

About this Document

This document contains comments submitted on the SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project from February 27 to May 27, 2020.

All comments are valued equally. Comments have been arranged in categories solely for ease of access and downloading or searching the documents.

All comments will be considered for the final EIS and responses to substantive comments will be included in the final report.

CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

April 2, 2020

Pages 1 through 51

Taken Before:

Kris Manley, RPR, CCR #2211

Registered Professional Reporter

of

Capitol Pacific Reporting, Inc.

2401 Bristol Court SW, Suite C-103, Olympia, WA 98502

Tel (360) 352-2054 Fax (360) 705-6539 Toll Free (800) 407-0148

www.capitolpacificreporting.com

admin@capitolpacificreporting.com

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Thursday, April 2, 2020
2 via WebEx Webinar, the following proceedings were had,
3 to wit:

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8 MS. BRADLEY: Hi, everyone. This is Cindy
9 Bradley again. I would first like to make a few
10 announcements before we start this webinar and I would
11 like to announce that this -- this is being recorded.
12 And for the purposes of this webinar, I am displayed as
13 the host which does display me as Curt Hart, and I am
14 here to provide technical assistance throughout the
15 webinar.

16 This format may be new to some people joining us
17 tonight. I would like to go over some of the tools that
18 can be used for participants.

19 I do need to announce that if you are using an
20 Android device, the system is not compatible
21 unfortunately. And you may be able to see and hear the
22 presentation, but it will not allow you to use the other
23 webinar features that we are going to be going over.

24 For those that are participating through the online
25 webinar please make sure that you have chosen the "Call

1 me" option. This webinar will call your phone and you
2 will get the best audio connection. If you have chosen
3 a different option, please disconnect the audio and
4 reselect the "Call me" option.

5 If you have chosen to just call in and your audio is
6 not connected, then your audio is not connected to your
7 name. This separates you from the registered name from
8 your phone line and we will not be able to unmute your
9 phone if you would like to provide comment later.

10 For those that are participating strictly through the
11 phone, which I do not see at this point, you are going
12 to only be in a listen-only mode and you will not be
13 able to provide verbal comment.

14 We would like to remind you that written comments do
15 have the same weight as verbal comments. If you wish to
16 provide a verbal comment, please join the online webinar
17 feature.

18 So as a reminder, all of the participants are muted
19 upon entry. Throughout this webinar, there are two
20 features that can be used to participate. The first is
21 a chat feature, which I see some have already started to
22 use and you can use this to -- to contact me, the host,
23 for any technical questions related to the webinar
24 function.

25 So the chat feature can be found along the circular

1 icons at the bottom of your WebEx screen. The chat box
2 will pop up on your right-hand side and there is a drop
3 down box that you can select the host and write a
4 message.

5 If you have been experiencing any technical
6 difficulties, please use that feature to message me and
7 I will attempt to advise you on how to resolve those
8 issues.

9 The second feature that we will ask participants to
10 use during the public hearing part of this is the "Raise
11 Hand" feature. On the screen you will see your name
12 under the participant list on the white panel to the
13 right-hand side. The "Raise Hand" feature is displayed
14 as a small hand icon to the right of your name. This
15 may also be located at the bottom right corner above
16 your chat box. When we open the floor for public
17 comment, we will ask you to use this feature to identify
18 that will you have a comment.

19 We will take the comments in the order that we have
20 seen the "Raise Hand". When we reach your name -- when
21 we reach your hand, we will call your name, unmute your
22 microphone and accept your comments. Comments will be
23 limited to two minutes per person. Once we have
24 received your comment, we will remute your microphone
25 and move on to the next person.

1 And with that, I would like to hand it over to Gordon
2 White who will provide a brief introduction.

3 MR. WHITE: Good evening. I'm Gordon White, the
4 responsible official for Ecology on this environmental
5 review and I'm hear to listen to your comments. On
6 behalf of the Department of Ecology, welcome and thank
7 you so much for joining us. I know it is a very
8 difficult time right now. I appreciate everyone taking
9 their time to do this, provide comments to us on this
10 important environmental review.

11 This meeting was originally planned to be in person,
12 but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are holding it
13 online to protect public health. We will do our best to
14 keep the hearing moving smoothly and I really appreciate
15 your patience.

16 Let me introduce the Ecology staff, who will be
17 helping during this webinar. Now you heard from Cindy
18 Bradley and she is facilitating. Curt Hart
19 unfortunately cannot join us. He has an illness and so
20 Cindy will be doing the facilitating and managing the
21 webinar comments. And Diane Butorac, who has been our
22 project manager for the EIS, will be presenting the
23 information and direct reports, methods and findings.

24

25 So we are here to present the draft environmental

1 impact statement for the proposed Chehalis River Basin
2 Flood Damage Reduction Project. The applicant for the
3 project is the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone
4 District.

5 First, we will provide a presentation on the methods
6 and findings of the draft environmental review. Then we
7 will talk about the process for taking public comment.
8 The formal hearing will then begin where we record your
9 comments for the record. Your comments will be
10 considered and included in the final environmental
11 review. Please note that comments made in the webinar
12 chat room are not considered public comments for the
13 record. Diane?

14

15

16

(Presentation portion not
transcribed as requested by
client.)

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21 MS. BRADLEY: So as a reminder, this is Cindy
22 Bradley who is identified as the host for this meeting.
23 During the public hearing we ask all participants that
24 would like to provide public comment to use their "Raise
25 Hand" feature to identify that they have a comment. On

1 your screen, you will see your name under the
2 participants on the white panel to the right-hand side.
3 To raise your hand that is displayed, it should be
4 directly on the right-hand side of your name, or it may
5 also be located on the bottom right-hand corner above
6 the chat box. To raise your hand, you simply have to
7 click on the icon.

8 We will take comments in the order that we see the
9 "Raise Hand." When we reach your "Raise Hand," we will
10 call upon your name as well as the name of the person
11 directly following you, so that each individual has time
12 to prepare. When we reach your name, we will call on
13 you and unmute your microphone to accept your comment.

14 Your comment will be limited to two minutes as Diane
15 has said and there will be that timer on the screen.
16 Once we have received your comment, we will remute your
17 microphone and move on to the next person.

18 Please note if there is more than one person that is
19 providing comment in the same location, announce that
20 before providing your comment. Once you have provided
21 your comment, please remember to lower your "Raise
22 Hand." Again, if you click on the icon next to your
23 name, it will lower the hand and it will help us keep an
24 accurate list of who is next.

25 So it looks like we do have one participant that has

1 already raised their hand to begin comment. So it is
2 Nathan Ereth and then directly following is John
3 Henricksen, so I am going to be unmuting Nathan and they
4 will be able to provide their comment.

5 Nathan, are you -- are you able to hear?

6 MR. ERETH: Yeah. Can you guys hear me?

7 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0285

8 MR. ERETH: Great. It is Nathan Ereth, by the
9 way. I would like to start out with talking a little
10 bit of the history in the Chehalis Valley. When we
11 start talking about the flood that occurred back in
12 2007, which is one of the main reasons why this project
13 has come to a head, I would like to refer people to the
14 Seattle Times article in December of 2009 -- or December
15 9th of 2007 and December 17th of 2007. Both of those
16 articles talk about logging in the upper watershed,
17 specifically on Stillman Creek where we had a 50-degree
18 hillside that was over the regulated threshold. It was
19 classified as a moderate risk and yet the wood was cut
20 and left knowingly before the rain storm, which is why
21 we had a large influx of wood in the Boistfort Valley
22 which created a large amount of water to push down and
23 finally inundate I-5. These are all secondary issues.

24 Some of the other proposed benefits from this project
25 looking at lower water temperatures around Newaukum

1 River Valley to assist in salmonid -- salmonid juvenile
2 reduction mortality would also be nullified by projected
3 development within the watershed and within the river
4 valley.

5 As we have shown from many other research studies and
6 other examples in our own Duwamish River and Cedar River
7 Valleys, we know that more concrete obviously leads to
8 an increase in surface water temperature and that's
9 exactly what we are trying to combat here.

10 Many people don't believe -- I believe that EIS also
11 supports that -- many people don't believe that the --
12 the dam would help in any way, shape or form to that
13 effect.

14 So, once again, we don't need to be nixing
15 six-and-a-half miles of pristine spawning habitat that
16 is just finally getting back into really good shape
17 after our mid 2000s flood in lieu of a development
18 project that is only going to help developers and not
19 help the citizens of Washington State.

20 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Nathan. And I would
21 please remind you to deselect your "Raise Hand" just so
22 that we can make sure that -- thank you.

23 Okay. Did you want to make a comment?

24 And before we take John Henricksen's comment, Diane
25 would like to add one additional piece of information

1 for everyone.

2 MS. BUTORAC: Hello everyone. Just please
3 remember that any of the chat comments that you are
4 making are not considered part of the public record. We
5 are listening to the oral testimony here, so if you
6 would like to make a comment, please use the "Raise Your
7 Hand" feature.

8 MS. BRADLEY: So John Henricksen, you are next
9 and then it is Brian Stewart. GP0286

10 MR. HENRICKSEN: Yes, this is John Henricksen. I
11 just wanted to comment, Diane and Gordon, I have talked
12 to you about this before, but when we are talking about
13 statistical summaries, the summary of the EIS statement
14 makes verbal quantitative statements like significantly
15 lowers or -- statements like this and without numbers,
16 statements like that can be quite misleading.

17 For instance, we have worked with fish counts from
18 the Department of Fish and Wildlife that were done last
19 year and when you say that there will be a reduction of
20 10 percent going through the facility for spawning of
21 Chinook, it turns out to be one-and-a-half to two fish.
22 So it is important that we have to have numbers attached
23 so that people understand the significance of the
24 verbiage that is being used. That's -- that's what I
25 was concerned with.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. BRADLEY: All right. Thank you, John.

3 So Brian Stewart, it looks like you are next and then
4 it will be Lee First.

5 Brian, are you there?

6 MR. STEWART: Yeah, I'm here. Can you hear me?

7 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0287

8 MR. STEWART: Oh, great. My name is Brian
9 Stewart. I'm a resident of Onalaska, Washington. The
10 EIS really fails to do any adequate methodology to
11 determine migratory routes through where the project
12 areas are. In fact, the programatic EIS uses some
13 really inappropriate stuff, and then there is really
14 nothing in the current draft.

15 And the impact of minor was given after the
16 assessment, but based off of what, it's pretty hard to
17 tell of anything, and so there is going to have to be a
18 bigger discussion about that. It is going to have to be
19 looked at better. Mitigation options are going to have
20 to include corridors, migration, habitat connectivity.
21 And because that got missed so openly, the importance of
22 connected riparian corridors during, you know, change in
23 climate for species to adapt, it was also ignored. So
24 we looked at a lot of things about climate change, but
25 it doesn't talk a lot about the importance of a river

1 like this for species to move in and out of the basin
2 depending on what that species would need.

3 Obviously there is a lot of other impact on wildlife
4 and particularly like Marbled Murrelets. And so there
5 is going to have to be I think more robust mitigation
6 offerings or recommendations that might actually help.

7 I realize the EIS doesn't admit feasibility of these
8 things, but I think it is something that needs to be
9 discussed a little deeper in the project.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Brian. And then Brian
12 and John, can you please remember to lower your hands
13 since we have taken your comment?

14 And it looks like Lee First is next on the list.

15 Lee, are you there?

GP0288

16 MR. FIRST: I am. Thank you. My name is Lee
17 First and I'm a resident of Aberdeen. In 2001 there was
18 a total maximum daily load study for temperature on the
19 upper Chehalis River. TMDL assumed that riparian
20 vegetation would be protected and reestablished and
21 water quality would not be further degraded.

22 So if I'm understanding all of this, before a dam,
23 the water was already too warm. With a dam, temperature
24 will increase by up to nine degrees Fahrenheit. There is
25 no load allocation for the dam. How will water quality

1 standards be attained when water temperatures rise even
2 more?

3 In regards to Appendix N, installation of a bypass
4 tunnel is described. The report says that the bypass
5 construction will take 10 months and will be used for 32
6 months. Appendix N goes on to say that nonflood
7 tolerant trees will be removed from 485 acres. There
8 will be massive soil disturbance, road building and rock
9 quarrying all occurring at the same time, yet the
10 document states that water quality disturbances will be
11 moderate to minor.

12 Please revisit and reconsider these impacts as
13 construction is expected to take five years. Five
14 years. How will the polluted water from concrete mixing
15 and washing be handled? How will erosion from massive
16 trucking be -- be handled?

17 Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Lee.

19 MS. BUTORAC: This is Diane. We are working on
20 the timers. I'm sorry if there is a few glitches. We
21 are all trying to learn how to do this interactively and
22 on the screen, so we will get better.

23 MS. BRADLEY: And then it looks like Larissa, but
24 I apologize if I don't pronounce -- is it Maughan? -- is
25 next.

1 Larissa, are you able to hear us?

2 MS. MAUGHAN: Yes, I am.

3 MS. BRADLEY: Great.

GP0289

4 MS. MAUGHAN: I just wanted to say that there are
5 many and significant, to use the word so often we use in
6 the report, effects -- environmental effects that are
7 very detrimental from flooding as well that should be
8 taken into account. Having experienced the 2007 flood
9 and being a resident of Washington, too, I will benefit
10 and the environment around me will benefit from
11 reduction in those massive floods.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Larissa.

14 I don't see anybody has decided quite yet that they
15 would like to provide comment. Just as a reminder, we
16 are asking those that do want to provide comments to use
17 the "Raise Hand" feature. That should be right next to
18 your name and it also might be right above the chat
19 feature.

20 All right. David Linn, it looks like you are the
21 next person that would like to provide comment, so let
22 me unmute you.

23 David, are you there?

GP0290

24 MR. LINN: I'm here. Thank you. David Linn,
25 Ocean Shores, Washington. And I guess one thing that I

1 think you should at least make an attempt to look at is
2 other effects down the road that you are not considering
3 right now and it -- I guess I'm thinking of the effects
4 that the Columbia River and Snake River dams had on the
5 salmon population and one of the results of that is that
6 now we are killing Cormorants and sea lions. I think
7 nobody would have expected that as a result of building
8 those dams.

9 So I think there are other effects that you are not
10 looking at as horrific as these effects are, that I
11 think need to be considered, but what will happen to
12 mitigate the effects in 15 years, 20 years down the
13 road.

14 Excuse me. I need to drink some water.

15 So I think you ought to a little deeper look at some
16 of those longer-term effects.

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, David. Let me try to
19 find Christine Jackson, I apologize that you are having
20 issues trying to find your "Raise Hand." I'm going to
21 unmute you if you would like to provide comment.

22 Christine.

GP0291

23 MS. JACKSON: Thank you very much. I think that
24 in order for us to fairly evaluate the impact from the
25 EIS report, we need to consider the losses to the human

1 population and transportation property and environment
2 that were caused by the flooding in 2007 and 2009 and
3 the resources that were used by the federal and state
4 government in emergency services to the population. I
5 think this should be included in your report in your
6 appendices or something so that we can fairly evaluate
7 the impact.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Christine.

10 It looks like Cindy Hanson, you have raised your hand
11 to provide comments. So give me one second. Let me
12 unmute you.

13 Cindy, are you there.

14 MS. HANSEN: I am. Can you hear me?

15 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

16 MS. HANSEN: Can you hear me okay?

17 MS. BRADLEY: Yes. Can you hear us?

GP0292

18 MS. HANSEN: Great. Yes. Thank you. Yeah,
19 Cindy Hansen. I live in Friday Harbor, Washington and I
20 just have a very brief comment at this point. In the
21 section of the presentation regarding impacts of the
22 proposed project, I didn't see or hear mention of any
23 impacts on the endangered southern resident orcas. The
24 summary of the EIS does not mention the orcas at all,
25 but the full document does state that there would be a

1 moderate adverse impact on southern resident killer
2 whales due to the loss of salmon and steelhead.

3 So these orcas are critically endangered due to the
4 lack of available prey. It is known that they do feed
5 off Grays Harbor, and Chehalis River salmon are included
6 in the list of priority Chinook stocks that is created
7 by NOAA. So I just want to ask you to include that
8 information when you discuss the impacts and during the
9 next online meeting.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Cindy.

12 It looks like the next person that I can see that has
13 raised their hand is Thomas O'Keefe.

14 Thomas, are you there?

GP0293

15 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Thomas O'Keefe from -- I'm
16 the northwest stewardship director for American
17 Whitewater. I just want to make a brief comment on
18 recreation. I'm looking at the impact finding that
19 finds that it is significant and unavoidable and would
20 result in a permanent loss of 13.8 miles of the Chehalis
21 River for kayaking and whitewater boating, that section
22 of the river that I have personally had the chance to
23 enjoy and utilize.

24 The proposed mitigation measure is for a recreation
25 mitigation plan; however, I can't find any details on

1 that in the document. I am continuing to review, but
2 what I am seeing is in Section 5.17 is mitigation is
3 proposed for the applicant to develop a recreation
4 mitigation plan to identify and implement potential
5 mitigation, but I don't see any details on that, which
6 makes it hard to evaluate the impact and the potential
7 mitigation measures that are proposed, so that remains
8 as an outstanding issue for our community and
9 organization that I represent.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Thomas.

12 And I would like to remind -- please like to remind
13 those that have commented to lower your hand, if at all
14 possible, to make sure that we keep an accurate list.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. BUTORAC: This is Diane. So would anyone
17 else like to comment?

18 MS. BRADLEY: It looks like Janelle Tufts would
19 like to -- Janelle?

20 Janelle, are you there?

21 No. Do you have audio? Are you muted on your end?
22 We have unmuted you.

23 Are you there, Janelle?

24 MR. TUFTS: Can you hear me?

25 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you.

1 MR. TUFTS: I -- this is actually Bill Tufts.
2 I'm Janelle's husband.

3 And so just a comment that I would have to make is
4 that to agree with some of the previous people that
5 the -- you know, having been here and cleaned up after
6 the '07 floods and previous floods that we had, the
7 impact to, you know, individuals in the -- in the flood
8 area here is significant and the environmental impact of
9 the floodwaters, you know, taking chemicals and other
10 things down through there during the flood would be
11 reduced by the fact if we could control the floods.

12 As well for the people who don't live here that have
13 commented, I would think it would be wonderful if we
14 actually had a lot of fish that came up the river, up to
15 this end of the river, but we have almost no fish
16 that -- that come up through here. So I think the --
17 the report saying it would have a significant impact on
18 the total fish count would be misleading in the fact
19 that we have very view to no fish that make it up to the
20 Pe Ell area, so it would be nice to have -- as John
21 mentioned, to have some hard numbers put in there versus
22 just comments made about significant impact to water
23 temperature or fish or things like that.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Bill.

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MR. CORBIN: . . . in Centralia and it was flooded with over four feet of water and completely devastated their facility. They ever since then had to rent a facility to continue (inaudible) services. So that's just one small example of an organization whose operations were negatively impacted, the individual homes and families that were impacted.

You know, we are talking billions and so we have got to do something to minimize the impacts of flooding while at the same time doing all that we can to support the habitat where we can.

(Audio fades out.)

MR. CORBIN: . . . our flood control project I think is an excellent opportunity to marry both interests and working together with the tribes and other organizations (inaudible) can go a long way towards improving other areas of the basin to help the aquatic species.

MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Frank.

It looks like there is -- Jacob Preisinger is next

1 and then Jim Tripp will be right after Jacob.

2 Jacob?

GP0296

3 MR. PREISINGER: Yeah, I'm here. Hey, I'm Jacob
4 Preisinger. I'm from Montesano. I have spent some time
5 up in that area around Pe Ell exploring the river and
6 doing some fishing and I -- I tend to think that it is a
7 pretty productive area, especially for wild steelhead.
8 I have fished pretty much every river in this area and I
9 personally think that's one of the best and has one of
10 the better runs of wild steelhead. And the area south
11 is beautiful and it would be the shame to ruin it with a
12 dam.

13 That's pretty much all I have to say.

14 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you for your comment, Jacob.

15 Jim Tripp, are you there?

16 MR. TRIPP: Yes.

17 MS. BRADLEY: Great.

GP0297

18 MR. TRIPP: Yeah, I appreciate the time. I just
19 simply want to go on record supporting this project and
20 emphasizing what I have heard others say before, that
21 there is an the environmental impact in any action that
22 you take. This seems to be measured. It seems to be
23 cautious. It is taking that into consideration. And it
24 seems like there is a callous disregard for the human
25 impact and the destruction of property and threat to

1 life that occurs with that flood.

2 Having -- being a resident of Chehalis, having been
3 through the flood, having been personally impacted by
4 that -- I assisted numerous friends, very close friends,
5 seeing the hardship and enormous amount of resources and
6 money that was wasted in that effort. It is almost
7 offensive to sit through and to hear about risk to a
8 minimal environmental risk being placed so highly above
9 the risk to human life and human property.

10 Just want to be on the record supporting this project
11 wholeheartedly.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you for your comments, Jim.

13 For those -- just as a reminder, if you have provided
14 comments so far, please lower your hand if at all
15 possible. Again, you just have to click on that icon
16 right after your name or down in the right-hand corner
17 above the chat feature.

18 MS. BUTORAC: It looks like Nathan Ereth has
19 asked to make a comment.

20 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, I'm just trying to find --
21 Nathan was the first person to provide comment, so --

22

23

24 (Overlapping conversation.)

25

1 MS. BRADLEY: Nathan, are you on the line?

2 MR. ERETH: Yes, I am, yeah. Can you hear me?

3 MS. BRADLEY: Yes. Did you say -- Madeline, you
4 wanted to make a comment. GP0298

5 MR. ERETH: Yeah, Madeline actually wanted me to
6 make a comment on her behalf. Her basic comment was
7 just that we would support the less invasive idea of
8 stepping back the river -- the river floodplain, opening
9 up the river channel, no dam up top and supporting the
10 citizens of Grays Harbor and citizens of Washington
11 State that make a living off of what this river does for
12 the area and what it does for community.

13 And we have heard several things about the water
14 temperature increase and with the dam, that that will
15 increase more. We also have plenty of invasive species
16 in the lower watershed around Oakville, Rochester that
17 would capitalize on this with juvenile salmonid
18 predation that we also would not like to incur.

19 And we would also like to comment that there are
20 still a very good amount of fish that reach the upper
21 watershed despite what some people have commented. Fish
22 and wildlife has many years of data and several people,
23 including myself, have also been the people on the
24 ground putting in the work to cover river miles and
25 count those fish for Washington State residents so that

1 we can support our fisheries in the Grays Harbor area.

2 This would be a detriment to every aspect of that
3 and, once again, would only benefit developers in the
4 area to develop the river floodplain for their own
5 profit while putting residents at a low for insurance
6 rates -- or at a high for insurance rates because of
7 rezoning property areas into commercial areas and where
8 we should just be moving people up out of the floodplain
9 and actually taking our environment a little more
10 seriously with this river. This is our last
11 free-flowing river in Washington State and we should
12 treat it as such.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BRADLEY: Looks like Lindsey pollock has
15 raised her hand to provide comment.

16 Lindsey?

GP0299

17 MS. POLLOCK: Yes. One of the regular things I'm
18 hearing is that it is assumed this project would benefit
19 developers. The benefit I see to it, having lived up in
20 low Boistfort later in 2007, is it benefits agriculture.

21 We had about six inches of mud on our fields at that
22 time and were unable to put in crops for multiple years
23 due to that. We also had a lot of livestock throughout
24 that area killed during the flood and those are an
25 environmental issue because we have to figure out where

1 to put a thousand bodies. That's not a simple task.

2 So please consider that no, this is not just about
3 developers. This is about agriculture and food as well.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

6 MS. BUTORAC: Just checking in again. This is
7 Diane. If anyone wants to comment, please raise your
8 hand or send a message in the chat feature. We will
9 continue to look for that and if we are not seeing
10 anyone making comments, we may go ahead and (inaudible)
11 and wait to see if those want to raise their hands.

12 MS. BRADLEY: So I saw two people raise their
13 hand. I'm going to first do -- unmute Zack Malham and
14 then Greg Lund.

15 So, Zack, are you there?

16 Zack? You might be muted on your end as well.
17 We have unmuted you.

18 Zack, are you there? Oh, it looks like Zack has
19 lowered his hand.

20 So Greg Lund, are you -- are you there?

21 MR. LUND: Yes, I am. Are you able to hear me?

22 MS. BRADLEY: (Inaudible.)

GP0300

23 MR. LUND: Okay. I'm Greg Lund from Chehalis and
24 originally from the Adna area, so I know the Chehalis
25 River and the valleys leading up to the dam site very

1 well.

2 One thing that has -- a few people have alluded to,
3 but I don't think there has been enough emphasis is the
4 do-nothing scenario. Quite frankly, with the do-nothing
5 scenario, the fish -- the salmon, steelhead all go away
6 anyway. That is what has been predicted. Climate
7 change will wipe them out and we will have nothing.

8 And I believe that is one of the main reasons that
9 the Chehalis Tribe and the Quinault Tribe have rallied
10 around this program. They realize that doing nothing is
11 bad environmental policy. And so I think we have to
12 look at the quality species portion. It is not just a
13 dam. Everybody just keeps saying, "No dam, no dam, no
14 dam," but in my opinion, if there is no dam, there is
15 no aquatic species program. So the do-nothing scenario
16 simply does nothing to benefit fish, the environment
17 (inaudible) nor the human impact.

18 So I think I agree with when people are saying
19 significant and then the numbers really turn out to be
20 one or two, then that is very misleading and shows a
21 slant in a bias in the way it was written. So I think
22 we really need to look at the fact that if it does not
23 occur, what is the long-range problem.

24 That's all. Thank you.

25 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Greg.

1 And it looks like Amy Edwards has just raised their
2 hand.

3 Amy, are you there?

4 MS. EDWARDS: I am. Can you hear me?

5 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0301

6 MS. EDWARDS: All right. I was just reading
7 through a little bit of it. I haven't gotten in-depth
8 yet, but one of the things that I noticed with this
9 facility is that it does explicitly say that it would
10 not reduce the severity -- it would reduce severity and
11 duration, but it would not eliminate flooding in most of
12 these areas and I think it says that much of what would
13 be reduced, and specifically in the Chehalis area, would
14 be pretty limited, anywhere from only a half a foot to a
15 foot, which, of course, is still a great amount of
16 water.

17 But one of the things I was wondering and isn't very
18 clear in here is with increased development within the
19 significant area of Chehalis and Centralia -- Centralia
20 and Chehalis, would the benefit of this flood reduction
21 facility be negated by some of the increased development
22 that we are going to see in these areas?

23 I think in the report you talk about trying to take
24 into account for climate change, but I was wondering if
25 you are also taking into account the effect that

1 increased development will have on negating increase
2 (inaudible) services and increase development and the
3 ability of this flood reduction facility to actually do
4 anything for these areas.

5 And so I guess I'm just kind of wanting to take a
6 little bit more of that human element into effect is
7 what I'm more curious about.

8 And -- and, yeah, that's pretty much it.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Amy.

10 So for those that are -- that may have jumped on a
11 little bit late or are still wondering where -- how that
12 they can comment, we are using the "Raise Hand" feature
13 within the webinar. It is a small hand icon that would
14 be directly on the right-hand side of your name, or you
15 may also see a little icon at the bottom right-hand
16 white panel above the chat box on your screen. So if
17 you would like to provide comment, we encourage you to
18 use that "Raise Hand" feature and then we will call your
19 name and unmute you.

20

21 (Brief lull.)

22

23

24

25 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We do want to kind of

1 acknowledge that there is a little bit of a lull in
2 people wanting to provide comment verbally and we do
3 want to remind you that you have the opportunity to both
4 submit online or through written comment in the mail.
5 We are here to provide the space and time for anybody
6 that would like to provide that verbal comment and so we
7 will stay on the line for anybody that does -- would
8 like to provide that verbal comment, but do note that
9 we -- there may be a long period of time that
10 individuals might not like to provide that verbal
11 comment.

12

13 (Brief lull.)

14

15

16 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. This is Cindy --
17 Cindy Bradley again. We just wanted to remind you that
18 we are open and here still to accept any comments that
19 anybody would like to provide verbally, but when there
20 is nobody that has raised their hand, there may be
21 periods of time that you do not hear any sound, so just
22 please be aware that we are still here and it is still
23 running. We will be here until 8:30, so just know that
24 there may be times where you do not hear anything
25 because somebody has not identified that they would like

1 to provide comment.

2 If you do wish to provide that comment, just remember
3 there is that "Raise Hand" feature. It should be right
4 next to your name or there is a little icon right above
5 the chat feature that you can click on and it should
6 raise your hand and we will unmute you to provide that
7 comment.

8 Zack Malham, it sounds like you would like to provide
9 a comment.

10 Zack, are you there?

11 Zack?

12 Zack, your microphone may be -- oh, nope. It looks
13 like he has decided he does not want to provide comment.

14 Debbie Stempf -- Stempf. I'm sorry, I cannot
15 pronounce your last name.

16 Debbie, are you there?

17 MS. STEMPF: Yes, I'm here.

18 MS. BRADLEY: All right. Go ahead and provide
19 your comment. GP0302

20 MS. STEMPF: I want to go -- my name is Debbie
21 Stempf and I would like go on record that I am against
22 this dam. The environmental impacts on our Chinook
23 salmon, the Coho, steelhead, everything, this is just
24 the worst thing that can happen when we are trying to
25 restore our salmon runs. We also -- I want to support

1 preservation of tribal and cultural resources in the
2 watershed. This is -- this is not the solution that we
3 need at this time.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Debbie.

6 So it looks like we have a few people that have
7 raised their hands. I saw Derek Hallman and then Isabel
8 Venes.

9 Derek, are you there.

10 MR. HALLMAN: Yep.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Hi Derek.

GP0303

12 MR. HALLMAN: Hi. So I'm going to -- oh, I guess
13 (inaudible) I'm an Oregonian, passionate fisherman. I
14 guess that presents a bit of a bias, but I'm failing to
15 understand why a dam is the Band-aid response to a
16 flooding issue. It seems like an easy way to fix
17 entrenched problems of (inaudible) where the type of
18 concentration due to streamlined (inaudible) presents a
19 greater flood risk.

20 So I think changing forestry, replanting, changing
21 the upper watershed would be a more wholesome approach
22 to fixing this problem. The upper Chehalis, the colder
23 water that's going to be impeded by this dam is also a
24 thermal refuge for steelhead and salmon downstream, not
25 only that, but in regular flows, the aquifer extends

1 much greater than the physical streambed. So the
2 benthic macroinvertebrates that these fish depend on for
3 food and smoltification come from not only the streambed
4 but far below, which is going to be impeded by the upper
5 Chehalis.

6 And in periods of lower water, most of these fish
7 won't just stay in the headwaters where they are
8 spawn -- in their spawning gravel; they will come into
9 the main stem to find those thermal refuges in low water
10 and to feed and as they make their way downstream for
11 smoltification.

12 In short, I think the dam is a shortsighted fix to a
13 more entrenched issue and I think change of community to
14 take ownership of the watershed is a much more wholesome
15 approach and would yield better results instead of
16 potentially wiping out the salmon.

17 Thanks.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Derek.

19 Isabel, are you on the line?

20 MS. VENES: Yes, hello.

21 MS. BRADLEY: All right. Go ahead whenever you
22 are ready.

GP0304

23 MS. VENES: Thank you. So I am a Western
24 student. I grew up here in Chehalis and I'm deeply
25 passionate about environmental issues and I think that I

1 pay attention to all of that a little bit more than many
2 other people I know from Lewis County.

3 And I remember the trauma of the flood from my
4 childhood, and in 2007 I went to my friends' houses to
5 help them muck it out and they were devastated and I saw
6 people that I love who lost everything.

7 And while I think that as highly very important that
8 this issue is as the last person described wholesome, I
9 think that saying full stop I am against a dam fails to
10 recognize the best possible option that literally will
11 save lives and not just people's lives as in whether
12 they live or die, but how many things that they lost in
13 the flood that are deeper than that and -- so I think
14 that saying that the dam is not a wholesome option is
15 not only not recognizing that, but also fails to
16 recognize how the tribes are invested in this and how
17 many people want there to be a full solution that helps
18 the fish and aquatic life as well.

19 And I think that one of the things that we have to
20 recognize is that this is not going to happen without a
21 full support plan for the environment as well as a full
22 support plan for our communities and -- yeah.

23 So thank you.

24 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Isabel.

25 Jay Gordon, it looks like you would like to provide a

1 comment?

2 MR. GORDON: Did you unmute me?

3 MS. BRADLEY: I did unmute you.

4 MR. GORDON: Thanks, Diane.

GP0305

5 I will try to keep it under two minutes. I think I
6 want to make comments as a farmer and a citizen of this
7 valley. I am a member of a family that has been working
8 on this issue since the late '30s, but I think everybody
9 that has commented so far has expressed what we have all
10 struggled with for 12-and-a-half years now since the '07
11 flood, that this is complex. It is not easy. And
12 building a dam is certainly not the obvious or best
13 solution in America today.

14 And as somebody who has worked on this for
15 12-and-a-half years and watched my neighbors and my
16 family and my farm flood, we tried to find solutions and
17 I guess here is my encouragement to everyone that is
18 listening on the phone. I really appreciate all of the
19 comments and I want everybody to be -- you know, make
20 more comments. All of us really value the skepticism
21 and a critical eye in a different perspective that, for
22 example, the gentleman that brought up the whitewater
23 rafting in the river, I never thought of that. And I
24 think everybody brings a different perspective that as
25 we are looking at how do we solve this to improve both

1 fish and flooding for everybody in the basin and every
2 resource, we are trying to walk a really unique and
3 delicate balance.

4 So I appreciate the fact that the comments have been
5 extended during these difficult times that are going on
6 and I guess my challenge is to ask everybody to dive in,
7 bring your perspectives, bring your skepticism, bring
8 your questions. I know I will.

9 If nothing else, we have got a little more time to
10 make sure that we are providing those perspectives from
11 different people and different resources as we look at
12 how do we make this valley better from a salmon
13 perspective, a resource perspective, cultural
14 perspective and from a human perspective.

15 And I just want to acknowledge that I really, really
16 appreciate all of the different perspectives that
17 everybody has offered and ask that everybody that is
18 listening just provide more. Those comments will be
19 studied. They will be evaluated and I really appreciate
20 it.

21 So that is my thoughts. Thank you.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

23 Zack, are you able to connect? I know you have been
24 having issues with your microphone.

25 Zack, we have you unmuted on our end.

1 Nope. I apologize for any struggle that you are
2 having, but, like I have said, there are also ways that
3 you can comment by submitting it online at this link
4 that is shown on the screen. You can also mail in your
5 comments to the address listed.

6

7

8 (Brief lull.)

9

10 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. I'm just doing a
11 quick audio check one more time to confirm that we are
12 still here and we will be here until 8:30 and we will --
13 we will be doing periodic audio checks just to let
14 everybody know that we are still here and we are still
15 available if you would like to provide your public
16 comment verbally.

17 Oh, and it looks like Sabra Noyes is -- would like to
18 comment. I'm trying to unmute Sabra.

19 Sabra, are you there?

20 MS. NOYES: Yes. Yes. Can you hear me?

21 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you.

GP0306

22 MS. NOYES: Okay. Well, I live in Oakville and I
23 feel that the -- the dam is basically a Band-aid that
24 may help in the short-term, but in the long run it is
25 going to contribute to the very problems that the dam is

1 trying to solve; that is it is going to raise the
2 temperature level and create more chaos in the
3 environment.

4 So while I am in sympathy with those in the
5 floodplain who have lost so much and went through so
6 much heartbreak, I feel that we need to be looking at
7 other alternative ways that we can combat the flooding.
8 And many of these are already in the works, such as
9 connecting the oxbows. We can buy back the land -- the
10 agricultural lands along the river and let them be used
11 for agriculture when not needed for flood relief. We
12 can do more controlled logging. And I'm sure there are
13 there many things -- and the aquatic restoration plan is
14 looking at many of these options.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Sabra.

17 Okay. And, like I said, we -- there may be times
18 that it does sound like there is complete silence. We
19 are still here and we are monitoring our screens and
20 making sure that anybody that would like to provide
21 verbal comment does have the opportunity to do so
22 tonight. We are here until 8:30.

23 So if you would like to provide that verbal comment,
24 we do, just as a reminder, ask you that you use your
25 "Raise Hand" feature. It is that little "Raise Hand"

1 button or icon on your screen on the right-hand side.
2 And so we will be doing periodic audio checks just to,
3 you know, make sure that we are still here and that you
4 can still provide your comment.

5 Thank you.

6

7

8

(Brief lull.)

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10

11 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. I'm just checking in
12 and making sure that everybody still knows that we are
13 here and we are still accepting any comments from
14 anybody that would like to provide those verbally.
15 Again, just use that "Raise Hand" feature. If you are
16 having any troubles, please let us know through the chat
17 feature and I can try to help you if you are not able to
18 find that or if there is any connection issues, I can
19 advise on how we can help fix that, so just checking in,
20 making sure that you know that we are still here and we
21 will still be here and I will check in in a few minutes
22 just to keep the -- keep the ball rolling and making
23 sure everybody knows that we are here to take your
24 comments.

25

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(Brief lull.)

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MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone that is still on the
6 call. I'm just making sure that you know that we are
7 still here and we are just doing a quick audio check.
8 For anybody that would like to provide comment, please
9 raise your hand to identify that you would like to make
10 that comment and, again, if you are having any issues,
11 you can use the chat feature to message the host, which
12 is identified as Curt Hart, but it is me, Cindy Bradley,
13 and then Diane Butorac as well.

14

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(Brief lull.)

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MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. I'm just checking
back in, making sure that you know that we are still
here and that we are still accepting any public comments
that you would like to make verbally. Please use that

1 "Raise Hand" feature or acknowledge that you are having
2 any issues through the chat feature and we can try to
3 help you through that. Again, we are here until 8:30
4 and so if you have any comments that you would like to
5 make, you can do so up until that point.

6 And then just as a reminder, we also have a public
7 comment on the 21st of April and you can also submit
8 your comments online at this link that is provided on
9 the screen and then you can also mail in your written
10 comments.

11 We will check back in -- in just a little bit to just
12 confirm that we are still here and we will still be
13 taking any verbal comments.

14

15

16 (Brief lull.)

17

18

19 MS. BRADLEY: Hi, everybody that is still on.
20 I'm just checking in to make sure that you know that we
21 are still here and I am just doing a quick audio check
22 to make sure that if you would like to make any
23 comments, you are very welcome to do so, just please use
24 that "Raise Hand" feature and we can open the line up to
25 you to do that. And then also if -- if you are having

1 any issues, please just use that chat feature and we can
2 respond to make sure that you are able to provide that
3 comment. Thank you so much. We will check back in.

4

5

6 (Brief lull.)

7

8

9 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We are just checking
10 in, just letting you know we have about 45 minutes left
11 to this hearing and we want to make sure that anybody
12 that would like to provide verbal comment has the chance
13 to do so. We still are here. If you would like to
14 provide comment, please use that "Raise Hand" feature
15 and we can unmute you and accept that comment. We will
16 check back in a little bit to make sure that you know
17 that we are still here and can still take those
18 comments.

19

20 (Brief lull.)

21

22

23 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We are just doing
24 our quick audio check to make sure that you know that we
25 are still here. We have a little bit under -- or right

1 about a half-an-hour to go on this and so we just wanted
2 to make sure that anybody that is still on that has
3 decided that they would like to provide comment still
4 has the ability to do so today.

5 Again, you can submit comments online on the link of
6 the screen displayed or through the mail. We also have
7 another public hearing that is going to happen on April
8 21st online in this format as well. So please let us
9 know if you would like to provide anymore comment today.
10 We will do a final few checks before the 8:30 mark and
11 we will be here if there is anybody that would like to
12 provide those comments.

13

14

15 (Brief lull.)

16

17

18 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everybody. We are just
19 checking in doing a quick audio check letting you know
20 that we will be here until 8:30. We will open the mics
21 up in a little bit to just do a final check before we
22 close this hearing. If you would like to provide any
23 verbal comment, please raise your hand to do so. Again,
24 that feature is right by your name or also it could be
25 in the small icon box above your chat feature on the

1 right-hand side. If you are having any technical
2 issues, please use that chat feature to message the host
3 and we will check back in in about 10 minutes to do our
4 final audio check.

5

6 (Brief lull.)

7

8

9 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everybody. Thanks for holding
10 on and continuing to -- to be here tonight. I am just
11 doing my final check to ask for any public comment that
12 you would like to provide verbally. If you would like
13 to do, so please raise your hand with that feature that
14 we have discussed throughout tonight. It is that small
15 little icon that you can click and it will raise your
16 hand. The meeting will go until 8:30. So if you would
17 like to provide comment before then, please do so and
18 right before the 8:30 mark, we will hop back on to make
19 final remarks and close down the meeting.

20

21

22 (Brief lull.)

23

24

25 MS. BRADLEY: Hi David. This is Cindy. We

1 just got your comment. Did you say you would like to
2 provide an additional piece of information on comment?

3 DAVID: Just to be clear, I was caught a little
4 bit offguard and I -- - I wasn't quite ready, so I don't
5 think I -- I don't think I was as coherent as I should
6 have been.

7 MS. BRADLEY: Well, if you would like to provide
8 any clarity to what you said, please feel free.

GP0290
cont.

9 DAVID: Okay. I will do that. Yeah, kind of
10 close out the evening. The point I was trying to make
11 that I think there are long-term effects that aren't
12 obvious in sort of a superficial study and my example
13 that I have been concerned with is things like the dams
14 that were put in place on the lower Snake River that
15 have caused problems for the recovery of salmon and so
16 rather than going back and fixing the problem, we seem
17 to have a tendency to try to solve the problem with
18 another engineering solution that may solve a portion of
19 the problem, but it creates its own problems in turn
20 requiring more solutions after solutions.

21 So I would -- as far as a solution, it should go back
22 to really what caused the problem, that is developing in
23 flood plains in this case. But who would have thought
24 when they built the Snake River dams that the solution
25 to that problem would be killing millions of Comorants

1 or thousands of sea lions because the problems caused by
2 the dams and our solution to claim that we are doing
3 something about recovering salmon is to kill innocent
4 animals.

5 So it is I think -- it takes a lot of forethought to
6 try to envision what that might cause, but those are the
7 effects that -- building the Snake River dams ultimately
8 led to the killing of Comorants, which nobody would have
9 foreseen, but certainly those are effects that should be
10 looked at longer term rather than just sort of here are
11 the effects on the wildlife, the river, the temperatures
12 and the effects on salmon.

13 So I just wanted to clarify that there are a lot of
14 long-term effects that are probably not caught up in
15 this environmental impact study and should at least be
16 considered before going ahead. That was what I was
17 trying to say before.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Great.

19 DAVID: Thanks for giving another opportunity.

20 MS. BUTORAC: No, thank you, David. Excellent.

21 So I will go ahead and take two minutes before I will
22 read the closing of the public hearing. And I would
23 like to take the opportunity to -- let me ask one more
24 time, is there anyone else who would like to comment?
25 If so, please raise your hand.

1 And if there is not, I think one of the things we are
2 trying to learn is what works and what doesn't. So we
3 are looking to have the meeting on the 21st of April,
4 which will be the second one. It will be the exact same
5 format, using the exact same presentation, but I'm
6 curious if there is anything that you would see kind of
7 lessons learned from the webinar, if you would like to
8 share that with us, I would appreciate it. You can just
9 go ahead and e-mail or whatever works best. As we are
10 trying to get better and learn more as we are doing
11 these online hearings.

12 MS. BRADLEY: It looks like Frank Corbin would
13 like to make a comment. Just give me one second, Frank.

14 MR. CORBIN: Okay.

15 MS. BRADLEY: Frank, are you there?

GP0295
cont.

16 MR. CORBIN: Yes. I just wanted to let you know
17 that perhaps at the next forum you could maybe provide
18 another -- oh, this is not a comment by the way for the
19 record because I have already given that. This is just
20 a comment to how you might improve for the next
21 go-round. My idea was perhaps a demonstration of the
22 dam would be in order so that people could see that it
23 is not your typical dam comparing this proposal and --
24 or proposed dam with Snake River dam or any other type
25 of dam, you know, is not a very good comparison because

1 they are completely different types of dams, so perhaps
2 having a little bit more information during a
3 presentation about the type of structure we are talking
4 about might help clarify in some people's minds.

5 It may not be that thoroughly versed in the project
6 itself nor commenting from a -- just one-sided
7 perspective going into this particular dam as far as
8 functionality to only activate the extremist of floods
9 and there is still waterflow through the dams that is
10 unlike other dams and will allow for water to pass
11 through not disrupting habitat as much as a
12 Snake-River-style dam would.

13 So, anyway, I wasn't trying to contradict a previous
14 person who testified, but I just thought that as a
15 process improvement moving forward that providing a
16 little bit more information as far as the functionality
17 of the dam might help.

18 Does that make sense?

19 MS. BRADLEY: Yes, thank you. I will say right
20 now so there is no confusion about the expectation, that
21 the presentation on the 21st will be the exact same
22 thing that we did today. That's what we told people,
23 so, you know, that would be something that, again, you
24 can make a comment online or we can use the one that you
25 just gave us as well.

1 And with that I'm going to go ahead and close out our
2 public hearing, so I will have a little language here to
3 read. That all testimony received at this hearing and
4 the public online meeting on April 21st along with all
5 written comments received or postmarked no later than
6 May 27th, 2020 will be part of the official record for
7 this environmental review.

8 As far as next steps go, Ecology will review and
9 consider the comments on the draft EIS and comments and
10 responses and substantive comments will be included in
11 the final environment impact statement.

12 Ecology will send notice about release of the final
13 environmental review to everyone that provided written
14 comments or oral testimony on this rule -- or sorry --
15 on this project and submitted contact information.
16 Everyone that signed in for today's hearing, provided an
17 e-mail address will also be notified about the final
18 environmental review as well as other interested parties
19 on the mailing list and the listserv.

20 The date of the final document will depend on the
21 comments that we receive, but typically it is released
22 within a year of the release of the draft EIS.

23 And if we can be of further help to you, please let
24 us know. My contact is on the website as well as the
25 presentation itself and on behalf of the Department of

1 Ecology, thank you for participating and I appreciate
2 your cooperation and courtesy. Thank you very much for
3 participating in the comment period.

4 Let the record show that this hearing is adjourned at
5 8:33 p.m. on April 2nd, 2020. Thank you all very much.
6 We really appreciate it. Have a good rest of the night.

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(Proceedings adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KRISTIN D. MANLEY, a certified court reporter of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were tape recorded; that I was not present at the proceedings; that I was requested to transcribe the tape-recorded proceedings; that the tape recording was transcribed stenographically and reduced to typewriting under my direction.

I further certify that the foregoing transcript of the tape-recorded proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript of all discernible and audible remarks.

DATED AND SIGNED this 20th day of April, 2020.

Kristin D. Manley

KRISTIN D. MANLEY

CCR NO. 2211



<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>Aberdeen 12:17 ability 29:3 43:4 able 2:21 3:8,13 8:4 8:5 14:1 26:21 36:23 39:17 42:2 accept 4:22 7:13 30:18 42:15 accepting 39:13 40:24 account 14:8 28:24 28:25 accurate 7:24 18:14 51:13 acknowledge 30:1 36:15 41:1 acres 13:7 action 22:21 activate 48:8 adapt 11:23 add 9:25 additional 9:25 45:2 address 37:5 49:17 adequate 11:10 adjourned 50:4,9 admin@capitolp... 1:23 admit 12:7 Adna 26:24 adverse 17:1 advise 4:7 39:19 agree 19:4 27:18 agricultural 38:10 agriculture 25:20 26:3 38:11 ahead 26:10 31:18 33:21 46:16,21 47:9 49:1 allocation 12:25 allow 2:22 20:18 48:10 alluded 27:2 alternative 38:7</p>	<p>America 35:13 American 17:16 amount 8:22 23:5 24:20 28:15 Amy 28:1,3 29:9 Android 2:20 animals 46:4 announce 2:11,19 7:19 announcements 2:10 anybody 14:14 30:5,7,19 38:20 39:14 40:8 42:11 43:2,11 anymore 43:9 anyway 20:11 27:6 48:13 apologize 13:24 15:19 37:1 appendices 16:6 Appendix 13:3,6 applicant 6:2 18:3 appreciate 5:8,14 22:18 35:18 36:4 36:16,19 47:8 50:1,6 approach 32:21 33:15 April 1:5 2:1 41:7 43:7 47:3 49:4 50:5 51:15 aquatic 20:17 21:22 27:15 34:18 38:13 aquifer 32:25 area 19:8,20 20:8 22:5,7,8,10 24:12 25:1,4,24 26:24 28:13,19 areas 11:12 21:22 25:7,7 28:12,22 29:4 article 8:14</p>	<p>articles 8:16 asked 23:19 asking 14:16 aspect 25:2 assessment 11:16 assist 9:1 assistance 2:14 assisted 23:4 assumed 12:19 25:18 attached 10:22 attained 13:1 attempt 4:7 15:1 attention 34:1 audible 20:6 51:14 audio 3:2,3,5,6 18:21 20:24 21:15 37:11,13 39:2 40:7 41:21 42:24 43:19 44:4 available 17:4 37:15 40:16 aware 30:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 8:11 9:16 24:8 38:9 40:23 41:11 42:3,16 44:3,18 45:16,21 bad 27:11 balance 36:3 ball 39:22 Band-aid 32:15 37:23 based 11:16 basic 24:6 basically 37:23 basin 1:3 6:1,3 12:1 21:22 36:1 beautiful 22:11 behalf 5:6 24:6 49:25 believe 9:10,10,11 20:10,13,20 27:8</p>	<p>benefit 14:9,10 25:3,18,19 27:16 28:20 benefits 8:24 25:20 benthic 33:2 best 3:2 5:13 22:9 34:10 35:12 47:9 better 11:19 13:22 22:10 33:15 36:12 47:10 bias 27:21 32:14 bigger 11:18 Bill 19:1,25 billions 20:21 21:9 bit 8:10 28:7 29:6 29:11 30:1 32:14 34:1 41:11 42:16 42:25 43:21 45:4 48:2,16 boating 17:21 bodies 26:1 Boistfort 8:21 25:20 bottom 4:1,15 7:5 29:15 box 4:1,3,16 7:6 29:16 43:25 Bradley 2:8,9 5:18 6:21,22 8:7 9:20 10:8 11:2,7 12:11 13:18,23 14:3,13 15:18 16:9,15,17 17:11 18:11,18,25 19:25 20:6 21:24 22:14,17 23:12,20 24:1,3 25:14 26:5 26:12,22 27:25 28:5 29:9,25 30:16,17 31:18 32:5,11 33:18,21 34:24 35:3 36:22 37:10,21 38:16 39:11 40:5,12,22 41:19 42:9,23</p>	<p>43:18 44:9,25 45:7 46:18 47:12 47:15 48:19 Brian 10:9 11:3,5,8 12:11,11 brief 5:2 16:20 17:17 29:21 30:13 37:8 39:8 40:2,19 41:16 42:6,20 43:15 44:6,22 bring 36:7,7,7 brings 35:24 Bristol 1:20 brought 35:22 building 13:8 15:7 35:12 46:7 built 45:24 Butorac 5:21 10:2 13:19 18:16 23:18 26:6 40:13 46:20 button 39:1 buy 38:9 bypass 13:3,4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C 51:2,2 C-103 1:20 call 2:25 3:1,4,5 4:21 7:10,12 29:18 40:6 callous 22:24 capitalize 24:17 Capitol 1:19 case 45:23 caught 45:3 46:14 cause 46:6 caused 16:2 45:15 45:22 46:1 cautious 22:23 CCR 1:18 51:24 Cedar 9:6 Centralia 21:2 28:19,19 certainly 35:12</p>
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CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

April 21, 2020

Pages 1 through 88

Taken Before:

Kris Manley, RPR, CCR #2211

Registered Professional Reporter

of

Capitol Pacific Reporting, Inc.

2401 Bristol Court SW, Suite C-103, Olympia, WA 98502

Tel (360) 352-2054 Fax (360) 705-6539 Toll Free (800) 407-0148

www.capitolpacificreporting.com

admin@capitolpacificreporting.com

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BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, April 21, 2020
via WebEx Webinar, the following proceedings were had,
to wit:

<<<<<< >>>>>>

MS. BRADLEY: . . . is being recorded. Again, my
name is Cindy Bradley and for the purposes of this
webinar I am displayed at the host. As the host, I'm
here to provide technical assistance throughout the
webinar. Since the format may be new to some people
joining us tonight, I would like to go over the tools
that can be used to participate.

I need to announce that if you are using an Android
device, the system may not be able -- may not be
compatible. You may be able to see and hear the
presentation, but it may not allow you to use other
webinar features.

For those that are participating through the online
webinar, please make sure that you have chosen the "Call
Me" option. The webinar will call your phone and you
will get the best audio connection. If you have used a
different option, please disconnect that audio and

1 reselect the "Call Me" option. If you have chosen to
2 call in, your audio and -- if you have chosen to call
3 in, your audio is not connected to your name. This
4 separates your registered name from your phone line and
5 we will not be able to unmute your phone to provide
6 comments.

7 For those that are participating strictly on the
8 phone, you will only be in listening mode tonight and
9 you will not be able to see the presentation. We will
10 not be able to take your comments verbally if you are
11 only participating in the listen-only mode.

12 We would like to remind you that written comments
13 have the same weight as verbal comments and if you wish
14 to provide a verbal comment, please join the online
15 webinar feature.

16 As a reminder, all participants are muted upon entry
17 and throughout this webinar, there are two features that
18 you can use to participate. Please note that there --
19 that your screen may not be identical to the one that
20 I'm describing, but I would first like to highlight the
21 chat feature, which should be used to ask me, the host,
22 any technical questions related to the webinar function
23 such as audio connection issues. The chat feature can
24 be found among the (inaudible) at the bottom of your
25 WebEx screen. The chat box will pop up on the

1 right-hand side of your screen. This is a drop-down --
2 there is a drop-down box that you can select the host
3 and write your message.

4 If you are experiencing any technical difficulties,
5 please use that chat feature to message me and I will
6 attempt to advise you on how to resolve the issue.

7 The second feature is the "Raise Hand" feature, which
8 we will ask participants to use during the public
9 meeting portion of this hearing. On your screen, you'll
10 see your name under the participants in the white panel
11 on the right-hand side. The "Raise Hand" feature is
12 displayed as a small hand icon to the right-hand side of
13 your name and it may also be located at the bottom right
14 corner above your chat box.

15 When we open the floor for public comment, we will
16 ask you to use this feature to identify that you have a
17 comment. To raise your hand, you simply click on the
18 icon.

19 We will take comments in the order that we see the
20 "Raise Hand". When we reach your "Raise Hand", we will
21 call your name, unmute your microphone and accept your
22 comments. Comments will be limited to two minutes per
23 person. Once you have received -- one we have received
24 your comment, we will remute your microphone and move on
25 to the next person.

1 And with that, I would like to hand the floor to
2 Gordon White, who will provide a brief introduction.

3 MR. WHITE: Good evening. I'm Gordon White, the
4 responsible official for Ecology on this environmental
5 review and I'm hear to listen to your comments.

6 On behalf of Department of Ecology, welcome and thank
7 you for joining us. I really appreciate everyone here
8 taking time during a difficult period to provide
9 comments on this important impact environmental review.
10 We held an online public hearing on April 2nd which had
11 over 60 people attending. Tonight we have almost a
12 hundred already, so I really appreciate the strong
13 attendance we are getting.

14 This meeting was originally planned to be in person,
15 but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are holding it
16 online to protect public health. We will do our best to
17 keep the meeting moving smoothly and I appreciate your
18 patience.

19 Let me introduce the Ecology staff who will be
20 helping during this webinar. Cindy Bradley, who you
21 just heard from, and Curt Hart will be helping
22 facilitate the webinar and comments. Diane Butorac will
23 be presenting the information on the draft report's
24 methods and findings. We will hear from her in a
25 minute.

1 A little bit about the agenda: We are here to
2 present the draft environmental impact statement for the
3 proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Dam Reduction
4 Project. The applicant for the project is the Chehalis
5 River Basin Flood Control Zone District.

6 First, we will provide our presentation on the
7 methods and findings in the draft environmental review.
8 Then we will talk about the process for taking public
9 comments. The formal meeting will then begin where we
10 record your comments for the record. Your comments will
11 be considered and included in the final environmental
12 review.

13 Please note that comments made in the webinar chat
14 room are not considered public comments for the record.

15 Diane?

16

17

(Presentation portion not
transcribed as requested by
client.)

18

19

20

21 MS. BUTORAC: Now will begin the public comment
22 portion of this meeting. Please note that this is not a
23 question-and-answer session. If you have questions,
24 please include them in your comments and responses will
25 be provided in the final EIS. We have almost 130 people

1 online. I would like to say thank you for your
2 participation. Ecology's ground rules are intended to
3 provide a nonintimidating and respectful atmosphere that
4 allows all voices to be heard. To do this, comment time
5 is limited to two minutes per speaker. We will be using
6 a timer on the screen to show how much time is left.

7 As a reminder, you can also provide your comments in
8 writing or online. Written comments receive the same
9 consideration as oral comments. They must be received
10 or postmarked by May 27, 2020.

11 Okay. Let's begin. I'm going to read here some of
12 our formal introductions on taking comments.

13 Now, we will begin the meeting -- sorry. Now, we
14 will begin the meeting, which we will record for the
15 public record. At this time, I will also read some
16 information that is required for the record.

17 I'm Diane Butorac, facilitator for this meeting.
18 This evening we are conducting a public meeting to
19 receive comments on the draft environmental impact
20 statement for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood
21 Damage Reduction Project.

22 Let the record show it is 5:38 on April 21st, 2020
23 and this meeting is being held online by webinar. Legal
24 notices of this meeting were published in the SEPA
25 register on March 27th and made -- sorry -- February

1 27th and March 19th of 2020. And the SEPA register
2 number is 202001097. In addition, notices of this
3 meeting were mailed to local residents, e-mail notices
4 were sent to over 800 interested people on February 27th
5 and updated information for the online meeting on March
6 19th. And a news release was issued on February 27th.
7 Notice was also published in the following papers on
8 February 27th and March 31st: The Chronicle, The Daily
9 World, The Olympian.

10 We will be calling on people to provide comments
11 using the webinar feature raising your hand. If you
12 would like to submit written or electronic comments in
13 addition to your oral testimony or instead of it, please
14 remember all comments are due or postmarked by May 27th,
15 2020. We will only accept written comments in the
16 following ways: By mail or online using our online
17 comment form. Instructions on how to comment by mail or
18 online are available on the Ecology website and the
19 Chehalis Basin Strategy website.

20 Please remember comments are limited to two minutes.
21 The timer on the screen will show you how much time is
22 available. When you comment, if you would like state
23 your name and where you are from, and please speak
24 clearly so that we can get a good recording of your
25 testimony.

1 MS. BRADLEY: Okay. As a reminder during the
2 public meeting, we are asking participants to use the
3 "Raise Hand" feature to identify that they do have a
4 comment. On your screen you will see your name under
5 the participants list on the white panel to the
6 right-hand side of your screen. The "Raise Hand"
7 feature is displayed as a small hand icon on the
8 right-hand side of your name. It may also be located at
9 the bottom right-hand corner above the chat box. To
10 raise your hand, you simply click on the icon and we
11 will take comments in the order that we see the raised
12 hand.

13 When we reach your name, we will call your sign-in
14 name, unmute your microphone and accept your comment.
15 Your comment will be limited to two minutes per person
16 and you will see the timer on the screen. Once we have
17 received your comment, we will remute your microphone
18 and move on to the next person.

19 Please note if there's more than one person that is
20 providing comment in the same location, just announce
21 that before providing your comment.

22 Once we have -- once you have provided your comment,
23 please remember to lower your "Raise Hand". Again, if
24 you click on that icon right next to your name, it will
25 lower that hand and it will help us keep an accurate

1 list of who is next.

2 If you have chosen to call in -- to call in while
3 watching through your computer, your audio is not
4 connected to your name. If you raise your hand to
5 provide comment, your audio must be associated with your
6 name. We will not know which phone line is connected if
7 you call in separately. So please hang up your phone
8 and choose the "Call Me" option -- please hang up and
9 use your phone to use the "Call Me" option.

10 For those that are participating strictly through the
11 phone, you will not have the ability to provide comment
12 tonight. If you wish to provide verbal comment, we
13 encourage you to register through the WebEx link that is
14 on the chehalisbasinstrategy.com website.

15 As Diane as stated, all comments will be valued
16 equally regardless of how they are submitted and written
17 comments have the same value as verbal comments.

18 So with that, we are going to start calling names and
19 what we will do is we will initially call the first
20 person up and then also announce the second person that
21 I see just so that the -- the person right behind the
22 individual providing testimony has a minute to prepare.

23 So first, we see Arthur Grunbaum and then Cindy
24 Hansen will be next. So I'm going to unmute Arthur so
25 that he can provide comment.

1 MR. GRUNBAUM: Hi, this is Arthur Grunbaum. I
2 live in the lower part of the Chehalis Basin and I was
3 noticing that according to the EIS, the removal of trees
4 would promote the spread of invasive vegetation and
5 increase the chance for invasive species to colonize the
6 area. The proposed mitigation measures under wildlife
7 one, vegetation management plan, looks to a multiphase
8 and detailed planting plan. The plan does not address
9 nor acknowledge how the invasive vegetation, for
10 example, scotch broom or knotweed, would be handled
11 during the construction, during the time that the dam
12 was open or what would happen once the dam was closed
13 because of a rain event.

14 The plan suggests the planting of native species
15 within 90 days of completing a drawdown. What native
16 vegetation would survive under total inundation for
17 upwards to one month or longer? What would be the cost
18 of the initial invasive cleansing of the reservoir area
19 and what would be the cost and time period of subsequent
20 repairs after each feature event? Would herbicides be
21 considered?

22 I plan to make written comments by the deadline as
23 well. Thank you.

24 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Arthur. And we would
25 also like to ask you that you lower your hand once you

1 have finished providing comment.

2 All right. So it looks like Brian Stewart -- oh,
3 Cindy Hansen and then Colleen Weiler, so I'm going to
4 unmute Cindy.

5 Cindy, are you there?

6 MS. HANSEN: I am. Can you hear me?

7 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0362

8 MS. HANSEN: Okay. My name is Cindy Hansen and
9 I'm an education and event coordinator for the nonprofit
10 Orca Network. We have grave concerns over the impacts
11 that this project will have on the endangered southern
12 resident orcas. The draft EIS states that there would
13 be significant impact to fish and wildlife habitat, fish
14 species and water temperature (inaudible) and there
15 would be moderate adverse impacts to southern resident
16 orcas due to loss of salmon and steelhead.

17 The Chehalis River is one of the last free-flowing
18 rivers in Washington State and it is important
19 culturally for local tribes. It is also part of the
20 Washington coastal salmon stock, which was identify by
21 NOAA and WDFW as a priority stock to southern resident
22 orcas and (inaudible) taking data from NOAA has shown
23 that these orcas are feeding off Grays Harbor.

24 In 2019 the southern resident orca population dropped
25 to just 73 individuals, the lowest number in four

1 decades. Lack of salmon is widely recognized as the
2 biggest limiting factor in their recovery and this has
3 led to a decrease in presence in their summer feeding
4 areas and increase in stress hormones and a miscarriage
5 rate of almost 70 percent. As Puget Sound and Fraser
6 River salmon stocks continue to decline or fail to
7 recover, coastal stocks are increasingly important to
8 them.

9 The southern residents are on a precipice and we have
10 been witnessing this slide towards extinction as one by
11 one their food sources have disappeared. We are
12 certainly sympathetic to those in the Chehalis Basin who
13 have been impacted by floods, but this process poses an
14 unacceptable risk to our state marine mammal. We urge
15 you to reject this proposal and instead develop and
16 implement smart development and river restoration plans
17 that will mitigate flooding without threatening salmon
18 and orcas.

19 I will close with that and thank you for the
20 opportunity to provide comments this evening.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Cindy.

22 So next we have Colleen Weiler and then Brian
23 Stewart.

24 Colleen?

25 MS. WEILER: Can you hear me?

1 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0363

2 MS. WEILER: Okay. Great. Thank you. My name
3 is Colleen Weiler, I'm the (inaudible) with the Whale
4 and Dolphin Conversation and I live in Newport, Oregon.
5 WDC works to protect and recover the highly (inaudible)
6 southern resident orcas population by reducing threats
7 to their survival (inaudible) their primary prey,
8 Chinook salmon.

9 As noted in the DEIS, construction of the proposed
10 dam would significantly harm Chinook salmon in the
11 Chehalis Basin. It would, therefore, impact a critical
12 source of food for southern resident orcas. Data
13 increasingly shows that salmon from different rivers
14 that stem from the Pacific Northwest and California are
15 important to the southern resident orcas at different
16 times of the year and n the movement of the orcas
17 through their habitat is tied to their turn of these
18 different runs of Chinook.

19 Research from the National Marine Fisheries Service
20 shows that the area between Grays Harbor and the
21 Columbia river is a hotspot for the orcas and they spend
22 more than half the time in this area when they are in
23 coastal waters.

24 Without the salmon available throughout their range,
25 the southern resident orcas are suffering from

1 nutritional stress. In particular, they are
2 experiencing high rates of miscarriage, a significant
3 barrier to their recovery that has been linked to
4 inadequate prey resources. And they are more likely to
5 decline in body condition between October and May when
6 they are foraging in coastal waters. The orcas need
7 abundant and available Chinook through their range if
8 they are to survive and recover.

9 Actions that further (inaudible) the decline in
10 salmon also impact the southern resident orcas as well
11 as the biodiversity and health of the Pacific Northwest
12 ecosystem.

13 I urge the Department of Ecology to explore
14 alternative measures such as land use management that
15 reduces the impacts of flooding in the basin while also
16 supporting salmon runs in the last free-flowing river in
17 Washington State and contribute to the recovery of the
18 southern residents.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and
20 that's -- I will yield the rest of my time.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Colleen.

22 Next we have Brian Stewart and then Debbie Stempf.

23 Brian, are you there?

GP0364

24 MR. STEWART: Hi. I'm here. Hi, my name is
25 Brian Stewart. I'm a resident of Lewis County in

1 Onalaska. I'm also the cascade Olympics program
2 representative for Conversation Northwest, so as a
3 resident and a person who lives around here, I am 100
4 percent empathetic to all the issues of flooding and I
5 100 percent agree that a no action sort of scenario
6 isn't acceptable, but we only have -- I'm not really
7 interested in a retention facility. I'm more focused on
8 advocating for other flood retention and flood damage in
9 the basin, so I just want to make that as the first part
10 of my statement.

11 And then I would also state that I brought up
12 migratory routes not being addressed in the DEIS before.
13 I just want to re kind of emphasize that not only is
14 that not addressed, but it leads to the DEIS failing to
15 address the need for these riparian quarters, like the
16 Chehalis River in that area, for a climate change,
17 adaption change for a wild suite of wildlife.

18 And so I really think, you know, missing that one
19 point is missing a bunch of other things, missing a
20 migratory route impact and it sort of cascades to these
21 other problems.

22 So I personally would like to see some sort of
23 supplemental EIS or something that addresses these
24 issues that are missed in this initial one.

25 And then I would also say that I'm glad to hear

1 there's other people on this call, but I have a lot of
2 rural folks that I know and because the libraries are
3 closed, they don't really have access to any of this
4 Internet stuff or any of these explanation kind of
5 things so it would be really cool if there could be
6 another opportunity made down the road during this
7 process.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Brian.

10 So Debbie Stempf is next and then Debra Ellers.

11 Debbie, are you there?

12 MS. STEMPF: Yes, I am.

13 MS. BRADLEY: All right.

GP0365

14 MS. STEMPF: Hi. My name is Debbie Stempf and I
15 am a citizen of Washington. I live in Spokane. And
16 when are we going to understand and admit that dams have
17 a huge negative effect on rivers and the important
18 salmon runs on those rivers? This expensive dam will
19 not solve flooding issues and some of this money would
20 be better used to restore the natural flood plain
21 function in the Chehalis Basin. Pacific Northwest
22 salmon and orcas are at an all-time risk for extinction.
23 This new dam is just another nail in the coffin.

24 I would like to go on record as voting no to this
25 expensive fish killing project. Thank you.

1 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Debbie.

2 The next we have Debra Ellers and then Felton
3 Jenkins.

4 Debra, are you there?

GP0366

5 MS. ELLERS: Yep, I am. I am a resident of Port
6 Townsend, Washington. As a Washington resident, I'm
7 vitally concerned about the health of our region and its
8 wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species
9 like salmon, marbled murrelets and southern resident
10 orcas. I'm also concerned about the health of our
11 rivers, oceans, forests and regional communities as well
12 as the rights of native people who have lived on this
13 land for thousands of years.

14 The proposed Chehalis dam would adversely impact
15 ecological and tribal values. The era of building big
16 dams is over. Washington should not be considering
17 building a new dam on the Chehalis River for flood
18 control but instead focus on restoring natural processes
19 to protect against flooding.

20 A huge expenditure of public funds would be needed to
21 get this dam built. A better use of public money would
22 be restoration and mitigation, like planting trees in
23 the degraded headwaters, purchasing development rights
24 to protect flood plains from further development and
25 constructing levies (inaudible).

1 Particularly concerning is that a dam on the Chehalis
2 would threaten salmon and steelhead species that are
3 already in trouble. This will, in turn, harm the
4 critically endangered southern resident killer whales,
5 which depend on salmon for their survival. These orcas
6 are increasingly staying off the Pacific coast rather
7 than (inaudible) and only have 72 left in the wild.
8 With only 72 left, they are literally on the edge of
9 extinction and suffering malnutrition and reproductive
10 failure from lack of salmon. The starving southern
11 resident orcas cannot afford to lose even one more
12 salmon from their (inaudible).

13 Dam construction would also affect cultural and
14 sacred sites of key importance to the Chehalis and
15 Quinault tribes. Washington State should respect the
16 tribal sovereignty and adopt an alternative that is
17 acceptable to these tribes.

18 My conclusion is that the Department of Ecology
19 should take the local action alternative in the draft
20 environmental impact statement and not support building
21 this dam. Thank you.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Debra.

23 Felton Jenkins and next -- and then Galilee Carlisle.
24 I apologize if I --

25 MS. BUTORAC: Carlisle.

1 MS. BRADLEY: Carlisle.

2 Felton, are you there? GP0367

3 MR. JENKINS: Yeah, I'm here. Thank you. I live
4 in Klickitat County, Washington. In the daytime, I'm a
5 financial analyst and economist. Not during the
6 daytime, I'm an avid -- well, I guess on weekend and
7 other days, avid hunter and angler and outdoors person
8 and spend a lot of money on licenses and travel to go
9 around Washington and Oregon and also other places in
10 the northwest.

11 Just the big picture in the northwest is that we have
12 reduced our salmon and steelhead populations by over 90
13 percent from historical levels, you know, over the last
14 100, I don't know, 70 years or something. We have
15 eliminated 90 percent of the fish that are out there.
16 So we are dealing with, you know, fish population that
17 is five to 10 percent or so of historical levels.

18 And we are talking about doing more projects that are
19 going to, you know, supposedly be balanced, but we are
20 going to balance out the remaining few fish that are out
21 there and it is inadequate.

22 And it is disrespectful to the tribes in the area.
23 It is a very important cultural and economic and, you
24 know, part of their spiritual being is to have that
25 resource.

1 And so I just -- I don't think this dam is the best
2 solution. Obviously the region needs a solution that
3 can, you know, reduce flooding and do that, but this dam
4 is not the best way to do that. There are other changes
5 that can be made in the habitat upstream, can work on
6 getting structures and people out of the parts of the
7 floodplain, restoring floodplain function, restoring
8 habitat in the upper -- upper basin.

9 And when it costs almost 700 million dollars and
10 almost every dam project that has been done ends up
11 having about a 90 percent cost overrun, so you could
12 easily be over a billion dollars on this thing and it is
13 not worth it.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Felton.

16 I think we have it looks like Galilee Carlisle and
17 then Francis Estalilla.

18 Galilee? Galilee?

19 MS. GALILEE: Galilee.

GP0368

20 MS. BRADLEY: Galilee, sorry. I apologize.

21 MS. GALILEE: That's okay. Shall I go ahead?

22 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, go ahead when you are ready.

23 MS. GALILEE: Hello, my name is Galilee Carlisle.

24 I am a farmer who also live and farm in Boistfort near
25 the south fork of the Chehalis. I have been to the site

1 of the proposed project several times for swimming and
2 picnics and have made it a priority to stay informed on
3 this project for the past year. Some of you that know
4 me know that I'm a problem solver and I suspect many of
5 you who are here today are as well. Truly, flooding in
6 the Chehalis Basin is sometimes a problem and one that
7 many people fear and crave to solve. In the spirit of
8 that, I am here to say that I am opposed to the proposed
9 SRP. From here on, I will call it a dam, even though I
10 am fully aware of the difference of this project from a
11 dam.

12 Let me briefly explain why I have come to the
13 conclusion that this is not a solution. Here we have on
14 one hand what we know for certain. The dam will cost a
15 tremendous amount of money. It will use a tremendous
16 amount of resources. It will permanently damage a
17 natural area that is culturally, ecologically and
18 hydrologically significant. It will worsen water
19 quality for salmon and other species and it will offer
20 no flood reduction for the vast majority of the people
21 who live along the entirety of the Chehalis and its many
22 tributaries. That's on one hand.

23 On the other hand, we have the supposed benefits
24 which are very uncertain and they are that this dam
25 might help some I-5 area properties, if and only if, the

1 heavy rains fall in the same parts of the Pe Ell
2 watershed as they did in 2007, which is actually a huge
3 if. Take this past fall when the big rains were on the
4 Newaukum. Future heavy rains could be anywhere along
5 the hundred plus miles of this great river. The dam
6 would only hold water back from a very, very small
7 portion of the watershed.

8 So when you do a cost benefit analysis on this, you
9 see that the certain -- very certain cost and damages
10 certainly outweigh the hypothetical and possibly scanty
11 benefits. This is a (inaudible) gamble. And the health
12 of our great river is not something we want to gamble or
13 (inaudible) on.

14 When I talk with people here in the basin about the
15 project and show them the maps, they almost all
16 determine that it sounds like a big waste of time and
17 money. Yes, flooding can be traumatic, but those who
18 live and farm here knowingly live with that risk.

19 The money would be better spent on many things, which
20 I could send in written comments, but I will say a few
21 here. Moving or raising at-risk I-5 area structures and
22 discouraging new development there, improving existing
23 culvert drainage and levy systems or buy -- and buying
24 (inaudible) forest lands in the watersheds to put into
25 conservation and prevent future flooding.

1 If built, this proposed SRP would be a behemoth and
2 an embarrassment for generations to come. Let's keep
3 the Chehalis wild and come up with solutions that we can
4 be proud of for generations to come.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

7 MS. BUTORAC: And sorry, everyone, I'm learning
8 how to use the timer. I'm getting better at it, but if
9 I'm off by a little bit, I do apologize now. It will
10 get better by the end of the evening.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Okay. So next we have Francis
12 Estalilla and then Jason Chadick.

13 Francis, are you there? GP0369

14 DR. ESTALILLA: I'm here. Francis Estalilla.
15 I'm an eye surgeon in Aberdeen, my profession. I'm here
16 to testify in opposition to the SRP, the dam, whatever
17 you want to call it. It does the same thing by holding
18 back water. It disrupts natural hydrology and natural
19 ecosystems. The costs are tremendous. It is going to
20 be a billion dollar project plus. The benefits are
21 scant and people are kidding themselves if they think
22 this is going to be the best way to prevent another
23 major I-5 flood.

24 We know with certainty that water quality will be
25 degraded, fish populations will be depleted and they are

1 struggling as it is. It turns out though (inaudible)
2 largest producer of wild salmon left in the State of
3 Washington. (Inaudible) very unique of spring Chinook
4 salmon up there and you are going wipe them out with
5 this thing. It is -- someone earlier said -- the nail
6 in the coffin. It is -- the risk is simply not worth
7 it. The cost is too great.

8 We need to find solutions that are more in tune with
9 working within the natural ecosystems. We need to -- we
10 need to stop encouraging the development in the
11 floodplain, use the money to buy out people to help them
12 relocate. But putting a dam here, I mean, it is just
13 not in tune with what we are doing in the year 2020,
14 okay. Dams are being taken out everywhere. We are
15 spending billions of dollars to take these things down
16 and now you want to put one up in one of last great
17 natural producing salmon streams in the State of
18 Washington. Just say no.

19 And thank you to the Quinault Indian Nation for
20 joining in on the opposition. Thank you.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

22 All right. And Jason Chadick and then John
23 Henricksen.

24 Jason, are you there?

GP0370

25 MR. CHADICK: I am. Am I on mute? Can you hear

1 me?

2 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you.

3 MR. CHADICK: Okay. I'm going to be really,
4 really brief because many other people that have already
5 spoken have just brought up concerns way more -- way
6 better than I ever did, but after watching the
7 presentation tonight and everything, it is just -- I
8 mean, three-quarters of presentation for this project is
9 talking about the adverse effects of this project. Like
10 the presentation speaks for itself. I mean, it -- it is
11 just -- it is laughable that this project would be
12 built. I mean, here we have one of our last strongholds
13 for salmon and steelhead in the -- in the whole state,
14 you know, and it is just -- I can't believe that this is
15 even under consideration.

16 I'm a Port Angeles resident and so, of course, I have
17 been following the Elwha restoration project very, very
18 closely and it is amazing what happens, you know, when
19 you have a river system that is not dammed and right now
20 we have that with the Chehalis and it is just -- I mean,
21 I don't know -- it would just be a crime to -- to put
22 that in jeopardy.

23 And, I mean, the site for this dam, I know it sounds
24 like a small site, but even in your own presentation,
25 you said 15 percent of the spawning habitat for

1 steelhead. Fifteen percent? I don't think we can
2 afford to lose that right now with -- with the way
3 things are going. I mean, it is just -- it sounds like
4 an extremely sensitive ecological area.

5 The benefits, it seems to benefit very few people,
6 you know. I mean, I'm sure if I had a house in that
7 area, you know, I would be concerned about flooding and
8 stuff, too, but if we are looking at (inaudible)
9 picture, it seems like the benefits are for very few and
10 the risks are losing something that is very important
11 culturally to our state.

12 Yeah, that's it. Sorry, that wasn't brief.

13 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Jason.

14 John Henricksen, you are next and then Karen Davis.

15 John, are you there?

GP0371

16 DR. HENRICKSEN: I am. This is Dr. John
17 Henricksen, Chehalis. I'm a lifetime resident of
18 Chehalis. The more I study the SEPA, the more it seems
19 to me like it is slanted to an agenda. In the
20 (inaudible) that you produce you state that there's
21 significant negative fish -- effect on fish above the
22 site yet on Page 16 of the report to the Office of the
23 Chehalis Basin your two graphs shows 75 percent
24 reduction in fish population due to climate change alone
25 and by the end of century under the no action

1 alternative on figure two, you show fish are basically
2 gone.

3 Nothing is mentioned about mitigation that is planned
4 with the facility proposal, in fact, would reduce this
5 by the end of the century decline.

6 I also read on Page 19 of the Office of the Basin
7 report from you that you record -- you quote a large
8 basin-wide population percentages above Crane Creek of
9 almost -- or of all species starting at 93 percent and
10 ending at 33 percent between 2013 and '17. I have
11 (inaudible) the Washington State department of Fish and
12 Wildlife fish counts for 2017 and '18 and it shows
13 spring Chinook -- basin-wide population of spring
14 Chinook above Crane Creek at one percent, (inaudible)
15 Chinook above Crane Creek at three percent and winter
16 steelhead is the highest at 13 percent above the basin.

17 So you claim a 10 percent reduction in fish above the
18 dam, so 10 percent of one percent and three percent
19 paints a whole different picture than it is even without
20 mitigation included.

21 Thanks.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, John.

23 Karen Davis is next and then Lee First.

24 Karen, are you there?

25 MS. DAVIS: I am. Can you hear me?

1 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0372

2 MS. DAVIS: Hi. Thanks. My name is Karen Davis.
3 I'm a resident of Seattle and I'm calling to voice my
4 opposition to the proposed flood retention facility for
5 the Chehalis River and to support local alternatives
6 instead.

7 This proposal partially addresses one environmental
8 concern while creating a whole host of new environmental
9 catastrophes. That is not a solution. We need to look
10 for answers that will be a win for everyone involved,
11 not creating more problems, which is exactly what this
12 proposal does.

13 We are seeing keystone species like salmon and
14 steelhead being driven to extinction by human
15 activities. I know the numbers are already declining
16 without this dam. So that means that we are (inaudible)
17 even harder to restore the habitat for these crucial
18 species, not put the final nail in the coffin by
19 building this facility.

20 This is our habitat, too. This is our ecosystem.
21 And like it or not, we rely on it to sustain us. So we
22 have learned the hard way the environmental damage that
23 dams do to the ecosystems, so you need to go back to the
24 drawing board and come up with a real solution that
25 takes the environment (inaudible) into account as well

1 as tribes, fishermen and southern resident orcas, all
2 the others who would be harmed by it. We can do better.

3 Thank you. I yield rest of my time.

4 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

5 MS. BUTORAC: Sorry about the timer. We are
6 practicing.

7 MS. BRADLEY: Lee First is next and then Mara
8 Zimmerman.

9 Lee, are you there? GP0373

10 MS. FIRST: I am. Thank you. This is Lee First.
11 I'm the Twin Harbors water keeper and I reside in rural
12 Grays Harbor County. The DEIS does not adequately
13 describe what ecological functions will be lost when
14 major floods are controlled by the dam. Those typical
15 to (inaudible) floods are really important to ecosystems
16 processes for many reasons. High flows, benefit would
17 (inaudible) and structure. They maintain gravel quality
18 for fish spawning and incubation. They also create and
19 sustain channel patterns, off channel wetlands and oxbow
20 lakes. They recharge groundwater storage.

21 How will these ecosystems processes be maintained if
22 a dam is built? And what will be the cost of
23 maintaining these services?

24 The DEIS states that a dam will only protect about
25 half of the structures of the valuable structures

1 upstream of Grand Mound during a major or catastrophic
2 flood. The dam will primarily benefit the commercial
3 area of Chehalis and Centralia. What about rest of us?
4 We need a Plan B, a plan that will deliver flood
5 resiliency to all of us that live in the basin.

6 And I know I have a few seconds left. I noticed last
7 time I went to Chehalis that there was a multitude of
8 property for sale all around the commercial area of
9 Chehalis and so I'm afraid that this dam is going to be
10 a ticket to Chehalis and Centralia to continue
11 developing in the floodplain and that's a huge mistake.
12 This river needs access to its floodplain and that's a
13 big part of the flooding problem.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Lee. Next is Mara
16 Zimmerman and then Margie Van Cleve.

17 Mara, are you there?

GP0374

18 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Yes, I am here. Good evening.
19 My name is Mara Zimmerman. I'm the executive director
20 of the Coast Salmon Partnership, so we are one of seven
21 regions focused on salmon recovery in Washington State.
22 Our organization works to protect and restore salmon
23 runs up the outer coast of Washington and includes
24 participants from the tribes, county, cities,
25 conservation districts and other organizations. The

1 work that we do brings much needed family wage jobs to
2 rural communities and improves the rivers, streams,
3 estuaries for everyone to enjoy.

4 Our organization will be submitting a public comment
5 letter on the Chehalis EIS with specific comments from
6 the board, however, I have heard a lot of statements
7 about salmon tonight and I want to share a few of my own
8 on the Chehalis River, the proposed dam and salmon.

9 The Chehalis River has some of the highest numbers of
10 salmon returning to a signal river basin in Washington
11 State outside of the Columbia River. With that said,
12 the rivers are not what they once were and we know that
13 the fish are struggling here. A lot of the same
14 structures, like winter floods and summer stream flows
15 that cause problems for people are also causing problems
16 for salmon.

17 I see the proposed dam as something that deserves a
18 lot of scrutiny. Nearly two decades ago Governor Locke
19 stated that extinction was not an option for salmon in
20 Washington State and initiated the statewide strategy
21 for salmon recovery. That motto, extinction is not an
22 option, has fueled a huge investment in salmon across
23 Washington State including more than 40 million dollars
24 invested in the Chehalis River alone.

25 So that when I look at the proposed dam for the

1 Chehalis River, it raises many questions because this
2 dam is destroying the river habitat while we are working
3 so hard and investing so much to improve it.

4 I want to take a moment and specifically talk about
5 the importance of higher elevation streams in the
6 Chehalis Basin to river (inaudible) proposed dam site as
7 one of those higher elevation areas. It is a cool water
8 refuge for fish and wildlife, salmon air conditioning,
9 if you will, during the summer months. The juvenile
10 fish need cool water and during the summer months they
11 get squeezed into these high elevation streams including
12 the area above the dam site.

13 I'm talking about the higher elevation streams and
14 summer temperatures because the proposed dam will
15 elevate summer water temperatures by five to nine
16 degrees Fahrenheit and this happens over 25 miles of
17 river. So this will happen in an area of the basin that
18 is one of the key spawning areas for spring Chinook
19 salmon and supports 15 percent of the wild steelhead run
20 for the entire basin.

21 The temperature increases from the dam are on top of
22 climate change impact to the river and could result in
23 near lethal temperatures for salmon in this area of the
24 basin by the end of 21st century.

25 MS. BUTORAC: Thank you, Mara.

1 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Okay.

2 MS. BUTORAC: Will you be able to provide written
3 comments to us? You said you were going to do that?

4 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Yes, we will.

5 MS. BUTORAC: Thank you very much.

6 MS. BRADLEY: So Margie Van Cleve and then Nathan
7 Ereth.

8 MS. BUTORAC: Ereth.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Ereth.

10 Margie?

GP0375

11 MS. VAN CLEVE: Hi there. My name is Margie Van
12 Cleve. I live in Sela, Washington in Yakima County. In
13 the early to mid 1990s I had the opportunity to paddle
14 the whitewater section of the Chehalis River two to
15 three times a year. It was a great section of river. I
16 stopped going because the private timber company that
17 owned the land gated off that section of the river that
18 we boated.

19 Even in the early to mid 1990s, the towns of
20 Centralia and Chehalis flooded; however, the floods at
21 that time seemed less dense than the more recent floods.
22 I found an article from The Seattle Times in 19 -- in
23 2007 entitled, "Development Logging Set the Stage for
24 Disaster," and in that article mention is made of Lewis
25 County continuing to issue building permits for

1 structures in the floodplain. To quote, big box stores,
2 restaurants, strip malls galore, railroad line
3 extension, parking lots for a church, (inaudible)
4 loading facility and new natural gas pipeline,
5 (inaudible) expansion and barns, homes, carports and
6 shops all built in the floodplain, unquote.

7 There's also mention of a one-time public works
8 director who was fired for, among other things, his
9 opposition to continuing to allow development in the
10 floodplain.

11 So here we are now over 10 years later, Lewis County
12 and the communities have continued to allow (inaudible)
13 floodplain, taken all the tax dollars from that
14 development and now are asking for one billion dollars
15 for a dam. This dam won't solve existing problems and
16 creates yet more problems because of its unavoidable
17 impacts on salmon and steelhead.

18 There is a saying that when you find yourself in a
19 hole, the first thing you should do is put down your
20 shovel. That doesn't appear to have yet happened in the
21 Chehalis Basin.

22 This project should not go forward. Any projects
23 that proceed, should increase rather than decrease our
24 salmon and steelhead runs, honor the Quinault Nation
25 and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis and cease

1 all efforts to dam the Chehalis River. Projects should
2 instead focus on enhancing natural floodplain, storage
3 capacity, investing in habitat restoration and culvert
4 removal and dechannelization.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Margie. Earlier you had
7 identified that you -- there's potentially two
8 individuals that would like to provide comment at your
9 location. Is that still the case?

10 MS. VAN CLEVE: He gave up.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Okay.

12 MS. VAN CLEVE: Thank you.

13 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

14 Nathan is next and then Paul Pickett.

15 Nathan, are you there?

16 MR. ERETH: Yeah, can you hear me okay?

17 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0376

18 MR. ERETH: Great. First I would like to --
19 first off, my name is Nathan Ereth. I live in Olympia,
20 Washington and I work in the river valley doing habitat
21 research and fisheries work. I would like to first
22 start off by people -- by referring people to The
23 Seattle Times article on December 16th, 2007. It
24 outlines how poor logging practices made the 2000 flood
25 extra bad, I guess, and inundated the I-5 corridor with

1 an extra chute of water. That is also something that
2 this dam will not address.

3 A couple things from your presentation I wanted to
4 look at was when we talk about the spring Chinook
5 spawning areas, it is stated in the EIS that there's
6 only one of three areas that is affected and that is the
7 presumed area above the dam. What will I would like to
8 bring up is also what about the increase in water temp
9 for spawners in the Oakville and Chehalis Confederated
10 Tribe land? That area of spawning would have an
11 increased water temperature that could affect the
12 liability of those reds.

13 Another thing I wanted to bring up was when we looked
14 at the table called the flood data, there's only
15 examples for no dam or dam. Why is there no info about
16 the water levels with Plan 2 to reopen the corridor and
17 local action? That is something we would like to see.

18 And as I wrap up, we are looking at basically saving
19 1,280 structures at the sacrifice of a healthy watershed
20 and I would like to propose us looking more at the price
21 of buying out those structures to remove them from the
22 flood zone and step them back. This is obviously
23 something outlined in Plan 2 and something that should
24 be looked at more.

25 As a final statement, it is something about this

1 webinar process -- apparently with this one we have no
2 phone comments being made. Last time we had problems
3 with Android phones. And I would have to say in this
4 day of COVID and working from home, for shame that you
5 do not have this set up for us so that all
6 Washingtonians can participate. You should -- you --
7 you can do better.

8 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Nathan.

9 Next is Paul Pickett and then Phyllis Farrell.

10 Paul, are you there?

GP0377

11 MR. PICKETT: Thank you. Yes. My name is Paul
12 Pickett. I'm a resident of Thurston County. I have
13 over 40 years as a water resource professional prior to
14 my retirement a year ago. I worked for 30 years at the
15 Department of Ecology where I did all of the Chehalis
16 rivers (inaudible) and served as the Ecology water
17 quality technical lead for the Chehalis strategy.

18 My comments tonight are focused on two particular
19 areas, water quality and the assessment of alternatives.
20 The water quality discussion in the DEIS is flawed and
21 insufficient. The DEIS discusses water quality impacts,
22 but it makes no mention of the (inaudible) TMDLs even
23 though there's discussion in the appendix on water.

24 The FRE would require an allocation under both the
25 temperature and TMDL. This is a legal requirement of

1 the Clean Water Act. The DEIS should describe the
2 process requirements and likelihood of receiving an
3 allocation for a temperature dissolved action for the
4 prong for these TMDLs.

5 Regarding the alternatives, the DEIS and entitled
6 flood hazard reduction and the goal is appropriate, but
7 it can be achieved either by reducing peak floodwaters
8 or by moving people out of the way of those floodwaters.
9 Therefore, the essential question of the DEIS should be
10 which one alternative, the proposed project -- the
11 proposed FRE project or the local (inaudible)
12 alternative provides flood hazard reduction for less
13 money and less environmental impact.

14 Impacts to local action alternatives should be
15 examined in more detail than DEIS. The alternatives
16 analysis is as far as the impacts are adequately
17 compared. For example, Section 5.1, which discussed
18 impacts on water, provides over 15 pages of analysis but
19 only one paragraph on each alternative. (Inaudible)
20 analysis of impact should be provided for the local
21 options, the local action options.

22 No analysis of cost is provided. Some alternatives
23 are dismissed for being too expensive to be feasible yet
24 the different environmental outcomes and the
25 different -- that can't be fully evaluated without

1 (inaudible) costs. The costs should be provided with a
2 range, including all uncertainties.

3 Finally, based on my work in the basin, the -- an
4 alternative was considered years ago for a designated
5 floodway on the west side of the valley, which is an
6 agricultural area and that alternative should also be
7 included.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Paul.

10 Phyllis Farrell is next and then Robb Krehbiel.

11 Phyllis?

GP0378

12 MS. FARRELL: Thank you. Good evening. Thank
13 you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the
14 Washington Sierra Club in opposition to a dam proposal.
15 My name is Phyllis Farrell, chair of the South Sound
16 Sierra Club group representing over 2,400 members in
17 Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor and Mason counties.

18 The Sierra Club joins with the tribes and other
19 environmental groups in opposing the dam as an expensive
20 measure with a low cost benefit ratio that will not
21 adequately address flooding in the Chehalis Basin and
22 have significant adverse environmental impacts.

23 The Chehalis Basin is a natural floodplain that has
24 experienced increasingly frequent floods due to upper
25 watershed logging and permitting practices that affect

1 the development that has chosen to build and rebuild in
2 the floodplain. Climate change will contribute
3 additional risk; however, a dam will not control
4 flooding in other tributaries and proposed airport
5 levies may cause flooding elsewhere.

6 The dam would be expensive and benefit few at the
7 expense of many. It will not generate hydropower and
8 doesn't store water for irrigation and won't provide any
9 recreation opportunities.

10 More importantly, the EIS indicated there would be
11 significant adverse effects on fish and wildlife
12 populations and recreation. It would destroy valuable
13 forests and river habitat above the dam and releases
14 would destroy downstream fish habitat and jeopardize
15 water quality for downstream communities.

16 In April 2020 U.S. Fish & Wildlife report of spawner
17 abundance and distribution of salmon and steelhead in
18 the upper Chehalis, 2019 concludes, quote, "Installation
19 of a structure that disrupts these natural processes
20 will likely have a negative impact on wild populations
21 of Chinook, Coho and steelhead," end quote.

22 It will also increase greenhouse gas emissions and
23 could significantly impact tribal and cultural
24 resources. These are unacceptable adverse risks.
25 Alternatives to a dam should be considered such ads

1 implementing better logging and permitting practices,
2 watershed restoration projects and relocation of
3 development in the floodplain.

4 Thank you for your consideration.

5 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Phyllis.

6 And before we move on to Robb, I would please remind
7 anybody that has provided comment so far to lower their
8 hand once they are finished just to make sure that we
9 keep an accurate list of who is next.

10 So it will be Robb and then Ron Figlar-Barnes.

11 Robb, are you there?

12 MR. KREHBIEL: Yes, can you hear me?

13 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0379

14 MR. KREHBIEL: Hello, my name is Robb Krehbiel
15 and I'm a northwest representative with Defenders of
16 Wildlife and a resident of Tacoma, Washington. Thank
17 you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS and for
18 extending the public comment period.

19 On behalf of our 25,000 members and supporters in
20 Washington, please accept the following comments
21 explaining our opposition to the proposed dam on the
22 Chehalis River, which the DEIS refers to as a flood
23 retention facility.

24 Dams significantly alter the hydrology, habitat and
25 ecosystem of the rivers they block. Even with

1 mitigation measures, most dammed rivers are a sad echo
2 of what they once were. Washington is one of the most
3 dammed states in the country and our efforts to dam
4 almost every river and stream have significantly
5 contributed to the collapse of salmon across the region
6 leading to a cascade of effects on other wildlife, echo
7 systems, fishing economies and tribal culture and way of
8 life.

9 The Chehalis River is the last free-flowing large
10 river left in Washington. We are concerned that the dam
11 will cause significant and irreparable harm to these
12 salmon runs resulting in their listing on the endangered
13 species act.

14 Because of this (inaudible) Ecology and the Army
15 Corps to consult with NOAA fisheries on this project.
16 This would also significantly reduce the source of food
17 for starving and endangered southern resident orcas who
18 rely on coastal salmon runs, including those in the
19 Chehalis Basin, during the winter and the early spring.
20 With only 72 orcas left, any action that further reduces
21 salmon availability, threatens these whales to
22 extinction.

23 We also stand with the Quinault Nation and are
24 extremely concerned that this dam violates the 1856
25 treaty of Olympia and construction of this dam will

1 (inaudible) vacation. The DEIS also applies doubt on
2 how effective this dam will be and how long the benefit
3 will last. (Inaudible) half the structures impacted by
4 flooding now would be protected by the dam and as
5 climate change further intensifies flooding, it is also
6 likely that the dam just kicks the can down the road
7 failing to develop the long-term solution that they
8 (inaudible) and sacrifice salmon in the process.

9 Dams (inaudible) be phasing out, not building more
10 of. We encourage the board to reject the proposed dam
11 on the Chehalis River.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Robb.

13 Ron Figlar-Barnes and then Thomas O'Keefe.

14 Ron, are you there?

15 Ron?

16 I don't hear your audio at all, Ron. So we are going
17 to go ahead and move on to Thomas, but I can try to
18 reach out to Ron to figure out his audio issues.

19 Thomas O'Keefe, are you there?

GP0380

20 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes, I'm here. So this is Thomas
21 O'Keefe. I'm the Pacific stewardship director for
22 American Whitewater. We are opposed to this dam. The
23 project would have significant habitat impact, impacts
24 to fish passage, survivability, loss of genetic
25 diversity fish population impact that would be

1 significant, and most significantly farm ownership would
2 result in the permanent loss of recreational
3 opportunities on the Chehalis River, opportunities that
4 I personally have had the chance and opportunity to
5 enjoy.

6 There is a marginal benefit for the catastrophic
7 flood events that will -- the structure will not
8 eliminate the I-5 closures or the impact to all the
9 structures. We need better solutions in 2020 and a
10 focus on local actions that improve and connectivity
11 with floodplains and floodplain function.

12 Thank you and I will be following up with more
13 comprehensive written comments.

14 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Thomas.

15 So next we have Tyson Johnston and then Walker
16 Hammond.

17 Tyson, are you there? T0008

18 MR. JOHNSTON: Hello, I am. Hello and thank you
19 for the opportunity to provide input today. My name is
20 Tyson Johnston. I'm the vice-president of the Quinault
21 Indian Nation and voting member of the Chehalis Basin
22 board. I am also joined today by John Pink, the
23 chairman of our off-reservation fish committee who will
24 be giving comments after I give mine.

25 The Quinault Nation will be submitting extensive

1 written comments that we trust the state will take
2 seriously and review thoroughly. After (inaudible)
3 review and consideration of the draft EIS and best
4 available science, the Quinault Nation felt it had no
5 choice but to oppose the dam. The scientific and
6 technical analysis made in the Department of Ecology
7 study concluded that the dam would have unavoidable
8 impacts on salmon because it hadn't been determined yet
9 if mitigation is technically or economically feasible.

10 The Quinault Nation is the only tribe with treaty
11 rights to fish, hunt and gather in the Chehalis Basin.
12 We have fought too hard to secure those rights with the
13 well-documented struggle going all the way back to 1855.
14 To get behind something that would virtually guarantee
15 extinction of spring Chinook where the dam would be
16 built is unacceptable.

17 The dam would also accelerate the decline of other
18 local salmon runs and steelhead. We need to protect and
19 restore the habitat we have left, not sacrifice more of
20 it.

21 As Quinault people, we are not strangers to the
22 devastating impacts of flooding on communities,
23 infrastructure and safety. We are currently in the
24 process of moving our main village of Taholah to higher
25 ground to escape the threat of ocean flooding that will

1 only get worse.

2 The Quinault Nation remains committed to finding
3 solutions to flooding for everyone in the Chehalis
4 Basin. We urge the state to turn its attention to
5 developing a credible alternative to the dam and stand
6 ready as motivated partners to come up with a Plan B for
7 flood damage reduction throughout the basin.

8 Thank you for allowing me to give comments tonight.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thanks you, Tyson. And you said
10 somebody else was there to provide comment?

11 MR. JOHNSTON: Yes.

T0009

12 MR. PINK: Yeah. Yeah, this is John Pink. Good
13 evening. Thank you for the opportunity to provide
14 input. I am a member of the Quinault Nation. I'm a
15 fisherman and elect chairmen of Quinault Nation's
16 off-reservation river committee.

17 As an elected representative of tribal fishing
18 families, I feel an obligation to be a voice for the
19 spring salmon and treaty protected rights in the
20 Chehalis Basin.

21 Our Quinault tribe has fished the Chehalis River
22 since time immemorial. And myself as a young Quinault
23 fisherman, I have been privileged to fish the Chehalis
24 River since 1988 under our treaty-protected rights. The
25 Chehalis River spring Chinook have been keystone species

1 since time immemorial. The Quinault people and the
2 ability to fish spring salmon has been at the center of
3 our culture and our way of life and guaranteed by the
4 treaty of Olympia of 1855 in the United States
5 constitution and affirmed by the United States superior
6 court.

7 We all know that the Columbia River -- that the dams
8 kill salmon. Our spring Chinook and other salmon are
9 very low numbers already. Adding a dam currently goes
10 counter to the protection of our salmon resource and our
11 way of life.

12 All over the west dams are being breached and
13 removed. I feel we did not create this problem nor is
14 it ours to fix. The federal government and Washington
15 State, as other co-manager, has the responsibility for
16 conservation of these resources. The state has an
17 obligation to help protect our treaty rights and this
18 dam will not help. In fact, it will do the opposite.

19 It is time for the state to look at alternatives to a
20 dam, alternatives that can put protective measures in
21 place for flooding without pushing salmon further
22 towards extinction.

23 As an elected official of the Quinault Indian Nation
24 when sworn to uphold our treaty and constitutional and
25 bylaws and I cannot diminish our treaty rights by

1 agreeing to a project that will diminish that right by
2 knowing -- fully agreeing to extinction of our spring
3 Chinook.

4 Much has been done to restore the floodplain and much
5 more needs to be done to restore the natural function of
6 the floodplains surrounding the habitat for these
7 resources.

8 I cannot support the dam or water retention facility
9 that well. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
10 today.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, John.

12 Walker Hammond is next and then we are going to go
13 back to Ron Figlar to try to see if his audio is
14 working.

15 Walker, are you there?

16 MR. HAMMOND: I am here.

17 MS. BRADLEY: Okay. GP0383

18 MR. HAMMOND: I am -- my name is Walker Hammond,
19 just a normal citizen, sportsman. And I'm not nearly as
20 well-prepared as everybody else I have heard tonight. I
21 have been bathing my children while listening to you
22 guys.

23 But I have enjoyed the Chehalis Basin and that
24 section on the upper Chehalis River a number of times
25 and through fishing and exploring. And, you know,

1 anything that is going to reduce the numbers of spring
2 Chinook, all Chinook, Coho, steelhead is -- is not
3 really acceptable. These -- a lot of these fish are
4 practically -- they are right in line to get on the
5 endangered species list already and doing this is pretty
6 much going to guarantee that that happens and, you know,
7 I don't want to see these amazing resources disappear
8 for my children.

9 Thanks.

10 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Walker.

11 Ron Figlar, are you still having some audio
12 connection issues?

13 Are you there?

14 Ron?

15 All right. We will continue to keep trying. I know
16 you are trying to have some technical sound
17 issues, . . .

18 So next we have Ashley Lewis and then Colleen Suter.

19 Ashley, are you there?

20 MS. LEWIS: Can you hear me?

21 MS. BRADLEY: Yes. Let's make sure. Are you
22 there?

23 MS. LEWIS: I am here. Can you still hear me?

24 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0384

25 MS. LEWIS: Fantastic. My name is Ashley Nicole

1 Lewis. I'm a member of the Quinault Indian Nation and I
2 live in Olympia, Washington. I would like to express my
3 opposition to the FRP because the project has
4 acknowledged significant impacts on fish, wildlife and
5 aquatic habitat. It virtually guarantees extinction of
6 spring Chinook in that river and accelerates the decline
7 of steelhead, Coho and full run Chinook.

8 This offends the 1856 treaty of Olympia, which
9 secures the right for Quinault people to hunt and fish
10 in their usual and accustomed grounds and stations.

11 In short, destroying our fish, destroys our ability
12 to fish in usual and accustomed grounds. Fishing for
13 salmon is at the heartbeat of what is to be Quinault.
14 Destroying fisheries offends this as well.

15 Instead, I would encourage the restoration for
16 floodplain areas and find other alternatives to help
17 communities navigate flooding in the Chehalis Basin much
18 like the Quinault Indian Nation has as they relocate
19 entire villages because flooding due to ocean rising.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I yield
21 the rest of my time.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Ashley.

23 So next is Colleen Suter and then Debra Ellers.

24 Colleen?

25 MS. SUTER: Hi.

1 MS. BRADLEY: Yep. Yes, can you hear us?

2 MS. SUTER: Okay. Yeah, I'm good. Sorry. My
3 name is Colleen Suter. I'm an environmental scientist
4 and a resident of Adna. I have lived in the Chehalis
5 (inaudible) for at least 25 years, not just in Adna.

6 I was directly affected by the 2007 floods and many
7 of my friends experienced seriously traumatic events due
8 to the flood, so I completely understand the need to do
9 something.

10 I have also spent a great deal of time on the river
11 and seen a lot of big changes. I had taken time to
12 research some of the historical changes and the
13 hydrological processes such as (inaudible) dams and
14 development along the banks of the river and on the
15 floodplain.

16 Flooding is a natural process (inaudible) Chehalis
17 Basin. It occurs on all of the rivers and is a key
18 process that supports ecological diversity, which makes
19 the Chehalis so special. The impacts of the proposed
20 project are unacceptable. The ecological degradation
21 will create a cascade of events which will further
22 threaten multiple vital species, not just salmon.

23 The restoration and protection of the upper forest
24 land and natural processes is the only viable option.
25 Much of the floods have originated in the upper basin

1 and (inaudible) have originated in the upper basin have
2 been exacerbated by historical changes and current
3 forest practices. (Inaudible) culture and managed
4 forest (inaudible) increases flows in the winter and
5 decreases flows in the summer while clearing of large
6 wooden debris in the river also (inaudible) much quicker
7 and flashier as well as reducing habitat for aquatic
8 species.

9 Focus should be focused on restoration of natural
10 function and not (inaudible) creating more problems by
11 destroying key spawning grounds and degrading water
12 quality.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Colleen.

15 Debra Ellers is next and then Michael Deckert.

16 Debra?

17 MS. ELLERS: I'm not saying anything because I
18 have already commented.

19 MS. BUTORAC: She did.

20 MS. BRADLEY: Oh, sorry.

21 MS. ELLERS: (Inaudible) I have already
22 commented. Sorry. (Inaudible.)

23 MS. BRADLEY: Michael Deckert?

24 MR. DECKERT: Yes, I'm here.

25 MS. BRADLEY: Yep. Go ahead.

1 MR. DECKERT: All right. My name is Michael
2 Deckert and I started kayaking the Chehalis River above
3 Crane Creek in the late 1980s and it was a destination
4 river for us with many enjoyable rapids that we really
5 loved and we kayaked regularly.

6 A dam on this river is ill-conceived. It doesn't
7 generate power, store water or provide recreation. It
8 is expensive and it doesn't address complex problems
9 that can't be solved by a new dam. The impacts and
10 costs are high, yet the benefits of the proposed dam are
11 small. (Inaudible) recreation is a concern and this
12 loss cannot be mitigated.

13 I think funding is better spent on enhancing
14 floodplain storage, habitat restoration. We need to
15 promote healthy rivers and vibrant fish runs by
16 increasing mitigation and assistance to landowners in
17 the floodplain through supporting local actions.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Michael.

20 It looks like -- I apologize. The list got kind of
21 mixed up, so let me just go through really quick and . .
22 .

23 MS. BUTORAC: While Cindy is doing that, I would
24 ask everyone that has spoken, if you could lower your
25 hand again. Again, if you take a look at the bottom of

1 your screen or near your name, you should see the hand
2 icon. If you click that again, it should lower it. We
3 have got a few people still showing.

4 MS. BRADLEY: Nate Lewis.

5 Nate, are you there?

6 MR. LEWIS: Yeah. Hi, can you hear me?

7 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you. **GP0387**

8 MR. LEWIS: Great. Thanks. My name is Nate
9 Lewis. I'm a farmer and rancher in Thurston County. I
10 used to live in Galvin, Washington in the Chehalis
11 floodplain. I raised livestock there and lived with the
12 threat of flood for many years including the 2007 and
13 2009 floods, so I understand that it is something that
14 we need to address.

15 I'm also a recreationalist and fish that river
16 (inaudible) sportsman and feed my family with Coho
17 salmon and have had the privilege to have caught one
18 spring Chinook in my lifetime, which I find today to
19 have been an achievement.

20 I have reviewed this EIS and I understand that there
21 are -- there is the need to manage for flood control and
22 that there may be costs associated with that. This
23 particular plan, in my opinion, the benefits do not
24 outweigh the cost. The loss of our salmon is something
25 we cannot bring back. And if -- and I look at where I

1 used to live in Galvin, Washington, it does not appear
2 as though this dam would achieve any sort of measurable
3 benefit to reducing flood risks.

4 So based on those points, I do not agree that this
5 dam should go forward and I respect the work that you
6 all have done to put together the scientific impact
7 statement.

8 Thank you so much.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Nate.

10 Paul Thomas is next and then.

11 MS. BUTORAC: Thompson. Paul Thompson.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Paul Thompson, yes.

13 Paul, are you there?

14 Paul?

15 Paul, are you there? I see you are unmuting
16 yourself.

17 All right. We will move on. Dan Penn is next and
18 then Maradel Gale.

19 Dan, are you there?

20 MR. PENN: Yeah, I'm here. Can you hear me?

21 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0388

22 MR. PENN: Okay. Hello my name is Dan Penn. I'm
23 a member of the Chehalis tribe and a resident of
24 Oakville, Washington. And I would like to just express
25 concern about the unrelinquished rights of the members

1 of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis, the number
2 of negative effects that this proposed project would
3 have not only to the various aquatic species that call
4 our river home, but also to our spiritual and cultural
5 places, one of which is slated to be blown up with
6 dynamite in order to construct this huge facility. That
7 produces limited benefit for the extreme cost that I
8 don't believe that can be mitigated.

9 I would like to see this river producing fish for
10 generations to come as it has done for our people who
11 have lived on this bank from the beginning.

12 And I yield the rest of my time.

13 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Dan.

14 Maradel?

GP0389

15 MS. GALE: Yes. This is Maradel Gale. I'm a
16 resident of Bainbridge Island and I have already
17 submitted some comments in writing. I wanted to say
18 that there's very little that I can add to the very
19 articulate comments against a Chehalis River dam by many
20 people who have testified before me here.

21 So at this point, please record my opposition to a
22 dam and my support for restoration of natural methods of
23 flood control and use of money to protect our endangered
24 species and not put them further in jeopardy.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Maradel.

2 All right. So it looks like Cecilia Boulais and then
3 David Linn.

4 Cecilia?

5 MS. BOULAIS: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

6 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

GP0390

7 MS. BOULAIS: Okay. My name is Cecilia Boulais.
8 I live on a farm directly along the Chehalis River
9 between Oakville and Porter with a half mile
10 approximately of Chehalis River front and I (inaudible)
11 farm personally experienced the 2007 flood and despite
12 the challenges of flooding, I oppose this flood dam
13 reduction facility known as the dam.

14 I subscribe to the edict zero rise in the floodway.
15 Any fill in the floodplain upstream of me forces more
16 water faster down to me and to others further down the
17 stream. It is distressing to watch over the past couple
18 of years the commercial area of Chehalis and Centralia
19 expanding on additional fill in the floodplain area,
20 around WalMart, Home Depot and so on.

21 I fear that if this dam is approved, the cities would
22 say oh, the dam will protect us and then they will
23 permit then even more commercial expansion and even more
24 fill in the floodplain. Then when the next catastrophic
25 event and flooding happens, they would say oh, we need

1 the dam to be raised, because the dam is designed to be
2 raised, and it would be a vicious cycle.

3 If approved, what will prevent the cities from
4 continuing to expand in the floodplain upstream?

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Cecilia.

7 David Linn and then Leander Geist.

8 David?

GP0391

9 MR. LINN: Hi, this is David Linn in Ocean Shores
10 and I do plan to submit written comments, but did want
11 to at least expression my opposition to the dam. And I
12 went through a good portion of the DEIS and the
13 appendices and it strikes me that -- that this proposal
14 has gotten this far because it is -- the comments in the
15 report and just to list off a few, potential for
16 significant adverse impact, air quality and greenhouse
17 gases, cultural resources, environmental health and
18 safety, environmental justice, fish species and
19 habitats, et cetera, et cetera. With all of that being
20 discussed in the report, it is as close to a no-brainer
21 as I can ever recall seeing that there's really no point
22 in going forward with such an expensive dam not only
23 financially, but cost to all of us for the environmental
24 degradation that will occur.

25 So it seems to me this is a local problem that was

1 caused by ill-advised development and it sounds like
2 there is more development planned, so it just seems to
3 me the wrong approach. And if, in fact, this is a
4 serious problem with flooding, then the problem ought to
5 be dealt with locally and moving people and buildings
6 out of the floodplain and let the river return to its
7 natural habitat and solve the problem that way rather
8 than trying to find some grandiose delusion that costs
9 billions of dollars and destroys a huge swath of our
10 environment.

11 So I'm opposed to this and, again, I'm really
12 surprised that this is -- it almost reads as if this was
13 a preordained answer to the problem and that very little
14 attention was paid to the no action alternative or the
15 local alternative. So I think, you know, this was
16 planned to be the proposal and I think we need to do a
17 lot more research and study before we even consider
18 going ahead with this.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, David.

21 Leander Geist and then Michelle Schilter. Schilter.

22 MR. GEIST: Can you hear me?

23 MS. BRADLEY: Yep. Yep. GP0392

24 MR. GEIST: Hi, my name is Leander Geist and I
25 live in Mason County, but I spend a lot of time fishing

1 and playing and growing up on the Chehalis, particularly
2 growing up fishing for steelhead on the Chehalis.

3 And I think everybody has done a great job. I'm so
4 glad to hear everybody comment and all your guy's
5 comments are amazing.

6 But I want to bring up one thing was you guys talk
7 about a genetic diversity loss in salmon and steelhead
8 and I just want to make sure that you guys know that
9 genetic diversity is a mechanism of survival for salmon
10 and steelhead. They use genetic diversity to adapt and
11 overcome things like climate change that you bring up
12 quite often. And this, along with many other things,
13 that obviously hinder an already at-risk salmon and
14 steelhead population.

15 I just want to say that from a regular guy named
16 Leander Geist in Washington that I think these impacts
17 are completely unacceptable and the risk clearly
18 outweighs the reward for this thing and I think you guys
19 to need to move towards this -- restoring the floodplain
20 concept.

21 Thank you. I yield my time.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

23 Michelle?

GP0393

24 MS. SCHILTER: This is Michelle. Can you hear
25 me?

1 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

2 MS. SCHILTER: (Inaudible) farmer along the
3 Chehalis River in Adna. I am also a mom of three that
4 experienced the catastrophic flood of '07, the flood of
5 '09 as well as the flood in '96. I listened to
6 (inaudible) we come up with some different alternatives.

7 As a farmer and a resident of Lewis County that has
8 followed this process for the last 12 years, I can say
9 for certainty that there have been many, many different
10 options that have been explored. Over last year, I
11 (inaudible) that (inaudible) catastrophic flood to come,
12 that the residents of Washington State can experience
13 I-5 being closed again. And I don't think anybody
14 remembers the catastrophic disruption of transportation
15 and commerce (inaudible) that happened in Washington
16 State. Rather than having to wait for a flood, I think
17 we can look at the pandemic that we are currently
18 experiencing.

19 Washington agriculture is absolutely at its knees
20 right now as (inaudible) shut down commerce in
21 Washington State.

22 If another catastrophic flood is allowed to happen,
23 the same exact thing is going to happen again, a
24 catastrophic disruption of commerce within this entire
25 state.

1 As a farm (inaudible) I'm looking (inaudible)
2 perspective, I appreciate and understand concerns about
3 fish, but I think we also need to look at this
4 (inaudible) effects the entire industry of agriculture
5 within the State of Washington.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Michelle.

8 We are -- Paul Thompson, we are going try to unmute
9 you again to see if your audio is working.

10 Paul, are you there?

11 Paul?

12 All right. It doesn't sound like your audio is
13 working.

14 And at this time we have no one else currently using
15 the "Raise Hand" feature to provide comment, so if you
16 do wish to provide comment, please go ahead and use that
17 feature. It is located right next to your name on the
18 right-hand panel and it might also be displayed as
19 little icon right above the chat box.

20 It does looks like Sue Joerger has raised their hand.

21 Sue, are you there?

GP0394

22 MS. JOERGER: I am. Can you hear me?

23 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

24 MS. JOERGER: Thank you for this opportunity. I
25 think so many people have spoken and I don't want to

1 duplicate their comments, but I do think that this is a
2 statewide issue. It is the second largest
3 salmon-bearing river in the state and it has no ESA
4 listed and I feel that the Department of Ecology has
5 only advertised it in the Lewis County, Thurston County,
6 Grays Harbor County area. And I know, you know, this
7 river belongs to all the citizens or people of the state
8 and I -- I really feel that all of us should be given
9 the opportunity to know that this is going on, that it
10 should be advertised statewide, that maybe there should
11 be additional hearings once it is advertised more
12 broadly around the state, and, if necessary, extend the
13 comment deadline to -- to accommodate that and also to
14 address the technology issue of not being able to use
15 Android phones.

16 So I think it is of statewide significance and I
17 think it does (inaudible) the audience for the draft and
18 the hearings availability of the hearings and comments
19 should be made available to all citizens in Washington.

20 Thanks.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Sue.

22 All right. At this time, we don't see any additional
23 people that would like to provide comments.

24 MS. BUTORAC: (Inaudible) just came up.

25 MS. BRADLEY: All right. First, we are -- Paul

1 Thomas, are you there?

2 MS. BUTORAC: Thompson.

3 MS. BRADLEY: Thompson, sorry.

4 Paul?

5 Paul, we are still having some issues connecting to
6 your microphone.

7 MS. BUTORAC: This is Diane. I just wanted to
8 remind everyone, you should see on the screen two other
9 ways to provide comments. We really appreciate you
10 being here. As you know, this was originally planned to
11 be an in-person event and then we had to change it to
12 online. There are some technology issues, but we do
13 have multiple ways to provide comments if you can't do
14 it during this because there is audio or technical
15 issues. You can always submit online or by mail, so
16 just a reminder.

17 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

18 Zack Malham -- Malham, are you there?

19 MR. MALHAM: Can you hear me?

20 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0395

21 MR. MALHAM: Yeah, my name is Zack Malham and I
22 became aware of this project about four or five years
23 ago. And, yeah, like a lot of people have said here, it
24 really just amazed me that we were considering a project
25 like this in an area like this. I have been a lot of

1 places throughout the state and to me that area is
2 really some of the most pristine steelhead habitat that
3 we have in Washington. And logging -- what? -- 680
4 acres or even more above that is going to create so much
5 runoff and silt. It is going to negatively affect the
6 rest of the basin.

7 Also, I noticed that there was going to be a tube to
8 divert the river for 36 months I think I saw and in
9 my -- I don't know, in my opinion, fish really don't
10 respond to going through tubes and I think three years
11 is too long for something like that to happen. Again,
12 I'm not sure about the details of implementing that, but
13 it just doesn't sound very good to me.

14 And, yeah, I'm just really grateful and impressed at
15 all the people who came out with very thoughtful and
16 well-put-together comments tonight.

17 Yeah, I think that's about all I have got. Thank
18 you.

19 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Zack.

20 Again, we are just waiting for anybody else that
21 would like to provide comment.

22 MS. BUTORAC: Paul Butler.

23 MS. BRADLEY: Paul Butler, it looks like you do
24 not have a -- any audio connected to your name, so I
25 would suggest if you are using the separate call-in

1 option as a reminder, it does associates your name from
2 your connection through the Internet application, so
3 please -- at the top of your screen there's an icon and
4 there is little phone icon that you can select and
5 please choose the "Call Me" option and if you put in
6 your phone number, it will call your phone and it will
7 reconnect your audio to your computer application and
8 then we can unmute your phone.

9 So at this time there may be a few pauses between
10 individuals that would like to provide comment. We are
11 here until 8:30 to accept any comments you might want to
12 provide verbally. And so at this point, there may be
13 times where you just don't hear anything. We are here
14 and we are still accepting those comments, so please use
15 that "Raise Hand" feature if you choose to provide that
16 comment and we will do some periodic audio checks just
17 to confirm that we are still here and that we are
18 available to accept your comments.

19 Hi Paul. Paul, are you -- are you there?

20 MR. BUTLER: I think I am.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Hi Paul. Thanks for trying to, you
22 know, get in a few different ways. **GP0396**

23 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Quickly, I have heard a lot
24 of very cogent arguments about this dam. My training is
25 in earth science. I taught hydrology (inaudible)

1 geomorphology for 25 years and one of the things we
2 learned early on in assessing damming rivers was that
3 upstream dams can't really solve downstream flooding and
4 that sediment control beats flood control.

5 And I'm not unsympathetic to people that are
6 impacted, inconvenienced, the farmers, transportation,
7 but this is just way too expensive for a partial
8 benefit. We are not really getting flood control. It
9 is a temporary occasional thing and having gone through
10 the 2007 flood and had damage to my property, there is
11 just -- sometimes you have to just accept it is the
12 price of living in a place that gets a lot of rain. And
13 that's what makes this place wonderful and why we have
14 fish.

15 And I have kayaked the Chehalis River and I just
16 really think it is too valuable to lose to a temporary
17 occasional solution, so thank you.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Paul.

19 MS. BUTORAC: Sorry, we are working together on
20 the technology and sometimes there is some lags between
21 us -- between the computers, so just one moment.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Devin MCallester, are you there?

23 MR. MCALLESTER: Can you hear me?

24 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0397

25 MR. MCALLESTER: Okay. So I moved to Washington

1 State a little over a year ago mainly because of, you
2 know, the recreational opportunities in the outdoors
3 that this state has to offer like skiing and, you know,
4 hiking and whitewater kayaking, so I haven't been to
5 this particular section of river yet, but I definitely
6 want to get there at some point in the future.

7 And I think that from a whitewater kayaker's
8 perspective, one thing which was cool about this river
9 is just the continuous stretch of Class 3 -- Class 3 is
10 like a sweet spot in whitewater. It is not like
11 death-defying, but it is still exciting. And so this is
12 definitely an important resource for me and I think for
13 a lot of other boaters and outdoor enthusiasts.

14 And then also another past experience I guess that I
15 think is relevant is I come from the midwest where there
16 were lots of little dams that they built way back in the
17 day and a lot of the communities around those dams are
18 currently in the process of getting rid of them because
19 they, you know, made the water stagnant, less clean and
20 they hurt the fish populations and they are a
21 navigational hazard.

22 So it seems like history has shown that when you
23 build dams like this in the long run, they kind of do
24 more damage than good, so I'm really hoping that we can
25 find a different solution that preserves the river in

1 its natural state.

2 Thanks.

3 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Devin.

4 All right. Hi everyone. We are acknowledging
5 there's a little bit of a slow down and so we are going
6 to take a 10-minute pause to this and we will check back
7 in at 7:17.

8

9 (Brief recess.)

10

11

12 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We are back and it
13 looks like there is a few people that would like to
14 provide some comment.

15 So first we have Judith Akins and then Ronald
16 Averill.

17 Judith?

18 Judith, are you there?

19 MS. AKINS: Can you hear me now?

20 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you. **GP0398**

21 MS. AKINS: Thank you for allowing me to comment
22 and I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into
23 (inaudible) of this, but I would like to add my voice to
24 those . . .

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(Speaker fading out.)

MS. BRADLEY: Hey, Judith?

MS. AKINS: Yes.

MS. BRADLEY: I'm sorry. It is really -- you are really faint and we want to make sure that we have a clear comment from you and you are just really faint off.

MS. AKINS: Okay. How is that?

MS. BUTORAC: Start again.

MS. BRADLEY: Yeah, that's better. Do you -- do you want to start again from the top? We apologize.

(REPORTER'S NOTE: This speaker not transcribable due to audio connection issues.)

MS. BUTORAC: Judith, this is Diane. We appreciate your comment. I think we all only heard parts of it unfortunately. It was a little hard to hear with some static in there, too, so we will do our best to capture that in the transcript, but I would ask that you could also provide your comments in a written format. If you are able to do that, that would also be

1 very helpful.

2 MS. AKINS: I will do that. I will do that.

3 MS. BUTORAC: Thank you so much. Sorry about
4 that.

5 MS. BRADLEY: We apologize.

6 Ron Averill, are you there?

7 MR. AVERILL: Okay. You have got me off mute
8 now?

9 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

10 MR. AVERILL: All right. I want to make sure you
11 hear me. That last recording, I could hear none of it.

12 MS. BUTORAC: Yes, we can hear you.

13 MS. BRADLEY: We can hear you.

14 MR. AVERILL: You can hear me fine?

15 MS. BRADLEY: Yep.

GP0399

16 MR. AVERILL: My name is Ron Averill. I'm a
17 former county commissioner in Lewis County. I was a
18 county commissioner in 2008 when we -- 2007 rather when
19 we had the 2007 flood followed by the 2009 flood. I
20 don't think that many people understand that we had one
21 billion dollars of damages in the space (inaudible)
22 Grays Harbor up through the upper basin in Lewis County.
23 We had three bridges taken out on the upper Chehalis.
24 We had all kinds of damaged property.

25 People talk about restoring the floodplain. The

1 floodplain unfortunately has been occupied in this
2 county since 1843. It was exacerbated by the fact that
3 both the railroad and I-5 chose to come (inaudible)
4 floodplain and, of course, businesses built around the
5 transportation corridors that existed.

6 When people talk about removing the people from the
7 floodplain, buying them out instead of building this
8 (inaudible) talking about (inaudible) dollars and
9 infrastructure that exists in Lewis County.

10 This is a dam which is not a dam. It is a retention
11 facility only during periods of flooding. It has been
12 mischaracterized as if it were a (inaudible) standing
13 dam like you have on the Cowlitz River with the three
14 facilities that are owned by Tacoma Power.

15 I will submit additional (inaudible) in writing on
16 this, but I think that we also are missing the fact that
17 there is mitigation that the aquatic species restoration
18 plan is in equal billing with the retention facility and
19 that much of (inaudible) that (inaudible) in existence
20 are effective would the far, far more offset by the
21 (inaudible).

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Ron.

24 MS. BUTORAC: Okay.

25 MS. BRADLEY: All right. We would like to remind

1 everyone that would like to provide comment that you --
2 we ask that you use the "Raise Hand" feature. Again,
3 that's right next to your name or it might also be
4 displayed on the lower right-hand corner above the chat
5 feature.

6 Frank Corbin?

7 Frank, are you there?

8 MS. BUTORAC: I think he is still muted.

9 MR. CORBIN: Yes, can you hear me.

10 MS. BRADLEY: Yep, we can hear you.

11 MR. CORBIN: You can still hear me?

12 MS. BRADLEY: Yep. GP0400

13 MR. CORBIN: This particular project has been
14 studied for years interesting project that has ever been
15 designed. It's . . .

16
17 (Speaker fading out.)

18
19 MR. CORBIN: . . . the previous speaker
20 (inaudible) the dam -- type of dam that blocks off the
21 entire river. It actually only holds water during the
22 worst (inaudible) of the engineers to release the water
23 in a controlled fashion so that it does not interrupt
24 the flow of water from normal levels. It takes I think
25 was it 30 days for the water to -- at least that would

1 be held up behind the dam.

2 We have to keep in mind, too, that flooding damages
3 that we have been getting are in the billions and the
4 cost of the dam is small in comparison. The salmon
5 numbers are already . . .

6

7 (Speaker fading out.)

8

9

10 MR. CORBIN: . . . and at least with this
11 (inaudible) project to improve water (inaudible) and
12 work on . . .

13

14 (Speaker fading out.)

15

16

17 MR. CORBIN: The flooding itself hurts habitat .
18 . . .

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20 (Speaker fading out.)

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23 MR. CORBIN: . . . areas and puts more silt into
24 the river. It has a devastating (inaudible) species
25 habitat . . .

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(Speaker fading out.)

MR. CORBIN: . . . cover the environmental proposed project. When you read it, it sounds all negative . . .

(Speaker fading out.)

MR. CORBIN: . . . negative impacts to be worked on to mitigate those negative impacts. Further study would show that . . .

(Speaker fading out.)

MR. CORBIN: . . . and families have been devastated in the flooding in the past and just the human element is devastating. Outflow needs to be improved in order for us to mitigate flooding. We need to improve the outflow (inaudible) so that . . .

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(Speaker fading out.)

MR. CORBIN: . . . but my time is up.
Thank you very much.

MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Frank.

It looks like Paul Thompson -- let's see. Paul, are you there?

Paul?

Paul, are you there?

I think we are still having issues.

So we are going -- looking at the people that are wanting to provide comment, it doesn't look like anybody else has identified that they would like to do so at this point, so we are going to take another 10-minute break. And so we are going to hear -- you are not going.

To hear much on our end, but we will come back at 7:38.

(Brief recess.)

MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We are back. We just wanted to check in and make sure that everybody knows that we are still here and still accepting comments. We

1 will be here until 8:30 and so we just wanted to let you
2 know if you would like to provide those verbal comments,
3 we just ask that you use that "Raise Hand" feature to
4 identify that you would like to make that comment and we
5 can accept that here.

6 And then there is also, as you can see on the screen,
7 different ways that you can submit your comments online
8 or in writing, so please feel free to do so if that's
9 the way that you would like to provide those comments.

10 And at this time, we are going to take a 15-minute
11 break and so we will be back after 15 minutes and just
12 do another audio check to make sure that you all are
13 aware that we are still here and we will (inaudible).

14 MS. BUTORAC: Do we have a commenter?

15 MS. BRADLEY: Oh. It looks like actually Heather
16 Hoyle has raised their hand.

17 Heather?

18 You sounded a little bit broken up. Are you there?

19 MS. HOYLE: Yeah, I . . .

20

21 (Speaker fading out.)

22

23 MS. BRADLEY: Try one more time. We heard --
24 yep, there you go. **GP0401**

25 MS. HOYLE: This is heather Hoyle and I would

1 like to (inaudible) that I'm opposed to the dam. I
2 currently -- I lived in Adna, Washington for about 20
3 plus years. I am very aware of the wrath of mother
4 nature. I have been through the floods and understand
5 that (inaudible) provides (inaudible) session on this
6 site.

7 So (inaudible) about the fish a lot (inaudible)
8 habitats and such and, you know, I really have to say I
9 don't know how much money that the project is costing
10 and I don't know how much that it has cost to put
11 together, but, you know, at the year 2020 I would hope
12 that we could come up with some (inaudible).

13 I would just add that, you know, within your own data
14 you cite the damage of the fish and I do recall within
15 2011 to 2015 (inaudible) we have already had a
16 Washington State (inaudible) so (inaudible) we are
17 residing in, you know, safety hazards . . .

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20 (Speaker fading out.)

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22 MS. HOYLE: . . . just within these three dams
23 that.

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25 (Speaker fading out.)

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MS. HOYLE: So I would just like to say that
(inaudible) oppose and that's (inaudible) yield my time.

MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Heather.
It looks like Don Schluter.

MR. SCHLUTER: Yeah, can you hear me?

MS. BRADLEY: Yes. GP0402

MR. SCHLUTER: My name is Don Schluter. I am the
president and CEO of local steelhead and salmon
conversation society. I waited to this point because I
wanted to let everybody else have an opportunity to
speak in this matter.

First of all, we strongly oppose this dam. There's
no reason for it. It is absurd in this day and age to
even think of going this way.

Let's get down to why we are at this point. For 40
years Lewis County allowed determinations of
nonsignificance allowing development within the
floodplain (inaudible) every move that was made, tried
to resist this development from occurring, every move.

The other part of the equation is upstream from where
the proposed dam is speaks to (inaudible) has been
occurring for generations in the Willapa Hills.
(Inaudible) clearcuts allowing (inaudible), allowing

1 runoff to occur.

2 Now, why did 2007 flood occurred? Was it because of
3 these practices? Logs were lined up along the sides of
4 the river and they stacked up straight up and down like
5 toothpicks. I was there the day before the flood
6 occurred and (inaudible). This is why all these bridges
7 were taken out.

8 So my time is up, but I wanted to (inaudible) the
9 point of people understanding this didn't have to
10 happen.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Tom.

13 All right. With that, it doesn't look like anybody
14 else has identified that they would like to provide
15 comment at this point and so we are going to take a
16 15-minute break and then come back 8:00.

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(Brief recess.)

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22 MS. BRADLEY: Hi everyone. We are just doing our
23 8:00 check. Just making sure that everybody knows that
24 we are still here and still available to take any
25 comments. If you do wish to provide that comment,

1 please just use that "Raise Hand" feature and we will go
2 ahead and call on your name. So we are here until 8:30
3 and want to make sure that if you would like to do so,
4 you have a chance to make that comment.

5 And, so again, we are just going to be on kind of a
6 silent mode for the next 15 minutes, so we will check
7 back at in 8:15 and, of course, if we see anybody
8 between now and then that would like to provide comment,
9 we will definitely call on their name. (Inaudible) to
10 wait until 8:15 to raise that hand. We are here. We
11 are watching the screen. It is just -- it will be quiet
12 and then if you choose to raise that hand, we will go
13 ahead and give you -- call on you, so we will be back
14 8:15.

15

16 (Brief recess.)

17

18 MS. BRADLEY: All right. It looks like there are
19 a few people that would like to comment. So let me find
20 Edna and then Jeanie Murphy.

21 Edna, are you there?

22 Edna, are you there?

23 Edna, if you are, I think you might be muted on your
24 end .

25 All right. Edna, we are going to come back to you.

1 I'm going to go down to Jeanie Murphy.

2 Jeanie, are you there?

3 MS. MURPHY: (Inaudible.)

4 MS. BRADLEY: What was that? Are you there?
5 Jeanie?

6 It looks like you have muted yourself. Can you
7 unmute and see if you can connect?

8 Are you there?

9 If you are having any audio connections, trying to
10 make a comment, I would recommend trying -- if this is
11 not the option that you have chosen, to use that "call
12 Me" option down at the bottom. There's that phone
13 button that you can click on and then provide your --
14 the "Call Me" -- let me see one more time.

15 Jeanie, I just unmuted you. Are you there?

16 Jeanie (inaudible)?

17 Well, I hear shuffling.

18 No, unfortunately we are not able to hear you.

19 Edna, are you there?

20 Are you there?

21 MS. FUND: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

22 MS. BRADLEY: Yes, I can. Hey, Edna, I would
23 recommend you mute -- if you are using both your phone
24 and your computer, can you please mute your computer
25 audio so you just don't get that feedback?

1 MS. FUND: I just got out -- I exited from my
2 computer so we --

3 MS. BRADLEY: There we go. **GP0403**

4 MS. FUND: -- on my iPhone. I don't see the two
5 minute -- okay. Edna Fund. I'm a county commissioner,
6 former Centralia City councilor and historian.

7 I am interested in hearing some of the comments
8 tonight and I would suggest some folks (inaudible) the
9 chehalisbasinstrategy.com website. Some of the comments
10 that I heard, there has been research done on
11 (inaudible) the issues I heard people raise and I think
12 it would be very helpful if they could look at that and
13 then give more comments to us.

14 I also want to say this is not a quick decision. We
15 have been looking at this for a long time in terms of
16 flood mitigation and aquatic species restoration in the
17 Chehalis Basin. In December of 2012 Governor Gregoire
18 recommended that we look at four different things,
19 (inaudible) capital projects affecting a broad
20 geographic area like water retention facility and/or
21 improvements to (inaudible); Number 2, smaller scale
22 (inaudible) projects with more localized benefits;
23 Number 3, environmental projects to enhance overall
24 conditions aquatic habitat and abundance of fish in the
25 basin; and Number 4, land use management to help people

1 already in the floodplain and reduce the potential that
2 new development will increase flood damage; and
3 Number 5, an effective system of flood warning and
4 emergency response.

5 So these have been under study for a number of years.
6 A lot of work has been put together. We are looking for
7 comment which you are giving us tonight (inaudible) take
8 a look at what (inaudible). They are helpful and there
9 are answers to many of your comments that I would
10 certainly like to share with you or have you look at of
11 the documents that have already been studied for a
12 number of years.

13 It has been a very difficult issue for Lewis County,
14 Grays Harbor County and Thurston County through the
15 years and I look forward for working towards benefit for
16 all.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Edna.

19 Jeanie, we are going to try one more time, to get
20 you -- to find you (inaudible).

21 All right. So I don't see anybody at the moment also
22 that would like to provide a comment, so we are going to
23 go back on mute for another 10 minutes and then we will
24 check back in. And, of course, if you would like to
25 provide comment between now and 8:26, then you are more

1 than welcome to do so. Please do so using the "Raise
2 Hand" feature and we will go ahead and call on you.

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(Brief recess.)

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8 MS. BRADLEY: All right, everyone. We are here
9 at the last few minutes of the hearing. We would like
10 to make any final call to anybody that would like to
11 make their comments and so please use that "Raise Hand"
12 feature in that last minute or so if you would like to
13 provide that comment. And if not, I will hand the floor
14 over to Diane to make those final remarks.

15 All right. Well, I'm not seeing any. I'm going to
16 hand the floor back over to Diane.

17 MS. BUTORAC: All right. Thank you, everyone.
18 We will go ahead and do the closing of the public
19 meeting.

20 So all testimony received at this meeting and at the
21 public online (inaudible) on April 2nd or all written
22 comments received or postmarked no later than May 27,
23 2020 will be part of the official meeting record for
24 this environmental review.

25 For next steps, Ecology will review and consider the

1 comments on the draft environmental impact statement and
2 comments and responses to substantive comments will be
3 included in the final environmental impact statement.

4 Ecology will send notice about the release of the
5 final environmental review to everyone that provided
6 written comments or oral testimony on this proposal and
7 submitted contact information, to everyone who has
8 signed in for today's meeting that provided an e-mail
9 address and to other interested parties on the mailing
10 list for the environmental review.

11 The date of the final document will depend on the
12 comments we receive, but typically it is released within
13 a year from the release of the draft document.

14 If we can be of further help, please let us know.
15 You can contact me. My contact information is on the
16 website as well as in the draft EIS.

17 And behalf of the Department of Ecology, thank you
18 very much for coming and participating. We appreciate
19 your cooperation and your courtesy. Thank you very much
20 for participating in the comment period and let the
21 record show that this meeting is adjourned at 8:30 p.m..
22 Thank you.

23 MR. WHITE: Thank you. Thank you.

24

25 (Proceedings adjourned.)

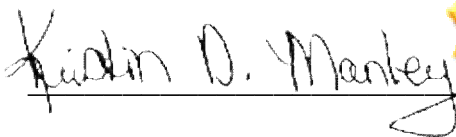

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KRISTIN D. MANLEY, a certified court reporter of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were tape recorded; that I was not present at the proceedings; that I was requested to transcribe the tape-recorded proceedings; that the tape recording was transcribed stenographically and reduced to typewriting under my direction.

I further certify that the foregoing transcript of the tape-recorded proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript of all discernible and audible remarks.

DATED AND SIGNED this 4th day of May, 2020.

KRISTIN D. MANLEY

CCR NO. 2211

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