



June 26, 2023

SENT Via Email

RE: Grays Harbor Conservation District Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority). It has come to our attention that Grays Harbor Conservation District (GHCD) has submitted a grant application for their **Restoration of Lower Satsop River Floodplain Resilience and Aquatic Habitat Project** under the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund 2023 (NCRF). We wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support GHCD's application!

As we understand it, NCRF prioritizes projects that restore and strengthen natural infrastructure in coastal communities using nature-based techniques that benefit fish and wildlife. GHCD's project is specifically designed to enhance the natural resilience of the last two miles of the Satsop River by strategically placing engineered log jams, implementing native riparian plantings, and increasing floodplain connectivity. These actions are engineered and designed to work together to reduce extreme erosion destroying valuable regional farmland and improve aquatic habitat in the Satsop River, Chehalis River, and Grays Harbor.

The Flood Authority is very supportive and excited about GHCD's project and grant application because it directly supports and is consistent with the integrated goals of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, i.e., to: (1) help residents and communities protect homes, businesses, and land from flood damage; (2) work with landowners to restore habitat for salmon and other aquatic species; and (3) prepare the Chehalis Basin and its future generations to be resilient and adaptable in the face of a changing climate and future catastrophic flooding. GHCD's project very much aligns with the Chehalis Basin Strategy by using nature-based techniques to greatly reduce flood damage while concurrently increasing aquatic species habitat. Implementing this integrated project will additionally serve as a regional example of how Grays Harbor communities can use innovative solutions to meet the needs for a more resilient future.

In addition to the above, we'd like to also offer our perspective that GHCD possesses the skills and abilities necessary to successfully deliver their **Restoration of Lower Satsop River Floodplain Resilience and Aquatic Habitat Project** on-time, within budget, and as engineered, designed, and described. We say this having worked directly with GHCD on their

2021 Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Construction Project. This project was developed, designed, and delivered by GHCD on-time, within-budget, and under very challenging and time-sensitive circumstances. It is for these reasons (project alignment and project delivery track-record) that we and the Flood Authority wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support GHCD's grant application. We encourage your thorough review.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this letter of support. Please contact Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) at 360/480-6600 or scottb@sbgh-partners.com with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,



Vickie Raines, Chair
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CC: Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Members
Scott Boettcher, Staff -- Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Nat Kale, Acting Director -- WA State Office of Chehalis Basin
Anthony Waldrop, Project Manager -- Grays Harbor Conservation District