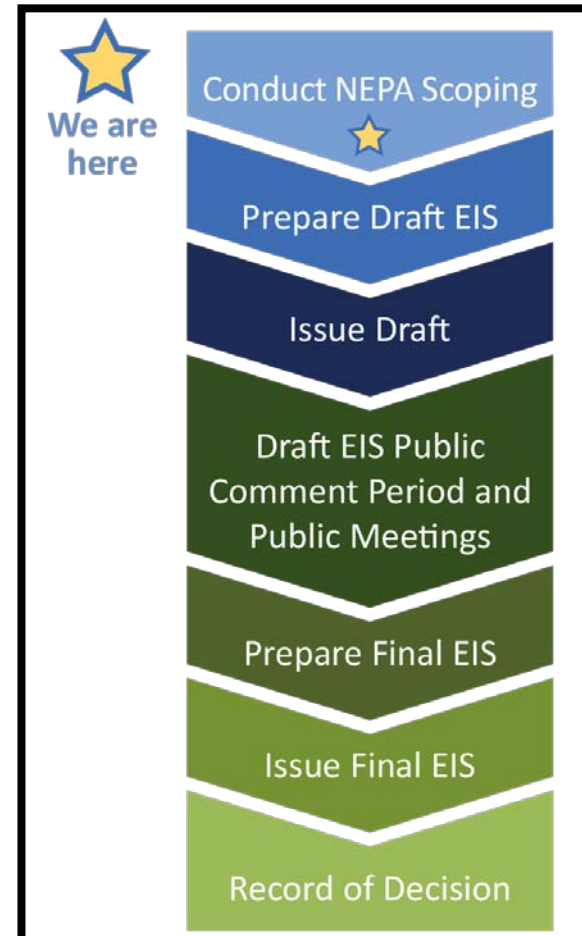
## Areas of the environment proposed for analysis in the SEPA EIS:

- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology and Soils (Landslides)
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Water Quality
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Vegetation

# NEPA Process

## What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act – or NEPA – requires federal agencies to consider environmental values alongside the technical and economic considerations that are inherent factors in federal permit decision making. It is important to emphasize that no permit decisions can be made until after the environmental review process is complete.



# NEPA Process

## Areas of the environment proposed for analysis in the NEPA EIS:

- Climate Change
- Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Geology (Landslides and Earthquakes)
- Geomorphology
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources (including Tribal Treaty Rights)
- Water Resources
- Wetland/Riparian Habitat and Wildlife

# Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's Proposed Project

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

# Proposed Project

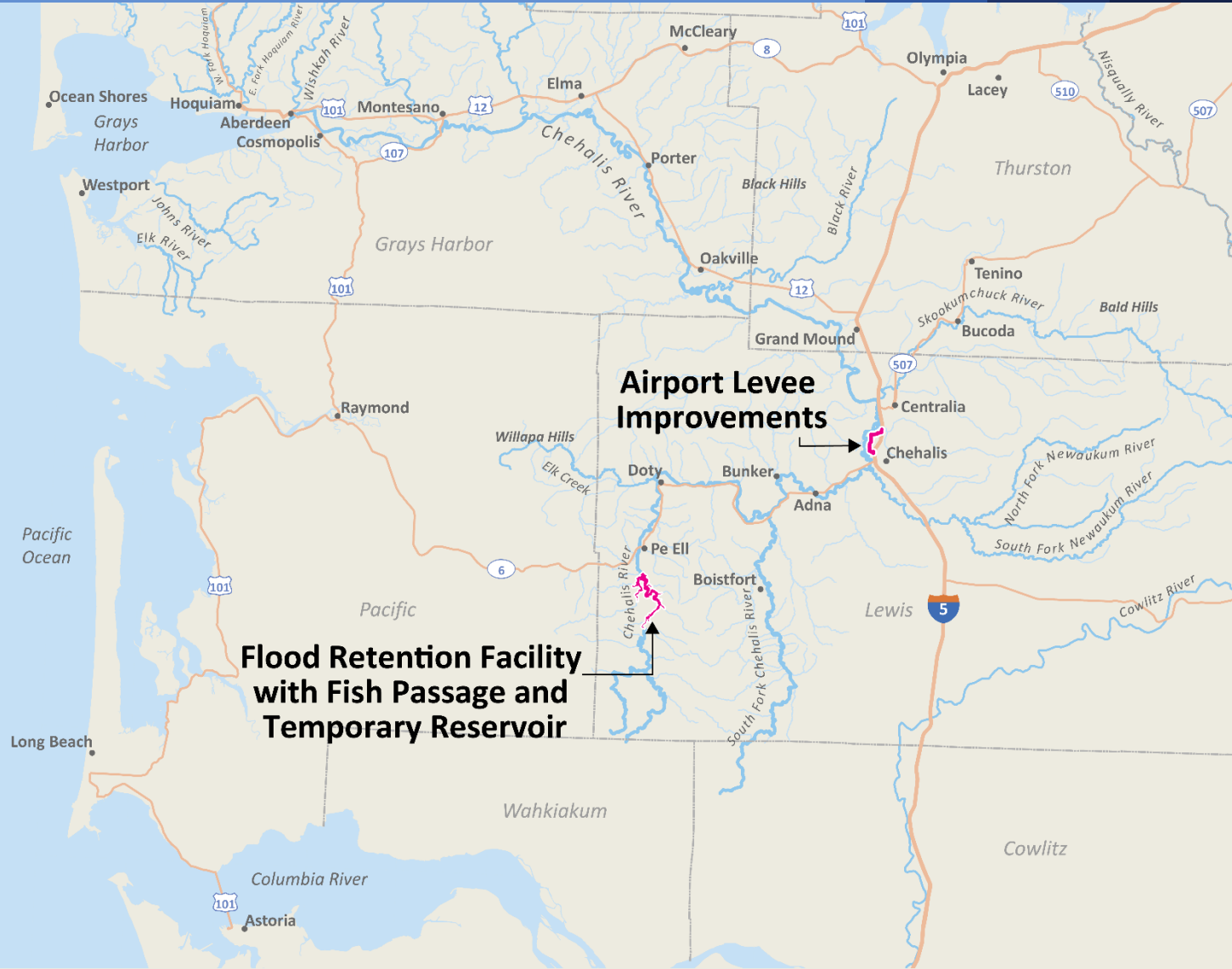
## **Applicant's Proposal**

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington.

## **Applicant's Purpose**

The proposed project is intended to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin.

# Vicinity Map

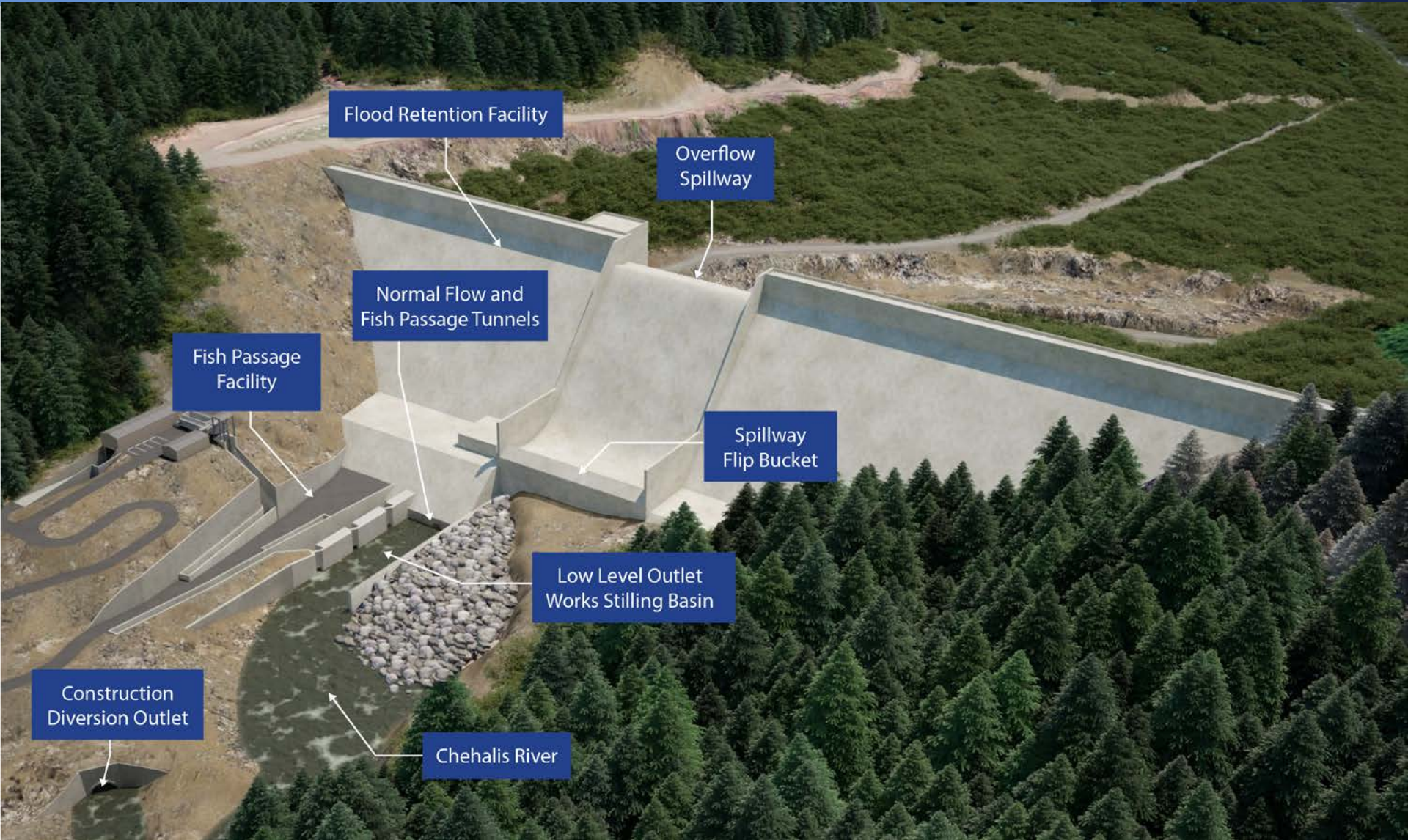


- Major Roads
- Rivers and Streams within the Chehalis Basin





# Flood Retention Facility – Expandable (FRE)





# Airport Levee Improvements



- Airport Levee Improvements**
- Airport Levee Improvements
- == Raised Road
- Existing**
- ++ Railroad



**We Want Your Input!**

# Providing Scoping Comments

## Ways to Comment – from Sept 28 through Oct 29

- **Scoping Meetings**

Oral comments through the court reporter or written comment cards

- **Online comment form via the website**

[chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form)

- **Mail**

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS  
Anchor QEA – 720 Olive Way, Suite 1900  
Seattle, Washington 98101

All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

# Providing Scoping Comments

## **We want to hear from you**

The most useful scoping comments focus on the following topics:

- Potentially affected resources and extent of study and analysis needed to understand each probable impact
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (offset) effects of the proposal
- A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs

# Oral Public Scoping Comments