

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY
DRAFT EIS
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Reported By:

Connie Church, CCR #2555, RPR, CRR

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CAPITOL PACIFIC REPORTING, INC.

2401 Bristol Court SW, Suite C-103

Olympia, WA 98502

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

www.capitolpacificreporting.com

admin@capitolpacificreporting.com

1 MS. BAILEY: Good evening, folks. Thanks for
2 coming. We just want to let you know that we've got an
3 open house going until about 6:30. And then we'll start
4 having a presentation. There are stations around the
5 room. If you have any questions, you can look for anyone
6 with a name tag and we can try to help answer your
7 questions.

8 Just so you know if you haven't been here before,
9 there's a restroom right over here and there's an
10 emergency exit in the back corner of the room if we
11 should need it. Otherwise feel free to look around. And
12 we'll start giving the presentations at about 6:30.
13 Thanks.

14 Oh, yes. And just a reminder, if you would like to
15 publicly testify to the hearings officer this evening,
16 there's a separate sign-up sheet at the front counter.
17 There's also a court reporter here in the corner of the
18 room who can take testimony privately until about
19 6:30 p.m. And we also have written comment forms and
20 comment boxes around the room.

21
22 (Comments one-on-one to court reporter.)
23

24 MR. WINKLER: My name is Kevin Winkler. I'm a
25 concrete finisher and ICF specialist, Insulated Concrete

1 Forms specialist. So I deal a lot with drain systems,
2 retention of materials, ground, stuff like that. And the
3 flood on Ceres Hill, I was dead center where the river
4 faced my house. And I had built seven and a half inches
5 above the floodplain, by my own accord, simply didn't
6 want to live in the grass.

7 And I built an ICF home with a 24-inch footing,
8 eight inches deep, and then ICF walls one foot thick, six
9 inches of concrete with three inches of foam on each
10 side. The waters came within one inch of coming inside
11 my home and they left. And the home was undamaged except
12 in the garage, where the water had access to equipment in
13 there.

14 And a lot of these areas, if people were to build
15 with that kind of technology that's damage resistant,
16 would that change - I mean would that allow more usage of
17 the land when there's no alternatives, when they know
18 it's going to receive water; instead of not putting
19 structures there, putting structures there that can
20 handle being flooded? We don't hear a whole lot of
21 people talking about that. Most people don't know about
22 the technology.

23 And then the rest of it's pretty much your common
24 complaint like I don't want my Ceres Hill land to be in a
25 floodplain if the dam is built and stuff. But everyone

1 needs to come to a solution. And solution means change.
2 And with that change comes technology and different
3 ideas.

4 So I wanted to bring in do people know what ICF is,
5 Insulated Concrete Forming; and then proper placement of
6 retention walls. Like for instance, I brought in
7 48 inches of dirt around my house and retained it with
8 road fabric used on highways and roads and then put four
9 inches of two-inch drain rock over it. And that resisted
10 the flood. The water heaved up but it went around my
11 house. Even though the water was higher coming into it,
12 when it went around, it stayed out of my house by an
13 inch. That's how close it was. So that's my point.

14 Also, like in other districts like the historical
15 district in Centralia, Bethel Church has a major facility
16 there that helps the homeless and provides a sanctuary
17 for worship. Going in there and waterproofing or
18 augmenting those structures to receive water and taking a
19 look at putting in possibly ICF technology there or
20 liquid-applied waterproof membranes.

21 Have they really researched the industry of
22 cementitious materials used for waterproofing, such as
23 taking the pool industry and applying it to old brick
24 walls? We've got a lot of water - liquid applied
25 waterproof membranes that are cementitious, and they

1 would last for decades upon decades. And take a look at
2 that type of an approach. I haven't heard anyone really
3 talk about that other than just saying no. And no means
4 no solution.

5
6 MR. VANDENBERG: My name is Christopher
7 Vandenberg, V-a-n-d-e-n-b-e-r-g. And I'm a Chehalis
8 resident. And I am currently in favor of Alternative 1,
9 the full storage dam. The one question I have is: Has
10 anyone done a cost benefit analysis to see if a
11 temperature mixing tower would be beneficial and
12 cost-effective? Because I believe that being able to
13 control the temperature from the water in the dam going
14 into the stream would be useful.

15 I'm also wondering if Lewis County has considered
16 possibly being able to use any of the stored water and
17 basically sell the water rights through some sort of
18 irrigation district that they set up so that farmers
19 downstream could end up using the water for a beneficial
20 use.

21 And I also believe that Alternative 4 is absolutely
22 ridiculous. There is no point moving hundreds of people
23 away from their productive farmland. There is no way to
24 get water from the streams up to those new areas so
25 basically irrigated agriculture in that particular

1 spacing would be done. So I believe that Alternative 4
2 should not even be considered.

3

4 MR. FORREST: My name is James Forrest,
5 F-o-r-r-e-s-t. And I'm just here speaking against
6 Alternative 4 and how it would impact the Adna School
7 District. In my opinion, the families in Adna want to
8 stay where they're at. They want to continue to attend
9 the Adna schools and they want a safe place, free from
10 major flooding events.

11 Alternative 4 fails to accomplish any of those. It
12 would reduce the number of homes and businesses in Adna,
13 Boistfort and Pe Ell School Districts by 462, with a loss
14 of 16 to 20 thousand acres. That would result in a loss
15 of enrollment for us in the district.

16 The Alternative 4 also calls for relocation to the
17 hillsides. According to the Lewis County Assessor, that
18 was not feasible due to the lack of infrastructure and
19 developmental land. It would also decrease the school
20 district's tax base with a loss of acreage and homes.
21 The maps that were provided aren't really sufficient to
22 determine which homes or how many. It would also
23 increase the tax burden on the remaining residents. It
24 would increase the flooding to major roadways such as
25 Highway 6, resulting in more frequent school closures and

1 less access to critical medical facilities.

2 By the maps presented, it's hard to tell if it would
3 impact the current Adna Middle/High School. And if it
4 did, the replacement value of that is approximately
5 \$45 million approximately.

6

7 MR. MACDONALD: My name is Kyle MacDonald. I'm
8 Superintendent of Pe Ell School District. The Pe Ell
9 School District is opposed to Alternative 4 for the
10 following reasons: It actually increases flooding to an
11 additional 275 structures in a 100-year flood without
12 structure removal and enhancements. In addition, the
13 flooding of these areas would become more frequent.

14 We believe the moving of residences and buying out
15 owners will negatively impact student enrollment in the
16 district.

17 We believe the total assessed property value of the
18 Pe Ell School District will be reduced substantially by
19 the removal of some residential property and a conversion
20 to state land. This will increase the tax burden to the
21 remaining landowners.

22 Major roads within the district may be impacted by
23 the channel migration. Major roads would flood more and
24 for longer periods of time. These impacts will result in
25 more school closures and longer school closures.

1 I think people are getting ready. Well, this is a great
2 turnout. My name is Gordon White. I'm with the
3 Department of Ecology. And we're leading the EIS review
4 of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. I'll give a little bit
5 of an overview in a minute and then we'll go into the
6 hearing stage. But first, the emergency exit is in that
7 far corner. I know people will be orderly if there is
8 some event. Restrooms are down the stairs and around the
9 corner right here.

10 So again, my name is Gordon White. I'm the
11 responsible official for the EIS. And we're here doing
12 our evaluation the draft Chehalis Basin Strategy. We had
13 scoping meetings a year ago, a little bit over a year
14 ago, to identify what alternatives we should be reviewing
15 in addition to the Chehalis Basin Work Group's
16 alternatives.

17 The Governor and the state legislature has made this
18 a key priority to address flood hazard reduction and
19 habitat recovery in the Chehalis Basin. And they expect,
20 as the work group has developed a strategy to integrate
21 both, to do not just one, but both. So our EIS is an
22 attempt to evaluate those.

23 The draft EIS evaluates a suite of actions to
24 address the - these two challenges and goes through an
25 elaborate process. Important to our process is your

1 comments and concerns tonight and so also comments
2 through the online comment process you can do, comments
3 tonight, comments through letters, any other fashion you
4 want to get your comments to us so then this EIS process
5 can inform the Governor's appointed work group to fashion
6 a final strategy to go forward to the legislature for
7 consideration this fall.

8 So I'm going to turn this over to Chrissy Bailey,
9 who's going to give a little bit of an overview on
10 different aspects of each alternative. And then we'll go
11 into the hearing process. Thank you very much.

12 MS. BAILEY: Okay. So once again, thank you for
13 coming. My name is Chrissy Bailey. I'm project manager
14 for the programmatic EIS at the Department of Ecology.
15 So what I'm going to walk through here briefly, try to
16 make it fairly quick, is a high-level summary of the
17 things that we studied in the programmatic EIS and a
18 high-level summary of some of the findings. And
19 hopefully that'll take about a half an hour. And then
20 we'll go ahead and open it up for public testimony.

21 The Chehalis Basin - I'm speaking to people who know
22 this - but the Chehalis Basin has approximately 140,000
23 people, just to give you a little idea of the setting, it
24 covers portions of eight counties. Most of that is in
25 Grays Harbor County, Thurston County and Lewis County.

1 The Basin is approximately 80 percent forest; it's about
2 seven percent urbanized; and about five percent
3 agriculture. And it's one of the largest river basins in
4 Washington. It also happens to be the basin in the state
5 with the most diversity for amphibians in the state of
6 Washington.

7 The basin has a history of flooding. You can see
8 some of the statistics here on this graph. What this
9 shows is that the five largest floods since the 1930's
10 have happened since 1986. In the 2007 flood, which is
11 the largest flood on record, flood damage - the monetary
12 damage topped \$900 million. And the estimated peak flows
13 in the 100-year flood in the basin has increased 33
14 percent in the last 30 years.

15 There's also a history of habitat degradation in the
16 basin. As this slide indicates, harvest of one species
17 of salmon or another has been limited by poor runs over
18 the last 30 years and the habitat productivity is
19 degraded by up to 87 percent, depending on the species.

20 The Chehalis Basin also has no federally listed
21 endangered salmon species, which is a great thing. But
22 ironically and historically, the habitat for that reason
23 in the Chehalis Basin has experienced a lack of attention
24 and limited investment in comparison to other large
25 basins in the state. And in the future, the habitat

1 conditions are predicted to be worse.

2 This slide shows for the purposes of the EIS, we
3 used a model called EDT. It's the Ecosystem Diagnosis
4 and Treatment model. It's a habitat potential model
5 that's used to estimate or to predict the number of fish,
6 so the abundance of fish for these species of salmon
7 based on the habitat conditions and the conditions that
8 the habitat could support.

9 And so you can see here that under the projected
10 climate change scenarios that the University of
11 Washington developed for the basin, there's a prediction
12 of a significant decrease in salmonid species in the
13 future.

14 So we just talked about a high-level summary of two
15 of the problems in the basin. And so what that leads to
16 for purposes of the Environmental Impact Statement is the
17 Purpose and Needs Statement, which is written up here.
18 I'm not going to read this for folks. But the key to
19 this is that this is a dual purpose strategy. There's
20 recognition that doing something in the floodplains, fish
21 occupy that area as well as floodwaters, so doing
22 something for one problem is going to require paying
23 attention to the other.

24 So we just wanted to reiterate that for purposes of
25 the EIS, again, this is a dual purpose strategy. One

1 objective is not more important than the others. And I
2 also want to highlight again that the purpose of the
3 actions evaluated in the EIS are not to stop flooding.
4 There's no expectation that flooding is going to be
5 stopped in the basin. The expectation or the purpose is
6 to reduce flood damage. And so the EIS that Ecology has
7 produced evaluates the potential effects of the actions
8 that would achieve both of these objectives on people and
9 the environment.

10 I also want to reiterate that it's a programmatic
11 Environmental Impact Statement. It's not a project level
12 EIS. So it may have less detail than folks are familiar
13 with. It's evaluating a broad suite of actions put
14 together as a program and what the benefits and the
15 impacts of those are at a program level.

16 So the actions evaluated in the EIS - there are two
17 because it's a dual purpose strategy: Actions that would
18 reduce flood damage and actions that would restore
19 aquatic habitat. There's many actions within each of
20 these types. We'll talk really briefly about what those
21 were in the EIS.

22 I also want to reiterate that nothing is decided at
23 this point. These are just the actions that were
24 considered in the EIS. The goal is to restore aquatic
25 species habitat and reduce the damage from flooding.

1 So in the flood damage reduction side of the house,
2 we looked at large scale and local scale flood reduction
3 actions. So I'll walk quickly through the local scale
4 flood damage reduction actions. There's four of them.
5 You can see two of them on the screen here.

6 One of them is a floodproofing action. So that
7 includes things like raising structures, building walls.
8 And that can also include berms and also includes buying
9 out frequently flooded properties from willing
10 landowners. In conversations with communities in the
11 basin, it appears that approximately 70 percent of the
12 structures in the floodplain could be elevated.
13 Residential structures could be elevated. And it also -
14 this action also includes building farm pads.

15 Another local scale flood damage reduction action
16 that we evaluated in the EIS are localized area specific
17 projects that are aimed at protecting key infrastructure,
18 frequently flood-damaged properties or restoring flood
19 capacity. These are mostly projects that are on the
20 Chehalis Basin Flood Authority's local projects list, and
21 it includes things like protecting wastewater treatments
22 and roads and some floodplain reconnection projects.

23 The last two local scale flood damage reduction
24 actions that we evaluated included land use management
25 improvements and early warning system improvements. The

1 land use - the local scale land use actions that we
2 evaluated include looking at how local governments or if
3 local governments can improve floodplain management to
4 protect remaining floodplain functions and to avoid
5 future flood damage. Recommendations were broken -
6 recommendations to achieve that were broken into three
7 categories. So that includes the regulatory flood data,
8 so what flood of record are these communities using in
9 their regulations, and it includes floodplain protection
10 and floodplain construction standards.

11 The final local scale flood damage reduction action
12 we evaluated is improving the already fairly robust early
13 warning system in the basin. It includes expanding the
14 inundation mapping program, adding new National Weather
15 Service forecast points, implementing a new hydraulic
16 model in the lower basin, all things that would help keep
17 people safe during floods.

18 So now switching to the large scale flood damage
19 reduction actions, we evaluated five of these in the
20 programmatic EIS. The first two are I-5 projects and the
21 airport wall and levees. So what that includes is
22 looking at improvements to the Chehalis Airport levee.
23 Those improvements would be raising the levee by between
24 four and seven feet.

25 We also looked at the I-5 projects, which is a

1 series of levees and walls that would help prevent
2 flooding and the closure of I-5 in the Centralia and
3 Chehalis area.

4 The third large scale flood damage reduction action
5 we evaluated is the Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee.
6 As you can see on the slide, this is about six miles of
7 levees. And it would protect the low-lying portions of
8 Hoquiam and Aberdeen adjacent to the north side of Grays
9 Harbor from coastal flooding.

10 The next large scale flood damage reduction action
11 we evaluated is called restorative flood protection. And
12 as you can see on the slide, the purpose of that would be
13 to reestablish the natural flood storage capacity in the
14 upper Basin by reversing the landscape changes that
15 contribute to downstream flooding. This was an action
16 that Ecology was asked to evaluate during the public
17 scoping process. We'll talk a little bit more. There
18 are actually two alternatives that we were asked to
19 evaluate. This is one of them. The public asked that we
20 could look at actions that would reduce flood damage
21 through nonstructural land use actions that were combined
22 with floodplain restoration and buying out willing
23 landowners.

24 So in the treatment areas where this action was
25 evaluated, that would include buying out and relocating

1 incompatible land uses or structures, restoring the area
2 - the floodplain areas with natural features like
3 vegetation and wood that would store and slow the flow of
4 water and reduce downstream flood stage.

5 The final large scale flood damage reduction action
6 evaluated in the EIS is a dam. There's two types of dams
7 that were evaluated and that's a dam and reservoir.
8 There's a flood retention only facility, which would
9 include a dam and then not a permanent reservoir. It
10 would essentially hold back water temporarily during
11 major floods only, and the river would flow normally
12 during regular conditions or smaller flood events.

13 The flood retention and flow augmentation facility
14 would have a permanent reservoir, so a dam with a
15 permanent reservoir behind it that would hold back water
16 continuously instead of only during a major flood event.
17 That would - the water that was held in the reservoir
18 would be released - that would be held during the winter,
19 collected during the winter, and then released during the
20 summer to cool the water downstream of the dam and
21 provide cooler temperature water for salmon and other
22 species.

23 Both flood damage options would include fish
24 passage. And you can see here both were evaluated on the
25 main stem Chehalis River about a mile upstream of the

1 town of Pe Ell.

2 So on the other side of the house, the aquatic
3 species habitat actions that we evaluated are actions
4 that are designed to protect, improve and create
5 sustainable ecosystem processes and functions that would
6 support the long-term productivity of native aquatic
7 species and semi-aquatic species in the basin and at much
8 higher levels of abundance, much higher number, than
9 those conditions currently support.

10 That includes actions. Some of the actions that are
11 in this bucket include things like restoring riparian
12 habitat along the main stem Chehalis and tributaries in
13 the basin; restoring off-channel habitat, adding wood and
14 other structures to the main stem Chehalis River to
15 provide habitat for salmon; reconnecting the floodplain
16 in certain areas; creating, restoring or enhancing
17 wetlands; removing and repairing culverts and other
18 man-made fish passage barriers; and restoring bank
19 erosion to naturally occurring rates.

20 As is noted on here at a basin - we're looking at
21 this action on a basin-wide scale. So this is something
22 - it's an unprecedented level of effort compared to the
23 traditional types of restoration projects folks are
24 probably familiar with. In the EIS, we looked at a low
25 scenario and a high scenario and a couple of scenarios in

1 between there.

2 Just to give you some perspective, as I mentioned,
3 that's an unprecedented level of effort. I talked a
4 little bit about the EDT model that we use for the EIS.
5 And you can see some of the results here that essentially
6 these aquatic habitat actions, the current average
7 abundance of about 265,000 salmon and steelhead in the
8 basin. The low actions, the low scale or the low
9 scenario would increase from about 50 - in the
10 neighborhood of 50,000 fish. And on the high end, that
11 would increase the number by about 190,000 fish. And
12 then here at the bottom, we've just got a specific
13 Spring-run Chinook example.

14 So this is just to give you a little bit of
15 perspective about the way we put these together in the
16 EIS. The things I just walked through, the actions, we
17 walked through the aquatic habitat actions and the local
18 scale flood damage reduction actions and the large scale
19 flood damage reduction actions. And what you can see
20 here is essentially how these actions are combined
21 differently into the alternatives that were evaluated in
22 the EIS.

23 We evaluated the actions individually as well as the
24 combined alternatives. If - in the future, there's the
25 chance that decision makers put some of those actions

1 together in different ways than we did in the EIS.

2 I do want to highlight, as I mentioned a little bit
3 earlier, both Alternative 4 and Alternative 3 came out of
4 the scoping process and were actions and alternatives
5 that members of the public asked Ecology to look at.

6 So really quickly I want to run through - just give
7 you a little bit of information about the outcomes and
8 the comparison of the combined alternatives in the EIS.

9 So as is typical for EIS's, we also evaluated a no
10 action scenario, so that's essentially if things were to
11 continue moving forward, it's the most likely future
12 expected in the absence of implementing any of these
13 other actions. So under the no action alternative,
14 things - actions that address flood damage and aquatic
15 species habitat restoration would continue, but they
16 would continue at reduced levels compared to the action
17 alternatives.

18 So as you can see here, the outcome of that analysis
19 was that essentially the no action alternative maintains
20 the status quo. There would be ongoing flood damage
21 reduction actions and habitat improvements at historical
22 funding levels, likely not - or the way we evaluated it,
23 it would not include the level of funding that has been
24 interjected into those two actions in the basin in the
25 last few years. And so those actions would continue to a

1 lesser extent than with an integrated strategy and in a
2 piecemeal fashion.

3 Generally what we found is - primarily related to
4 the predicted effects of climate change is that those
5 localized benefits that would occur from continuing to do
6 those types of projects in that manner would be
7 outweighed by the ongoing risk of major floods and the
8 continued habitat degradation.

9 There are some beneficial effects that are common
10 among all of the action alternatives. As I went through
11 that graphic earlier, you saw that the aquatic species
12 habitat actions and the local scale flood damage
13 reduction actions were common across all of the
14 alternatives. And that's primarily where - why these are
15 common beneficial effects among all those action
16 alternatives. So the aquatic species habitat actions
17 would result in significant increases in salmon abundance
18 and maintain or improve conditions for other species.

19 Floodproofing and local projects would reduce flood
20 damage to structures and the contents within those
21 structures, infrastructure and roads and agriculture.

22 Land use management, those changes could improve
23 protection for new development within the 100-year
24 floodplain. And the flood warning system improvements
25 would definitely result in increased accuracy with regard

1 to forecasting flood timing and increased public safety.

2 So as I mentioned, dual purpose strategies, the
3 first set of objectives is intended to evaluate how these
4 alternatives reduce flood damage. So we'll look really
5 quickly - look at how those alternatives compare to each
6 other with regard to this objective. And this again is a
7 very high-level summary. There's a lot more detail in
8 the EIS.

9 So some of the elements of flood damage, looking at
10 the economic value or the economic benefit of reducing
11 flood damage, these are the types of reductions that are
12 evaluated in the economic analysis that's attached to the
13 EIS, so the benefit or the value from reducing flood
14 damage to structures, the contents of those structures,
15 emergency aid, cleanup of farms and roads, closures of
16 I-5 and crop damage.

17 And so what you can see here is essentially how
18 these - across the bottom there are some of those
19 elements that I just walked through. And you can see how
20 the different alternatives compare to one another in
21 terms of the way that they reduce flood damage or the
22 economic benefits of that and then what that's attributed
23 to.

24 And so you can see here orange is crop damage which
25 is specific to Alternative 4, the restorative flood

1 protection action. Blue is typically reducing structure
2 damage. And then the orange is the contents of those
3 structures. You can see here that Alternatives 1 and 4
4 provide the greatest reduction in flood damage.
5 Alternative 1 has the greatest reduction to structures
6 and buildings and the contents from reducing flood
7 levels. And Alternative 4 has significant reductions in
8 damage to building structures as well because that
9 alternative also includes moving structures and cleanup
10 and crop damage by relocating land uses in the Basin out
11 of those flood-prone areas.

12 So with regard to transportation facilities, one of
13 the objectives in the EIS - or two of the objectives
14 related to transportation include maintaining access to
15 critical medical facilities and reducing the disruption
16 to transportation systems, which is both local and
17 regional transportation systems as well as I-5. And so
18 what you can see here is essentially how those different
19 actions compare to one another.

20 And so you can see the no action alternative doesn't
21 result in any reduction to impacts to transportation
22 systems. Alternative 1 generally reduces both the local
23 - I-5 closures as well as some of the local roads and
24 state routes.

25 Alternatives 2 and 3 . . . Alternative 2 does have

1 some reductions in certain areas, especially behind the
2 airport levee, although there is an increase in flood
3 levels on the west side of I-5, which would impact SR-6
4 and local roadways.

5 Alternative 3, because that doesn't include any
6 large scale flood damage reduction actions, there aren't
7 many reductions to transportation impacts there.

8 Alternative 4 doesn't have a reduction for I-5
9 closures. It does reduce impacts in the Chehalis and
10 Centralia area or closures by about a day, and it could
11 increase closure on SR-6 and some of the other state
12 routes. I do want to mention for both of these, that
13 doesn't include - we didn't evaluate things that could be
14 done to mitigate those. So this is really at the project
15 impact level.

16 So again looking at the other objective, which is
17 restoring aquatic species habitat, we'll quickly look
18 through how the alternatives compare to one another with
19 regard to those objectives, and which are again related
20 to protecting and restoring habitat for aquatic species.

21 So as we mentioned earlier, there's a significant
22 potential or projected increase to habitat in the basin
23 resulting from climate change. And so generally the low
24 restoration scenario across all of the alternatives does
25 not result in a noticeable increase in salmon, again due

1 to climate change. The next slide we'll talk a little
2 bit there is some benefit potential associated with
3 Alternative 4, but it's still very low compared to the
4 high restoration scenarios.

5 Alternative 1 would result in significant increases
6 over the predicted changes from climate, but those would
7 be less than other alternatives. This is primarily due
8 to the adverse impact of a dam on the local salmon
9 populations that use that area. And those impacts would
10 be reduced when you combine them with habitat actions,
11 but there would still be a significant adverse impact.
12 Alternative 4, as I mentioned, does result in the
13 greatest increase in salmon abundance.

14 So here are some numbers. This really - the numbers
15 are estimates. I just wanted to point that out. They're
16 approximate. They're the model outputs. But what this
17 is intended to do is really just give people a sense of
18 the magnitude of change. And so again considering
19 climate change under the low scenario, low restoration
20 scenario, this is the approximate increase in the total
21 number of salmon habitat - or salmon in the Basin, salmon
22 and trout, under the different alternatives. And as I
23 mentioned, it's very low. Alternative 4 is a little bit
24 higher, but you can still see it's less - it's about a
25 third of the lowest under the high restoration scenarios.

1 So we've got a couple of slides about the results of
2 the economic analysis. As I mentioned, that is appended
3 to the EIS. It's an attachment to the EIS. So this
4 slide depicts the action alternative costs, and these
5 costs include the capital costs to implement the action,
6 and they include the annual operations and maintenance
7 over a 100-year study period or the 100-year study
8 period, interest during construction. And it also . . .
9 You can see actually here - it's a little bit hard to see
10 the difference between the gray and the blue, but the
11 blue across the bottom is the aquatic species habitat
12 actions. And so you can see that that is consistent.
13 This is the low restoration scenario.

14 So this is looking at all the action alternatives
15 compared to each other if low restoration were
16 implemented. And you can see that those are consistent
17 across all of the alternatives, with the exception of
18 Alternative 4 because the treatment areas would occur in
19 some of the same places that restoration would occur.
20 There's a lower cost for restoration by itself in
21 Alternative 4. And restorative flood protection is a
22 large - the largest portion of this cost, a lot of which
23 is the buyout and moving costs or the acquisition and
24 relocation costs associated with that alternative. And
25 then Alternative 1, the largest chunk of the costs are

1 the flood retention facilities.

2 And this is the same graph as the last - or the same
3 graphic as the last slide except this is high
4 restoration. So as you can see, the cost to implement
5 the high restoration scenario under all of the
6 alternatives is more.

7 This is the same slide that we looked at earlier,
8 but it's just - again, it's the value or the benefit of
9 the flood damage reduction from an economic perspective
10 under the different alternatives. And again, you can see
11 that restorative flood protection alternative provides a
12 huge benefit from reducing crop damage. And then there's
13 also a large benefit to the structures and contents under
14 both of these. And a lot of that in the other
15 alternatives comes from floodproofing.

16 This graph here is just to show - again this is the
17 economic value of implementing the aquatic species
18 habitat restoration actions and on a high level what
19 these included under the different alternatives. Again
20 the brown is the low and the green is the high. This is
21 based on the change in fish populations that would occur
22 compared to not taking any action. And it reflects the
23 commercial or the sport value, which is a use value per
24 fish. So it doesn't include any sort of cultural values.

25 And this is just a high-level summary of the

1 benefit-cost ratios that combined from those last few
2 slides that show under the different alternatives and
3 under the different restoration scenarios what the
4 benefit-to-cost ratio is for each of these different
5 alternatives.

6 I managed to do that in 25 minutes. I'm going to go
7 ahead and turn things over to Fran Sant, who is our
8 hearing officer.

9 MS. SANT: Hi, everyone. I'm going to have to
10 adjust this. Before we get started with the formal part
11 of the hearing I'm just going to go over some informal
12 information. First of all, there's some chairs - extra
13 chairs on the side, and there's some empty seats. If
14 anybody that's standing would like to sit down, we can
15 get in you here. So if everybody could make sure that
16 your cell phones are turned off. And if you need to have
17 a conversation, please go down the stairs or out into the
18 hallway where we can't hear you.

19 If you could hold down noise when folks are
20 providing testimony, that would be great. Side
21 conversations are a bit distracting, especially for folks
22 that aren't used to talking up here a lot. So if you'd
23 keep that down.

24 No distracting, disruptive or intimidating behavior,
25 please. Please respect the rights of others to have an

1 opinion, even if you don't agree with that opinion.
2 Please use respectful language when providing comments or
3 asking questions.

4 We have about 40 people that have signed up to
5 testify tonight. I'm going to call you in the order that
6 I have the sign-up sheets. I'm going to call one person
7 and then cue up the next person that's going to follow
8 that person so we have a bit of a flow. So after we go
9 through the people that have signed in, I'll open the
10 floor up for anybody else who didn't sign up to testify
11 but has changed their mind; they might like to testify.
12 That's great.

13 During the testimony component, you can ask
14 questions. But they'll be part of the official record.
15 They won't be responded to during this meeting.

16 And then finally, if you can keep your comments to
17 about three minutes in length. You can do the math.
18 With 40 people at three minutes, we could be here a long
19 time. I will be tracking the time. If you get close or
20 you're running over, I'll let you know and I'm going to
21 ask that you wrap up your comments at that point in time.

22 Does anybody have any questions about the ground
23 rules? And otherwise if not, I'll take us into the
24 formal part of the evening. Great. Thanks, everybody.

25 Okay. Now we're going to begin the formal part of

1 the evening. At this time, I'm going to read some
2 information that is required for the public record.

3 Again, my name is Fran Sant. I'm the hearing
4 officer for this hearing. This evening we are conducting
5 a hearing on the SEPA Programmatic Draft EIS for the
6 Chehalis Basin Strategy. Let the record show that it is
7 approximately 7:00 p.m. on October 18th and this hearing
8 is being held at the Veterans Memorial Museum in
9 Chehalis, Washington.

10 Legal notices of this hearing were published in The
11 Chronicle on October 13, 2016. In addition, notice of
12 this hearing was mailed to approximately 5,000 interested
13 people in the Basin, e-mails sent to 479 people that have
14 signed up for information about the project. The
15 Department of Ecology issued a news release on
16 September 29th about the hearing. Posters were placed in
17 approximately 25 community locations across the Chehalis
18 Basin.

19 General notices of the hearing were also published
20 in the following manner: Radio spots were running on
21 KITI Live 95. There was a full page ad in the Chehalis
22 Chronicle and then the digital and print ads in The Daily
23 World.

24 I'm getting ready to go back to the table now. I
25 will call people up again in the order that you signed

1 up. Please remember that you have three minutes to
2 speak. And if you are running close on that time, I'll
3 let you know. Thanks, everybody.

4 Okay. The first folks that we have testifying
5 tonight is Mr. Kevin Winkler, followed by Glenn Carter.

6 MR. WINKLER: That's a mistake. I was just with
7 the court reporter.

8 MS. SANT: Okay. And you are?

9 MR. WINKLER: Kevin Winkler.

10 MS. SANT: Okay. Thank you, sir. So we're
11 going to start with Mr. Glenn Carter and then followed by
12 Larry Dacca.

13 MR. CARTER: Thank you very much. My name is
14 Glenn Carter. I'm with the Lewis County Prosecuting
15 Attorney's Office. I'm here to speak to you about the
16 Growth Management Act and the significant adverse impacts
17 that are not anticipated under the GMA by this
18 Alternative 4, which is the restorative option.

19 Under the GMA, Lewis County and all other counties
20 were required to designate a sufficient number of
21 agricultural acres and forestry acres to support a viable
22 - an economically viable agricultural industry and an
23 economically viable forestry industry. The GMA requires
24 us to do that.

25 And pursuant to that requirement as implemented by

1 the Growth Management Hearings Board, Lewis County
2 designated 140,000 acres of agricultural resource land
3 here in this county. Under Alternative 4, the
4 restorative option, approximately 7 to 15 percent of that
5 agricultural resource land would be taken out of
6 agriculture and would be put into the restorative option
7 and planted in trees on the floodplain to provide the
8 kind of flood reduction through that proposal, the
9 restorative option.

10 So the question, number one, is - and which was not
11 considered by the EIS - is whether that is even possible.
12 It is not legally possible, under our view of the GMA,
13 because the GMA provides certain criteria for
14 de-designating agricultural resource land and forest
15 resource land. Those criteria provide only for the
16 de-designation in very limited circumstances, where there
17 is encroachment of urban growth.

18 Here that criteria would not apply. There is no
19 criteria for de-designation on the basis of enhancing the
20 fisheries or on the basis of relocating people to other
21 lands. So we believe that it is impossible in our office
22 under the GMA to implement the restorative option.

23 We also believe that if it were implemented, that
24 the significant adverse impact that is not considered is
25 to the economic viability of the agricultural industry

1 here, not only raising crops, but also those other
2 suppliers, whether they be implement dealers, whether
3 they be the elevators, whether they be all the other
4 agricultural infrastructure. So those criteria, those
5 significant adverse impacts, have not been considered
6 here.

7 Also, there is the problem that - the requirement
8 under the GMA that we, as a county, preserve the rural
9 character of Lewis County. That rural character includes
10 many old logging and agricultural communities. They are
11 like Doty. They are like Dryad, Adna, Curtis. Those
12 communities are proposed to be disassembled and then
13 reassembled in the uplands. It is impossible to
14 reassemble those in the uplands because of the issue that
15 you do not have the prime soils to support agriculture in
16 the uplands. Even if you had those prime soils, many
17 people probably are not going to relocate to the uplands.
18 And moreover, if they could relocate the agricultural
19 industry to the uplands, you do not have the water.

20 A month ago in the Supreme Court here in the state
21 of Washington issued a ruling in a case called Hirst,
22 which essentially outlaws in the absence of very costly
23 studies the use of exempt wells. It is unclear how water
24 would be provided and the infrastructure for agriculture
25 would be provided in the uplands, lacking the soil and

1 lacking the water.

2 Moreover, I'm commenting, and I'm also the third
3 commenter I believe, on behalf of the Lewis County
4 Assessor, Dianne Dorey. And one of the issues with
5 respect to the proposal on the cost is to use the
6 assessed values. So when we saw the slide here on
7 Alternative 4, it estimated the cost at 1.4 or 1.6
8 billion, which is primarily buying out people who own
9 land in the floodplains. The issue with that is that the
10 value that's being used is assessed value. And the
11 problem with assessed value in this context is that
12 you're dealing with forestlands, which are the ones on
13 the uplands that would be converted into residential and
14 commercial development. And in the lowlands, it's
15 agricultural resource land. And those lands are all
16 either in the open space taxation program or they're in
17 the forest taxation program. Those programs all carry
18 with them an artificially low assessed value. So if you
19 use that assessed value, you're assigning a much lower
20 cost to the purchase than otherwise is actually
21 realistic.

22 An example is that in purchasing the land for the
23 Centralia Station project, we have a parcel that is
24 003581018002. That's a tax parcel number. And it was
25 assessed in 2012 at \$97,000. However, when it was

1 acquired by the Port for the purposes of that project,
2 the Port had to pay \$180,000 for that. So assessed value
3 simply doesn't work, and it isn't even admissible in a
4 condemnation action.

5 So the final thing is, if I have time, Ms. Sant --

6 MS. SANT: You've got about 35 seconds.

7 MR. CARTER: The final is that with respect to
8 the zoning that we have under agricultural resource land
9 and under forestry resource land, forestry resource land
10 is zoned 1 in 80, meaning you can have a residence on 80
11 acres. On the other hand, agricultural resource land
12 allows a residence on 20 acres.

13 If you relocate someone from the agricultural
14 resource lands up into the managed forestry lands, you're
15 actually going to have to acquire multiples of the land
16 that you're taking in order to fit the zoning in the
17 uplands.

18 Thank you very much, Ms. Sant.

19 MS. SANT: And I apologize. When you come up to
20 the podium, could you please let us know your name and
21 then where you reside and the city or county, please.

22 And we should have Larry. Are you on your way up?
23 Excellent. And then following Larry is going to be Gail
24 Rinehart.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Gail said no.

1 MS. RINEHART: I checked no.

2 MR. DACCA: Okay. My name is Larry Dacca. I've
3 lived in the Boistfort Valley for about 11 years. I was
4 witness to the 2007 flood in the Boistfort area. I'm
5 speaking - I am a member of the Lewis County Farm Bureau,
6 on the board of directors. But today I'm speaking for
7 Larry Dacca. One of the main things this . . . I can't
8 - I'm not a professional - how would you say - dam
9 builder or water diverter or anything like that. First
10 of all, the idea of pushing, you know, opening up the
11 lowlands and putting the farmers or the residents up on
12 the hill is ridiculous. I agree with 99 percent of the
13 previous gentleman's comments.

14 As just a farmer and a lover of the land, I like the
15 idea of building a dam and controlling, making provisions
16 for fish and other wildlife. However, I'm hearing and it
17 seems kind of strange that that's not going to help the
18 Boistfort Valley or - I don't know - designate. And
19 there was damage during 2007 that I thought our valley -
20 I had only been there, lived here, two years, and geez, I
21 thought it's gone. Some of the big fields were like log
22 yards.

23 I come from Puyallup. Like I said, I've only lived
24 here 11 years. My previous 61 years was in the Puyallup
25 Valley. And they have what they call the Mud Mountain

1 Dam. It's up on - in Enumclaw area. It was built in
2 1933. The dam is 1933 technology. I don't know - there
3 have been improvements but I'm sure it's not up to 2016
4 specs or 2017. But if there was no Mud Mountain Dam,
5 there would be no Puyallup, at least in the valley; there
6 would be no Fife; there would be no Port of Tacoma
7 because during most of the winters, there would be
8 flooding and severe flooding.

9 I encourage real thought that we get as much bang
10 for the buck and actually taking human loss or damage to
11 our agricultural community, our residential community
12 and, you know, put that as a little higher in the
13 bracket.

14 Well, the main thing is this is an issue that has
15 been dealt with shortly after 2007. And therefore, it's
16 what now, nine years later?

17 MS. SANT: Larry, you've got about 15 seconds to
18 wrap up.

19 MR. DACCA: Okay. I'd just like to compare that
20 I've heard or been told that the Empire State Building
21 took two years to build. You know. So anyway, thank you
22 for the time.

23 MS. SANT: Thanks, Larry. Next up will be Terry
24 Harris and then Mr. Averill. I apologize. I can't read
25 your full name.

1 Okay. Ron Averill, please, and then followed by
2 Kyle Rasmussen.

3 MR. AVERILL: The first person wasn't --

4 MS. BAILEY: No. Terry declined. You're up,
5 Ron.

6 MS. SANT: You're up, Ron.

7 MR. AVERILL: Can I claim part of Terry's time?
8 Hi. My name is Ron Averill. I live in the county, in
9 the greater Centralia area. I have been involved in the
10 Flood Authority since it began. I chaired that Flood
11 Authority. I currently serve on a small projects
12 committee of the Flood Authority. I also represent the
13 city of Centralia on the Flood Authority. Plus I'm a
14 member of the Farm Bureau. So I'm speaking for all three
15 organizations this evening.

16 As far as the city of Centralia is concerned, as we
17 look at the no alternative and the four alternatives that
18 are in that plan, we definitely favor Alternative 1. We
19 believe that there is a necessity to have flood
20 mitigation and protect our citizens in the city of
21 Centralia. It's not that we are against flood
22 restoration. And if you want to see the programs the
23 city of Centralia is involved in, we are deeply involved
24 in programs that provide restoration. The China Creek
25 project, which we're currently working on, is partly

1 mitigation, partly flood restoration. And we are ahead
2 of most of the jurisdictions in the region in terms of
3 our floodplain management documents here. So we're
4 committed to it.

5 But as we look at the actions that are out here, no
6 action continues the problem and it make it worse.
7 Alternative 1, in our estimation, is the best - has the
8 best promise.

9 Alternative 2 saves the freeway. And in 19 - or
10 2008 when we had the flood, I told Governor Gregoire at
11 the time that the last thing we want at the city of
12 Centralia County Commission was to have people be able to
13 go up by Porter standing above the flood and watching us
14 in pontoons and rafts below. This is a no-doer.

15 Alternative 3 doesn't do enough. It does quite a
16 bit for restoration. But in terms of flood mitigation,
17 if we depend on the small projects done by the Flood
18 Authority, we will only be doing about \$5 million a year
19 on mitigation. And these are small projects, China Creek
20 project is currently going on. We've done the Pe Ell
21 water plant. We've done the Adna ditch and things of
22 that - in the last eight years about \$30 million in
23 projects which have provided local things. But they
24 don't solve the major long-term problem - project.

25 In Alternative 4 - and here I talk as a member of

1 the Lewis County Farm Bureau - this probably is the most
2 expensive. It provides the least flood reduction of any
3 of the plans that are out there. It removes productive
4 farms from the floodplain and puts them up on the hills.
5 Now there's a reason . . . In Lewis County, we got
6 900,000 acres of forest and about 130,000 acres marked
7 agriculture. There's something called soil quality.

8 MS. SANT: Ron, you're close to time.

9 MR. AVERILL: You can't do that. We're mostly
10 small farmers in the county. This will have a huge
11 adverse impact. And in closing, I want to tell you that
12 the Farm Bureau is involved currently in what we call the
13 volunteer stewardship program, where we are looking at
14 how we can keep our farms productive and provide
15 protection to critical areas.

16 I will provide formal comments separately to expand
17 on what I had to say. Thank you very much.

18 MS. SANT: Thanks, Ron. So next we're going to
19 have Kyle Rasmussen followed by Donna Westall.

20 MR. RASMUSSEN: So my name is Kyle Rasmussen.
21 I'm the lead pastor at Bethel Church down the freeway
22 right next to McDonald's. They refer to us as McBethel
23 and McDonald's. That's how you find us. I appreciate
24 the work, by the way, that you've put into all of this.
25 A lot of information, a lot of studies, and I know that

1 you have spent a lot of time. And restorative is a great
2 word and it's a great idea.

3 And I want to just speak to the thing I get to do in
4 restorative as well. I'm in the restorative business,
5 but it's about people and it's families and it's
6 children. And the fish . . . I work for a fisherman, so
7 to speak. And these fish have names. My people in my
8 church have names, and there's hundreds of them. There's
9 hundreds of families. I've been here 12 years. And the
10 things that we do make a difference. And there's about a
11 thousand people that call my church their family. We do
12 a lot of things in our community here.

13 And we had the opportunity to purchase 23 acres from
14 a family, the Hamilton family, that owned that property
15 before we obtained it about 36 years ago. The Hamiltons
16 wanted that property to go from hay to raising hay to
17 raising kids to raising families. They worked a deal
18 with us because they wanted it to go to a church.

19 The proposal of Alternative 4 makes our church go
20 away and find a new place. I don't see that as a
21 possibility for us. 23 acres on that kind of visibility,
22 that accessibility, you just don't find around here. So
23 I struggle with the alternative that you're proposing,
24 though I see what you're trying to go. But I struggle
25 with that.

1 And a lot of our families would be affected by that
2 in a significant way. We're doing a great work here. We
3 do a lot of things for the Red Cross. We do a lot of
4 things for other agencies, the sheriffs departments,
5 superintendents, Onalaska Superintendent. They host
6 their trainings there. We have a lot of community
7 events. And for us to relocate would just not be a great
8 thing.

9 So again, I really support Option 1. I like the
10 idea of controlling the water. But I really don't think
11 4 is going to help our community, especially with
12 families and the future. So thank you.

13 MS. SANT: Following Donna will be Judy Breen.

14 MS. WESTALL: My name is Donna Westall, 325
15 Northwest Georgia, Chehalis. I've lived there since '73
16 and have endured every flood that we've had since then.
17 And I've watched dump loads of fill week after week, you
18 know, starting with Wal-Mart, Toyota, the new sewer in
19 Chehalis. And to have more money put into raising the
20 dike, millions to - for a levee on the freeway and the
21 citizens who are paying taxes, too, being - having
22 greater impact because of the flood. I just want to say
23 I feel like the private citizens should be - have as much
24 weight and be able to have whatever alternative number
25 would affect the most people instead of . . .

1 The 2007 flood was really awful. A lot of people
2 lost everything, lost animals. And it should be for the
3 greatest good. Thank you.

4 MS. SANT: Next up to testify will be Alyssa
5 Westall.

6 MS. WESTALL: Hi. I'm Alyssa Westall, and I
7 live in Chehalis. Thank you for this opportunity. I
8 live on the wrong side of the airport levee. I have -
9 I'm born and raised there, lived there all my life. It's
10 always flooded, but it's always been at a manageable
11 level where it would fill the fields; we knew how to
12 handle it; it was not a big deal.

13 And then Wal-Mart and other businesses came in and
14 they filled and paved the area that used to be the first
15 place we would see filling with water. And obviously
16 when you put something solid into water, it pushes the
17 water back. After that, we were impacted much more. And
18 we were disgusted to see a levee go in to protect
19 Wal-Mart and those businesses that are raking in money
20 and continue to push more and more water onto our home
21 and our farms and our animals and seeing our animals
22 drown.

23 I just want to know how you're deciding which homes
24 are worth protecting and which homes you're going to let
25 devalue, disappear, drown out. I'd like to ask you to

1 stop raising the levee. It's unnatural. It affects us
2 more than the river does by itself. And all of our homes
3 matter and we love our homes.

4 But on a more positive note, I do want to say thank
5 you for the efforts that have gone forward for flood
6 damage reduction such as the funding to help raise homes.
7 I'm also interested in the farm pad so we can save our
8 animals in a flood. And I also want to say thank you for
9 the early warning system. It's been amazing, helpful.
10 It helps us to prepare. Thank you.

11 MS. SANT: Okay. We have Kyle MacDonald next
12 and then followed by Matt Matayoshi.

13 MR. MACDONALD: Hi. I'm Kyle MacDonald. I'm
14 the Superintendent of the Pe Ell School District and I
15 live in Dryad area. I must say this is the most
16 attentive class I've ever stood before, much better than
17 middle schoolers.

18 So the Pe Ell School District is opposed to
19 Alternative Number 4 for the following reasons: It
20 actually increases flooding to an additional 275
21 structures in the 100-year flood scenario before removal
22 of and enhancement of structures. In addition, the
23 flooding of these areas would become more frequent.

24 We believe the moving of residences and buying out
25 of owners will negatively impact student enrollment in

1 the district. We believe the total assessed property
2 value of the Pe Ell School District will be reduced
3 substantially by the removal of some residential
4 properties and the conversion to state land. This will
5 increase the tax burden to the remaining landowners.
6 Major roads within the district may be impacted by
7 channel migration. Major roads would flood more and for
8 longer periods of time. These impacts would result in
9 more school closures and longer school closures.

10 We believe the increased flooding for longer periods
11 of time will cause residents to move or not choose to
12 live within our school district, thereby further
13 impacting school enrollment. The district lost five
14 percent of its school population after the 2007 flood.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. SANT: And following Matt will be Chris
17 Vandenberg.

18 MR. MATAYOSHI: Good evening I'm Matt Matayoshi,
19 and I reside in Adna. This evening I'm speaking on
20 behalf of the Lewis County Economic Development Council.
21 Our organization represents over a hundred members, and
22 I'm speaking on behalf of 23 board members.

23 Our organization has taken a position in support of
24 Alternative 1, water retention in the upper Chehalis
25 Basin and construction of a dam. Earlier this year our

1 organization did a study. We moved forward with the
2 planning process in establishing a strategic plan and
3 direction for our organization. In doing a spot analysis
4 of our community, we asked both business leaders and
5 government leaders what the biggest perceived barrier is
6 to economic development, to business investment in Lewis
7 County. And to a person, everyone said flooding. I was
8 somewhat surprised that flooding was the issue, not
9 surprised that it was a high priority but the issue.

10 In order for us to move forward, while much of our
11 land that is set aside for industrial development and
12 economic development does not flood, the perception that
13 we do flood and it floods everywhere here is a real
14 barrier to economic development.

15 I could go on about the social impacts, impacts to
16 not only my family but the families in Adna and
17 throughout Chehalis and all of Lewis County and to the
18 challenges that it's created as we - many of us had the
19 opportunity to dig out homes and dig clay and mud out of
20 people's houses and barns and so forth. But I'll stop
21 there and just say that we support Alternative 1 and
22 constructing a dam. Thank you.

23 MS. SANT: Following Chris, we'll have Craig
24 Sullivan come on up.

25 MR. VANDENBERG: My name is Chris Vandenberg. I

1 am a Chehalis, Washington resident. My background was in
2 fisheries biology. I have a degree in fisheries biology
3 and actually worked for the state and federal agencies
4 during the mid '90s and late '90s. Currently I'm a
5 private practice attorney in the area. I am representing
6 myself tonight.

7 I think that Chrissy's presentation earlier was
8 great for professionals. But I wonder how many people in
9 this room actually understood the majority of what those
10 slides meant.

11 I personally am an advocate of Alternative 1 with
12 the storage reservoir. I believe that that storage
13 reservoir can actually be used to help fisheries in the
14 Basin because it can help maintain water temperatures.

15 Having been involved with farms and farmers and farm
16 bureau, I understand that there have been farmers who
17 have been affected in the past because water temperatures
18 have actually shut down their junior water rights when
19 the state Department of Ecology came in and said that
20 water pollution - the temperature was causing water
21 pollution and therefore their water rights were basically
22 stopped until the water came back up and the water cooled
23 down. I think that the option with the tall dam allowing
24 water to be spilled during the summertime when the
25 temperatures are warm will actually help the fish

1 downstream.

2 I'd also like to speak against Alternative 4.
3 Alternative 4 - I'm sure the environmental community
4 loves Alternative 4. It basically puts the Basin back to
5 what it was, what they imagine in pre-European times.
6 Unfortunately that's not possible anymore. And the
7 biggest problem that you have, as was mentioned earlier,
8 is that Option 4 actually increases flooding upstream
9 from the Newaukum River so you're actually going to
10 decrease flooding a little bit downstream but increase
11 flooding for people upstream. And those are people that
12 haven't been forced to move from possibly their 100-year
13 old farm. So I would argue that Option 4 is not even
14 realistic possibility. However, Option 1, the tall dam,
15 I think would be a benefit to our county.

16 And I have one other comment. I noticed on the
17 website last night that there were some addendums added
18 to the Environmental Impact Statement about 10:00 p.m. I
19 believe that we should actually have to extend the
20 comment period past October 31st because I believe that
21 you might be violating the open meeting minutes law so
22 that you have actual time for people to comment for those
23 new additions. So I hope you will consider that. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. SANT: Okay. Next we have Craig followed by

1 R.C. Jacobson. Is Craig Sullivan still here wishing to
2 testify? You're waving. Is that you're going to pass?

3 MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

4 MS. SANT: All right. Thank you. Is Mr. R.C.
5 Jacobson here?

6 MR. JACOBSON: I'm R.C. Jacobson. I'm at
7 Grand Mound. I've been severely impacted over the past
8 over 40 years by several floods, as you saw. The 2007
9 flood only took me four years to reclaim my farmland. So
10 that was all on my back. But that's all right. It's a
11 nice area to be living in and I hope . . . Based on the
12 comments here, I tend to agree with our eminent attorney
13 and fisheries guy here so . . .

14 But I'm also aware that in the forty-some years that
15 I've been ranching down there at Grand Mound, I've
16 noticed the fish population has decreased, as they
17 projected here or notified us. And I have several gravel
18 bars along the river where I have got about a mile and a
19 half on the river, on one side of the river anyway, and
20 used to watch salmon spawning there in the 1970's and
21 1980's. They no longer spawn at all on those gravel
22 bars. So anything that can help the fisheries, I would
23 probably be in favor of, along with a dam to control the
24 water level. Thank you.

25 MS. SANT: And Chip Elliott followed by Maretta.

1 And I want to say Maretta Boes or Boes (pronouncing). I
2 apologize on that name. Boes. Thank you.

3 MR. ELLIOTT: I'm Chip Elliott. I was the fire
4 chief in District 16, Doty, Dryad, Meskill area in the
5 '07 flood. First I'd like to comment real quick on the
6 fishery. You guys worried about the fish count, I think
7 maybe somebody oughta go look at the headwaters of the
8 Chehalis River and look at the sea lions and seals that
9 eat all these fish before they ever start up the rivers.

10 Number two, the fisheries should look at their rules
11 when they have hatchery fish and native fish. If you go
12 out and you catch a hatchery fish - or a native fish, you
13 gotta release it. Lot of them get gilled and they die in
14 the river and you gotta throw them back in.

15 So anyway, moving on, I'm against Number 4. Kyle
16 MacDonald touched on the taxes that it will take out for
17 the school districts. And why would you want to put
18 families through the stress and - of moving them out?

19 I agree with a lot of the comments here that a lot
20 of people said about the difference in the land. I was
21 on the Flood Authority, on and off a few times. And I
22 greatly support that Flood Authority. Every one of them
23 should have a Bachelor's degree right now in Flood
24 Authority. And I think, you know, we have studied this
25 and studied it and studied it and spent money and money.

1 It's about time we let the Flood Authority go ahead with
2 this here and get a project done. It's time. Thank you.

3 MS. SANT: Following Maretta is Erik Martin.

4 MS. BOES: My name is Maretta Boes. I'm a
5 lifetime resident of Lewis County. I currently reside in
6 Chehalis. I grew up in Centralia on Long Road. My home,
7 my neighborhood, was impacted with flooding since the
8 early '90s. So I have experienced that personally.

9 Tonight I'm here concerned and to voice my
10 opposition to Alternative Number 4. As a member of
11 Bethel Church, I'm concerned about the impacts of the -
12 to our property near Napavine, south of Chehalis. Bethel
13 Church has a large congregation. We have significant
14 outreach to our community, reaching thousands of people
15 weekly, helping in a multitude of ways. And if the
16 church is not available, there's not access to the
17 property, visibility, including even parking, that could
18 be impacted with Alternative Number 4.

19 I served with the Red Cross for many years. Bethel
20 Church has been a significant player even with the Red
21 Cross. They served as the FEMA center after the flood of
22 2007 for a significant period of time and where citizens
23 came to make their applications and apply for benefits
24 through FEMA.

25 So I'm just here as a citizen of Lewis County and

1 here to voice my concerns for Alternative Number 4. And
2 I'm in favor of Alternative Number 1. Thank you very
3 much for the privilege.

4 MS. SANT: After Erik we'll have Jerry
5 Zabriskie.

6 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. My name is Erik Martin.
7 I am the Public Works Director and County Engineer for
8 Lewis County. And I'm here to discuss Alternative 4
9 specifically with respect to impact to roads and a little
10 bit about land acquisition. So over the last just four
11 years, Lewis County has spent about \$1.8 million in local
12 funds and about \$7 million in federal funds to fight
13 flooding or to rebuild or to prevent flooding. That is
14 spent on roads, bridges, culverts, streams, lots of
15 different projects all having to do with flooding.

16 And if you haven't seen it, you might want to look
17 at Table 4.3-6 in the EIS which talks about the increase
18 to certain roads with respect to the duration of
19 flooding. Just a few numbers here, SR-6 at Scheuber Road
20 would have an 86 percent increase in the duration of
21 flooding. SR-6 at Adna would have a 115 percent increase
22 in the duration of flooding. SR-6 at Boistfort Road, 133
23 percent increase in the duration of flooding. Some
24 roads, including Wildwood and Boistfort Road, would go
25 from zero hours of flooding to 6 to 23 hours of flooding.

1 These roads are going to be inundated if Alternative 4
2 was to go forward.

3 As a professional engineer, one important mission
4 that I have is to hold paramount the safety, health and
5 welfare of the public. That is a fundamental canon of
6 the National Society of Professional Engineers. I cannot
7 support a project that would knowingly and purposefully
8 put the safety, health and welfare at risk of the
9 citizens of Lewis County.

10 Increasing flooding on these roads would not only
11 double the time that motorists might be exposed to
12 flooded waters; in some cases, response time would be
13 increased not just by hours but by days so emergency
14 response would be greatly impacted by this alternative.

15 One piece that's really critical to us in Lewis
16 County, as I mentioned before, is federal funding for
17 these flood projects that we do. And I'm concerned about
18 how FEMA might view funding projects when we are
19 knowingly implementing a strategy that's going to
20 increase flooding. As you all probably know, FEMA funds
21 are limited. We, in the Public Works Department, have to
22 go through quite rigorous documentation and, you know,
23 processes to secure that funding, sometimes years after
24 the projects are built. And I'm wondering how receptive
25 they're going to be to us repairing roads that we flooded

1 knowingly. So that is a serious concern of mine.

2 MS. SANT: Jerry, you're over time.

3 MR. MARTIN: Okay. One more quick point. I was
4 curious to know if there were other projects like this
5 that did this restorative function. The City of Portland
6 did a project called the Foster Floodplain Project. They
7 started in 1997. It took them 15 years to acquire 63
8 acres. This project contemplates acquiring 21,000 acres.
9 At that rate, it would take 5,000 years. I don't say
10 that to be inflammatory. In fact, you could use a
11 different inference. In the number of property owners
12 that was taken, they had 60 property owners versus about
13 480. That would take only 120 years. So that might be
14 how long it might take to acquire these types of
15 properties under the same conditions.

16 MS. SANT: Jerry, could you wrap up your
17 comments, please.

18 MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much.

19 MS. SANT: Thanks. After Gail, we're going to
20 have David Fenn.

21 MR. ZABRISKIE: I'm Jerry Zabriskie. I'm a
22 member of the Baw Faw Grange out in the Boistfort Valley.
23 You might remember we did a little bit of work supporting
24 our community after the flood. It wasn't fun but we met
25 a lot of great people.

1 Shortly after the flood our grange initiated a
2 resolution stating that we fully supported dams,
3 retention facilities, on both the main Chehalis and the
4 south fork. The resolution was passed unanimously by our
5 grange, forwarded to the county grange, where it also
6 passed unanimously, and sent to the state grange. So the
7 Washington State Grange reviewed carefully this issue and
8 passed it. And it is currently state grange and
9 legislative policy that we support retention facilities
10 on both main Chehalis and the south fork.

11 Alternative Number 1 appears to give the best
12 solution. And if you follow with some other help along
13 the way, it will give a permanent solution. Thank you.

14 MS. SANT: So after David testifies, Gail Bayne
15 will be next.

16 MR. FENN: Hi. My name is David Fenn. And I
17 live in Wildwood, which is a suburb of Boistfort. So
18 Jerry and I know each other a little bit.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Baw Faw Grange is, too.

20 MR. FENN: That's true. I'm also on the
21 Conservation District Board and I'm a fire commissioner
22 in Boistfort. After the flood, we had to rebuild two
23 stations because two of them were inundated and replace a
24 bunch of equipment.

25 Like everyone else, I'm in favor of and I have been

1 for - since the beginning of flood retention. My only
2 concern is started out with two dams and now we're down
3 to one. I'd love to have one above me, too.

4 Alternative 1 does the most good for the most
5 people. When this whole process started, the idea was
6 that we help everyone, not we pick sides. Alternative 4
7 picks sides. It takes four small communities, Adna,
8 Boistfort, Pe Ell and Onalaska, and puts those
9 communities in jeopardy in terms of being sustainable,
10 functional, good communities. And I find that wholly
11 inappropriate, even the idea of it.

12 Plus as Glenn went through the comments on why farms
13 are where they are and the possibility of moving them,
14 it's absolutely unworkable, not to mention the cost.
15 There's a reason that us farmers are where we are and
16 where forestland is where it is. So it's just not
17 feasible. I just can't imagine doing that.

18 Besides taking sides, which we don't want to do, we
19 want a solution that does the most good for the most
20 people. Thank you.

21 MS. SANT: After Gail will be Tim Dyeson.

22 MS. BAYNE: I'm Gail Bayne and I'm a Lewis
23 County resident. And being raised here, I can see both.
24 Out there in the country, out there in Pe Ell, Doty, I've
25 got relatives that live out there. And they were very

1 well hit hard. And I have to say that knowing my dad,
2 who is a 94-year-old logger, and he had seen that country
3 and when you let the fisheries and the environmentalists
4 that don't allow you to cut the timber down by the creeks
5 so they can clear them out instead of leaving a few
6 little trees there so when the wind comes, it blows them
7 over, you get the dams that you got out there. And it
8 flooded the whole thing. Plus years ago we had a law on
9 the books that said keep the stuff out of the rivers and
10 the streams. Clean them. They'll flow better. Look
11 what we have now. They put these big root balls in this
12 stream for habitat. The fish will not come through.

13 For one thing, my dad had gone up . . . We had a
14 creek up on the old homestead up on the north fork.
15 There was three beaver dams. This was the early '40s.
16 He took 15 sticks of dynamite, put in the first one, did
17 the second one, did the third one, took his cat right
18 down through that creek and pushed everything out of it.
19 And the salmon have come back up that little Taylor
20 Creek.

21 And I'll tell you you gotta keep them clean. You
22 can't let all this silt build up. So why didn't we use
23 the dredger that had offered to dredge in different spots
24 of the Chehalis, clean it out and get rid of all this
25 junk that we're having to talk about? Thank you.

1 MS. SANT: After Tim Dyeson, we'll call up John
2 Baarspul.

3 MR. DYESON: I'm Tim Dyeson. I live in
4 Chehalis. I've lived here since 2005. I moved from
5 Baton Rouge just moments before Hurricane Katrina just to
6 be, you know, flooded out. I used to live in Adna. I
7 was not damaged by that flood, but I was helping others
8 who were.

9 When I was a very young boy, I just imagined that
10 one day I would live on a piece of property that had a
11 creek, some trees and some pasture and I would sit on the
12 edge of that bank and put my feet in the cold water and
13 dig my toes into that sand. I don't know why I imagined
14 that. But that is where I live today. I live on Justin
15 Creek which flows into the southern Newaukum out in the
16 North Fork Valley and I get to watch my son play in the
17 forest and kill dragons all afternoon. I like to sneak
18 up on him and watch him do that.

19 I am in support of Option 1. Let's put that on the
20 table. And I wanted to talk about the impact of Option 4
21 that I don't see in the report and I would venture to say
22 a few things about that. The question that I have is a
23 question for the economic . . . Sorry. Alternative 4,
24 the economic impact does not seem to include loss of tax
25 revenue. And I think that that is a great thing to

1 include, possibly an oversight or maybe just the models
2 didn't include it. But I - I pay taxes. Imagine that.
3 I just - just paid. I'm also been a small business owner
4 so I've generated taxes in this county. I'm a very
5 active volunteer. Pastor Kyle would be a witness to
6 that. And I have done projects in the community to
7 benefit people.

8 I would have to move in Alternative 4 because my
9 property would be under about 10 feet of water. I would
10 make that option so expensive for you that I would move
11 out of the state so I would not be paying employee taxes
12 in the state. I would not be generating taxes in the
13 state. Trevor Elliott, sorry, you would no longer
14 receive my insurance premiums. Pastor Kyle, you would no
15 longer receive my tithes and offerings or the impact, the
16 activities in the communities. Ian Giverson, I would no
17 longer say things about Nacho Libre, my favorite movie.

18 So there are ongoing tax revenue issues that you -
19 this county would no longer have the benefit of if we all
20 had to move out of Boistfort Valley and North Fork Valley
21 and the such.

22 You would also destroy families. I moved back to
23 Washington to have my kids be near their grandparents.
24 My kids have grown up in this house. They've only known
25 forest and pasture and creek, where we do have salmon

1 come up right around Thanksgiving time.

2 MS. SANT: Tim, you're close - you're on
3 overtime.

4 MR. DYESON: I'm just saying I'm out if Option 4
5 gets enacted. Thank you.

6 MS. SANT: Following John will be Greg Lund.

7 MR. BAARSPUL: My name is John Baarspul. I'm a
8 member of Bethel Church. Now, I happen to live in
9 Winlock or just outside of Winlock, which is well above
10 the flood area that we're talking about. It would take a
11 Noah's flood to reach me. But as a member of Bethel
12 Church, I'm a little concerned about Alternative 4. I've
13 been a member since the early '80s and have seen all the
14 floods that have been experienced. And one of them
15 reached the doors of the church.

16 So anything like Alternative 4, which increases the
17 flood level at the church by anywhere from a tenth to a
18 foot, would put water into the sanctuary and that
19 obviously would not work for us, other than baptizing
20 people. It would work real well for that.

21 So we would have to abandon our current church
22 facility. And as other people have mentioned in past
23 comments, it would be very difficult to replace that.
24 Other landowners in the same area would also be impacted.

25 And so and as I read the alternative, the reduction

1 in flood levels downstream in Alternative 4 is fairly
2 minimal but the upstream impact is pretty significant.
3 And the partial closure, the potential closure, of I-5 is
4 unchanged. It would still be four days potentially in a
5 100-year flood.

6 The summary of the EIS, one of the outcomes talks
7 about reducing social and economic costs associated with
8 floods and degraded aquatic species habitat. Well, the
9 social and economic costs of 4 I think is too high. And
10 the Alternative 1 seems to be a more reasonable and a
11 more likely to succeed alternative. Thank you.

12 MS. SANT: After Greg Lund we'll have Jill
13 Anderson.

14 MR. LUND: My name is Greg Lund. I live just
15 west of Chehalis out towards the Adna area and born and
16 raised out there. I'm not going to repeat some of the
17 things I had down because Mr. Carter did an excellent job
18 of talking about the growth management. I'm a local real
19 estate agent. And when I studied the alternatives and
20 I've been, you know, obviously following this as
21 everybody because it impacts the property and lives here
22 in Lewis County, I looked at Alternative 4 as being -
23 having a major flaw. Some of the other flaws have
24 certainly been eloquently pointed out here.

25 But I tried to put the 21,000 acres in perspective,

1 starting basically right across the street is where we
2 started, at the confluence of the Newaukum and
3 potentially - as they block the Newaukum or back up the
4 Newaukum. But 21,000 acres and property owners would be
5 relocated if they were willing. And the problem is the
6 assessed value. The flaw, in my opinion, is it was the
7 most costly alternative shown on the board, and that was
8 only using assessed value.

9 So I tried to get a perspective of how many acres of
10 land would be available today for these people to go and
11 purchase. And so I'm a member of the local Multiple
12 Listing Service and so I tried to work the data. And it
13 comes up about 8,000 acres if you look at everything
14 residential two acres and above, everything vacant land
15 two acres and above. And totals about 8,000 acres
16 available from county line, past Pe Ell to Mossyrock,
17 border to border north and south.

18 So you have 21,000 acres chasing 8,000 acres. Do
19 you think the price will go up? I mean I'm a graduate of
20 PLU along with Dave Fenn up there, and I think supply and
21 demand in our economics class, I mean it's just - boggles
22 my mind that you're going to think, okay, you're going to
23 buy out this farmer who's spent his lifetime at assessed
24 value and then he's going to go somewhere and try to
25 replace that.

1 And we have history in this county already showing
2 that. My dad has been a real estate agent for 60 years
3 in this county, was very active in the dams in central
4 county, Mossyrock and Mayfield Dams and the condemnation
5 actions there. He said immediately when the word started
6 getting out about the condemnation, prices went up. And
7 it's natural. And they continued to climb. Now over
8 time maybe they'd come back down, but the initial impact
9 was definitely by supply and demand.

10 We have some of the most productive farm ground
11 which would go - you know, become . . . What several
12 generations of farmers have tried to do is make it
13 productive and clear it. And then try to say it's going
14 to go up higher on the plateaus, where again there is no
15 water or good water sources and just inferior soils.

16 MS. SANT: Greg, mindful of time, please.

17 MR. LUND: Yes. I guess put a personal face on
18 it, about 30 days ago I met with a local farmer, third
19 generation. And they've been approached about maybe
20 selling a little bit of their farm for some habitat
21 restoration.

22 They looked at it and said, "Yes, we might consider
23 it because it's not part of the farm, the farm being in
24 our family for three generations. I would never sell the
25 farm."

1 And so I think there's a fundamental flaw. I'm
2 totally in support of Alternative 1. Thank you.

3 MS. SANT: After Jill we're going to have
4 Katherine Humphrey come on up.

5 MS. ANDERSEN: Thank you. Good evening,
6 everyone. My name is Jill Andersen. I'm the City
7 Manager for the City of Chehalis. I'm also a resident of
8 the city of Chehalis. I also am speaking this evening on
9 behalf of the city council and thanking the Governor's
10 Working Group as well as the Governor and the state
11 legislature for making this a priority, for everybody at
12 the Department of Ecology for the work that you've done
13 as well as those that participated in the scoping process
14 and who have been here tonight and for all of you coming
15 out here. Appreciate so much the effort that is being
16 made to move forward and to get something done.

17 And that is why the City of Chehalis supports
18 Alternative 1. It is the only alternative that provides
19 for large investment improving the quality of aquatic
20 species habitat, which is very important, and provides
21 significant protection from future flooding throughout
22 the Basin, and it has the possibility of getting done.
23 And I think that's why so many people are here is that we
24 want to see something get done to protect people and to
25 protect the environment moving forward.

1 So I'm going to save other comments for the city's
2 formal response in the interests of time. But I did want
3 to comment that we are in support of Alternative 1.
4 Appreciate all the work that has been done. And to
5 borrow a phrase from a previous speaker, the City of
6 Chehalis provides and supports that alternative that does
7 the most good for the most people and even the fish. So
8 thank you very much.

9 MS. SANT: After Katherine we're going to have
10 Amy from Loghollow Farm. I apologize Amy. I can't read
11 your last name.

12 MS. HUMPHREY: Hi. I'm Katherine Humphrey, and
13 I live in the Boistfort Valley. My farm appears on your
14 web page twice so apparently I am right in the middle of
15 everything. I don't want to repeat everything because
16 those of us not being paid to be here all want to go home
17 and I want to go home and eat. I'm very hungry.

18 So I would say off the bat that I support
19 Alternative 1. I support Alternative 1 that has the
20 flood retention flow augmentation.

21 My area is agriculture. I grew up on a farm in the
22 Boistfort Valley, lived in the Palouse for seven years,
23 and my husband and I came back and bought another farm in
24 the Boistfort Valley. On the picture of my place, it
25 says it's a vibrant region with plentiful opportunity and

1 a bright future. That's part of why I'm one of your few
2 college-educated Lewis County residents that actually
3 came back here. I think a dam and ending flooding would
4 be something that would maybe encourage more of us to
5 come back here.

6 As a side note but something I jotted down as I was
7 going through your EIS, I find it interesting that 80
8 percent of the Chehalis Basin is covered in forest and no
9 forest practices are addressed in your EIS.

10 I will say as someone with a degree in crop and soil
11 sciences, when you come to Alternative 4, as someone
12 involved in agriculture, there's something now - the
13 statistics are like every farmer feeds 200 people or
14 something. Very few people in our society in America
15 have any idea how their food is produced, which is
16 amazing bioscience and engineering and marvel that we are
17 that efficient. But we've painted ourselves into the
18 corner that very few people in our society realize how
19 food is produced.

20 And Alternative 4 illustrates that beautifully
21 because we bought the farm that we bought because it was
22 primarily before the flood fine sandy loam and Chehalis
23 silt loams. Those river bottoms are highly productive.
24 And I've bought a second farm that's clay and silt loam.
25 Both of those pieces have senior water rights. And if

1 you moved me to a hill, I could not grow what I do now.
2 Crops do not grow on forest soil. Forests grow on forest
3 soil. They're completely different soils.

4 And the problem is when you see something so
5 ridiculous in the report, hydrology and the invertebrate
6 studies, I don't know those things. I don't have the
7 expertise to know what else you got wrong in your EIS.
8 But that was very concerning when I was going over
9 Alternative 4.

10 So those are my comments. Thank you.

11 MS. SANT: After Amy, Edna Fund can come up
12 next.

13 MS. AMEGATCHER: Good evening. My name is Amy
14 Amegatcher. And myself and my family live in the 300
15 block of State Route 6 near the old Meskill transfer
16 station. We've had a lot of recommendations tonight. My
17 reflections have been primarily questions.

18 My thoughts as I've reviewed what the different
19 options are, we're anticipating future flooding, but the
20 majority of the time we're not flooding. So these
21 different options, how would they affect our day-to-day
22 life when it's not flooding? How would the effects of a
23 dam if it's flowing all year or released only in the
24 summertime - how would that affect the flow of the river
25 that parallels - borders our farmland? If we went with

1 Option 4, I wouldn't have our land. So clearly that
2 would affect my day-to-day life.

3 Also, if we were to have a dam, who's going to
4 govern the dam? Who's going to - in a flooding event,
5 who's going to choose when do we open it; when do we
6 close it? So a lot of these reflections gave me cause to
7 just ask we make a decision today; how is it going to
8 affect us down the road in the event of a flood and the
9 majority of time when there's not a flood? And are we
10 going to have an opportunity to weigh in on how these
11 things are managed long-term?

12 We have a great number of people here tonight. But
13 in two years, five years we have the dam, where do I have
14 an opportunity to give my voice and how that - how the
15 dam is managed; how is it going to affect my property
16 down the stream? So those are some of the questions that
17 I had.

18 Others are how does the EIS address the 80 percent
19 of forestry land that is in Lewis County? Our small farm
20 is a majority forestry land in addition to crops that we
21 grow. So how are these different options going to affect
22 forestry?

23 Also, we all - in agriculture we all depend on
24 water. How would a dam or other options affect our
25 access to water and how our wells work and how we're

1 irrigating our crops?

2 And then the other question is we saw in all the
3 options that there's a restorative component to all of
4 the options. How would those restorative activities
5 affect my property, would affect the other activities
6 that are taking place within Lewis County? So those are
7 just some of the thoughts I had. And I hope as this
8 process continues that some of those questions get
9 answered. Thank you.

10 MS. SANT: After Edna, we'll have Rick Vitzthum.

11 MS. FUND: I'm Edna Fund, Lewis County
12 Commissioner. I'm also the Vice Chair of the Chehalis
13 Basin Flood Authority. And I just want to say it's
14 wonderful to see all you people here tonight.

15 I remember at the Centralia area immediately after
16 the 2007 flood people coming in wet, had boots with mud
17 on it and like, "What Are we going to do next?"

18 So now we're further down the road and I think we
19 have some options to go next. And the Board of County
20 Commissioners, we believe that Alternative 1 is the best
21 one. And we would like to have a storage reservoir. We
22 also note that in Alternative 1, that the aquatic species
23 mitigation is there so we could save that spring Chinook
24 that our lawyer friend was talking about, saving some -
25 helping our fish.

1 You've heard from our county prosecutor and you've
2 heard from our public works. We've been studying this
3 issue. And we believe that Alternative 1 is the one for
4 us to make us the best.

5 As a personal note, I am a dairy farmer's daughter.
6 I know what good dirt is. And I would hate to see that
7 dirt be under water and our farmers not being able to use
8 it. Thank you.

9 MS. SANT: After Rick, Mark Anders, you'll be
10 next.

11 MR. VITZTHUM: Good evening I'm Rick Vitzthum.
12 I'm a resident of the city of Chehalis. I'm here tonight
13 to speak in opposition to Alternative 4 and in favor of
14 Alternative Number 1. I believe Alternative Number 1 has
15 the biggest impact for the tax dollar to benefit the
16 communities and the families that are involved in
17 flooding.

18 In 1996, both at my home and at my place of
19 employment we had over a foot and a half of water. I
20 know the hardship that causes. And every time we have a
21 flood in this county it just breaks my heart because I
22 know what those people are going through. I helped
23 rebuild our front office. But we were fortunate we were
24 able to move to another facility so we could continue to
25 serve our customers. A lot of these businesses don't

1 have that opportunity.

2 Alternative 4, the reason why I am against it, as
3 many have said, it really does not benefit the landowners
4 and the property owners and the business owners of this
5 county. It doesn't protect I-5 that - the corridor that
6 needs to be protected so that the economy of this state
7 and the economy of this country really can keep moving
8 because so much goes up and down that road.

9 I'm also a member of Bethel Church and currently on
10 the deacon board so I would - I'm opposed to
11 Alternative 4 because of what it does to Bethel Church.
12 Bethel Church, as has been stated by Pastor Kyle and
13 several other members, at Exit 72, 132 Kirkland Road, it
14 is bordered by the Newaukum River on the east side and
15 the south side. So under Alternative 4, that river is
16 going to rise. And where we've never had water actually
17 in the building before, we'll have water now. And after
18 rebuilding a business that had been flooded, I know it
19 would be impossible to carry on the functions of that
20 church after it had been flooded.

21 And so the only opportunity for Bethel to survive as
22 a church would be to move. And as Pastor Kyle mentioned,
23 it would be really impossible for us, highly improbable
24 for us, to find a piece of land that has the ease of
25 access, the visibility and the size to support what

1 Bethel does as far as outreach daily as a church. So I'm
2 against Alternative 4.

3 I want to thank the Department of Ecology and all
4 the parties that have been involved and all the hard
5 work. I can tell just by reading through all of it there
6 was a lot of work done. I really appreciate that. And I
7 thank you for the opportunity to comment.

8 MS. SANT: Great. After Mark, we'll have Rene.
9 And I'm sorry, Rene. I can't read your name. You're
10 with One Voice.

11 MR. ANDERS: Hi. I'm Mark Anders. I'm one of
12 your commissioners for the Port of Chehalis and I come
13 representing that body tonight, although I want to speak
14 to other groups that I'm a part of.

15 The Port of Chehalis is in business. You were - it
16 was formed by the people of this community to bring -
17 stimulate business in this area. We work very hard to
18 bring businesses in to create jobs so that people have
19 opportunity and they have a brighter future.

20 I will reflect what Matt said earlier. Flooding is
21 a tremendous issue. When you bring a potential client
22 business in here, they want to know does this flood; how
23 will flooding affect this community; how will flooding
24 affect my potential employees. And Alternative 1 is the
25 only alternative that we can see as a Commission that

1 would actually benefit the business and - the businesses
2 and the folks that we're trying to attract to this area.
3 And believe me, folks, we need a lot of jobs in this
4 area.

5 Another hat that I've recently taken on that I wear,
6 I actually work for the sheriff now and I'm a reserve
7 deputy sheriff. And that has given me another insight
8 into this community in that I get to deal with a lot of
9 people that most of you probably don't deal with on a
10 day-to-day basis. And one of the shames that I see for
11 our community is we have a lot of folks that have lost
12 hope. They've lost hope because they don't have a job.
13 And they don't have a job so they turn to other things to
14 medicate themselves: Alcohol, drugs, crime. And it just
15 creates a whole nother set of problems that really . . .

16 The flooding, you say, "Well how is that related?"

17 Well it's related because if we don't have the jobs
18 for people, then they don't have the hope for their life.
19 And it's really kind of cool for me to be able to see
20 this because I can go - on this one hand, I can be out on
21 patrol and see what's happening in people's lives. And I
22 can come back to the Commission and say, "Hey, guys,
23 we've gotta do something. We've gotta get some jobs
24 here."

25 A third hat that I want to talk about tonight, I'm

1 also an engineer. That's what I do for my day job. I
2 manage the operations for the only underground natural
3 gas storage project in the state of Washington. I know
4 what it is to engineer a project and use natural
5 resources to develop energy projects. My project
6 actually backstops the gas system for the whole north
7 half of the west coast. We affect the gas system from
8 southern Oregon all the way to the border in B.C. I know
9 what you can do as an engineer. And when I look at
10 proposal Number 1, it's just a matter of engineering.
11 It's a matter of us bringing in the people that know how
12 to engineer this system. We can enhance the fish. We
13 can increase our prospects for bringing in business. We
14 can restore hope in people's lives. We can have it all.
15 Number 1 is a win win all the way around.

16 If we go with Number 4, we're going to depopulate
17 Lewis County. We're going to decimate the population in
18 Lewis County. And you're going to lose taxes. You're
19 going to lose everything. I mean it'll be nice, but
20 it'll be a forest that nobody walks through because
21 there'll be nobody here.

22 That's why we need Number 1, and that's what we
23 support. Thank you.

24 MS. SANT: After Rene, we'll have Duane Fritz.

25 MR. REMUND: I'm Rene Remund, and I'm one of the

1 founders of One Voice. One Voice was started after the
2 2007 flood with the purpose of uniting the opinion in
3 Lewis County behind a plan to reduce flooding. And I
4 think this evening that the message that you're hearing
5 from the citizens of Lewis County is principally a
6 position that has one voice as to the alternatives that
7 have been presented to us.

8 My family, my wife and I, live in the Curtis Valley.
9 Our home we think was built in 1879. And from the
10 old-timers there, we believe that between 1879 and 1990,
11 it flooded once in 1917, had about an inch of water in
12 the house. But it flooded then again in '91, in '96. We
13 then raised the home. And in 2007, we had eight feet of
14 water in the house, which leads us to believe that
15 flooding appears to be getting worse both as to frequency
16 and to magnitude.

17 Of the four alternatives being presented,
18 Alternatives 2 and 3 are half measures which will not
19 significantly reduce the damage from future floods. For
20 those interested in flood reduction, only alternatives 1
21 and 4 are left.

22 As to Alternative 4, it provides very small amount
23 of flood reduction, as little as tenths of a foot
24 downstream, at enormous cost of both dollars and
25 destruction of four communities. Adoption of

1 Alternative 4 would effectively terminate the communities
2 of Pe Ell, Boistfort, Adna and Onalaska in exchange for
3 flood reduction of less than a foot in most of Chehalis
4 and Centralia. 8500 acres of farmland and 7500 acres of
5 other current use land would be eliminated. 21,000 acres
6 would be affected, all to provide miniscule amount of
7 flood reduction.

8 We've already heard about the tax and personal
9 burdens this plan would cause. In truth, Alternative 4
10 is theoretically possible but disastrous if implemented.
11 It does great damage to people and communities for very
12 little flood relief. We should commend the authors of
13 Alternative 4 for doing what they were asked to do. But
14 the plan itself should never be implemented. The price
15 of flood protection should not be destruction of our
16 farms or four of our communities.

17 That leaves only Alternative 1. Many of us would
18 prefer a permanent reservoir allowing for more water in
19 the river during summer and early autumn. We believe
20 that in the future, the failure to provide summer water
21 will be seen as a short-sighted habitat failure.
22 However, since our focus is specifically flood reduction,
23 we accept the fact that flood retention meets that need.
24 We understand and agree that without a vigorous habitat
25 restoration plan, there will be no dam.

1 MS. SANT: Rene, you're close on time.

2 MR. REMUND: And I'm about to finish. Most of
3 us who watch salmon coming up the river wish there were
4 more and understand that habitat restoration is needed.
5 But personality safety is also needed. A vigorous
6 habitat plan can go forward with a vigorous flood plan.
7 But with a failure of either, nothing will go forward.
8 In short, we can all accept less than what we may want in
9 order to obtain more of what we need.

10 Let's hope that in a place of nearly - let us hope
11 that in place of nearly a century of studies gathering
12 dust and habitat decline, we cooperate to improve both
13 the health of our environment and our communities. We
14 can have fish and safety. If you agree, please take time
15 to comment on the draft EIS by supporting Alternative 1
16 and opposing Alternative 4.

17 MS. SANT: Next is going to be Duane and then
18 followed by Martha Hunt.

19 MR. BRYANT: My name is Duane Bryant. I'm a
20 resident here in Lewis County my entire life. I have a
21 small farm up on Highway 12 by Spiffy's. We raise over
22 the years cows, pigs, horses, kids, you know. My wife's
23 family's lived there forever. And first time I laid eyes
24 on her she was the Lewis County dairy princess. She used
25 to drag me to all those contests.

1 I have a small business in Centralia that - I've
2 been in that location for 10 years. But for 25 years
3 prior to that, I hung my hat on a business on Kresky
4 Avenue. That was low point of Kresky Avenue. And we
5 flooded every year. I've worn out pressure washers
6 cleaning silt off of blacktop more than once.

7 A little background about this, in years past, I've
8 headed up the Upper Chehalis Fisheries Enhancement
9 Association, a group of people that raise salmon and
10 steelhead in the Pe Ell/Doty region. I grew up in
11 Pe Ell. My mom and dad still live there. Most of the
12 houses that have made the front page of the Daily
13 Chronicle were cousins or close friends of mine. It's
14 devastating. You know.

15 Most of the people I see here tonight, you know,
16 I've known for a very long time. And we all agree that
17 something has to be done. But I, like the lady that
18 lives over by the Meskill drop box, have been studying
19 this for a long time and I still have more questions than
20 I have answers.

21 I chaired the Lewis County Citizens Advisory Group
22 on flood prevention for the county commissioners back in
23 the '90s, in 2000, somewhere in there. I lost track.
24 I've been on the Friends of the Chehalis. I've been on
25 the upper Chehalis groups. I've also been on the

1 Chehalis Basin Fishery Task Force that built a lot of
2 these habitat projects that we talk about doing. And I
3 ain't going to take the time on this here, but I would
4 love to talk to anybody that's interested about how these
5 shape up. I also met with the Fish and Wildlife Director
6 and his associates at the top management level for
7 several years on fishery issues on the Chehalis system.

8 What do we do? You know. We all know we flood.
9 You know. I drove up the Boistfort Valley this last
10 weekend past Dave Fenn's house and Rene's. And I just
11 don't know what the dam is going to do to help you guys.
12 You know? I've studied this forever. You know. We've
13 got one chance. We're talking about \$600 million,
14 another million or two a year for a hundred years to come
15 up with this cost-to-benefit ratio. And if we mess up,
16 the rest of the people in this state aren't going to come
17 back again and say, "Hey, we're going to give you more
18 money to fix this."

19 MS. SANT: Duane, you're over on time.

20 MR. BRYANT: I'm sorry. I'll wrap up really
21 quickly. I'm not proposing or supporting any of these
22 because I just don't think the questions have been
23 answered. I think there's too many questions about what,
24 in fact, we can store behind reservoirs. I also question
25 how many residents that people actually live in got

1 flooded. And so I think we're rushing here to get
2 something done. I know we all want something done and I
3 know the commissioners and city managers and everything
4 like that, they want something done because the people
5 who vote for them are on them.

6 But I think I've studied this longer than anybody in
7 this room. And I gotta tell you I get more questions
8 every time I come to one of these meetings, and I've been
9 to dozens and dozens of them. So please go home and ask
10 yourself those same questions. Are we rushing for the
11 sake of a project and missing some of the things that
12 could be done with the money? Thank you.

13 MS. SANT: After Martha Hunt, it looks like the
14 person I have officially signed up is Lee or Leo Pope, I
15 want to say.

16 MS. HUNT: Thank you. To the committee, I'm a
17 bit of a business manager and project manager. And I
18 know you've put in a whole lot of work. And you know, I
19 know we all have our opinions, but I know we all
20 appreciate all the work you've done.

21 I live in the city of Chehalis. I'm a real estate
22 agent. I'm also a member of Bethel Church and I'm mother
23 to Rachel Hunt and mother to Jefferson Hunt. Jefferson
24 is a Dallas Police Officer. Rachel is a fabulous worker
25 in the County Commissioner's Office. I could not have

1 raised my kids without Bethel Church. You know. They
2 just have awesome programs. Grandparents, parents,
3 everybody at Easter time bring their kids for the Easter
4 egg hunt and we hand out like 10,000 Easter eggs. During
5 the week, commuters park the van pool at Bethel's parking
6 lot. People learn how to drive their motorcycles and get
7 licensed in the parking lot. I'm pretty sure Rachel
8 learned how to drive in that parking lot. I'm pretty
9 sure.

10 On behalf of businesses and homeowners, I just -
11 Alternative 4, I can't imagine it even being realistic.
12 I can't imagine you . . . And by the way, I think the
13 cost of Alternative 4 is quite low. I can't imagine you
14 being able to relocate the whole church and 20 plus
15 acres, McDonald's, Burger King, Ribeye, Subway. I can't
16 imagine that being very realistic.

17 And I know as a real estate agent, Greg Lund and I
18 won't live long enough to sell new farms to all the
19 people that have to relocate and live somewhere else.
20 And certainly you mentioned in your presentation willing
21 landowners could relocate homes and businesses. Well,
22 with all due respect, I don't think any of it would be
23 willing. So I'd just like to say I'm strongly against
24 Alternative Number 4 just because it's unrealistic and
25 it's just plain not feasible.

1 Option 1 looks really good to me. Here's my realtor
2 hat again. If you do the Option 1, there could be some
3 really sweet recreational property in Pe Ell. And I've
4 said for years that is the best kept secret. I'm telling
5 you there is awesome properties in Pe Ell. You need to
6 know that. And if you put some new water features out
7 there, I'm going to be wanting to show some of you little
8 pieces of land for your cabins.

9 And I know we're tired and it's hot in here and
10 everybody wants to go. So let me just say this in
11 closing: If you're against Number 4 plan, raise your
12 hand. Let's let these people see. Okay. Now we won't
13 make you count, but that's a whole lot of people. That's
14 almost everybody.

15 Option Number 1 looks really good to many of us.
16 Are you in favor of Number 1? Okay. Look at that.
17 There's almost everybody here. So now you know. Thanks
18 very much.

19 MR. POPE: My name is Leo Pope. I was born in
20 St. Helens Hospital, 1942. My father . . . I probably
21 can't talk. My father spent World War II giving us the
22 freedoms that we have today. So we're here and we come
23 up with these alternatives that some government agencies
24 have thrown together that, you know, none of us like very
25 well. But we have to retain the water. We don't have a

1 choice. We can't have a 2007 flood again. It's not the
2 way to live in Lewis County.

3 I've lived on the Newaukum River since 1948, seen
4 lots of floods. After I-5 went in, we had a little more
5 impact on the land that we bought and cleared. Bought
6 dynamite, blew stumps, picked up sticks and made brush
7 into dirt.

8 I don't know what the answer is. And I certainly
9 appreciate the people that are doing the work. I may
10 disagree with them wholeheartedly in a lot of ways, but
11 we have to do something. So that's why we're here. I
12 thought that we could get by fairly cheaply if the fellas
13 would allow the guys to dredge the river. They offered
14 to do it for free just for the material. It's better
15 than having to dig in your pocket and pay more taxes.
16 You know. That's an alternative that wasn't on the
17 docket.

18 Our taxes keep going up. And if Mr. Glenn says we
19 gotta spend a lot more money in taxes as time goes on, I
20 think we should look at that alternative. And I thank
21 the people. I wish I had more definitive words, but I
22 don't. So anyway, good luck in the process.

23 MS. SANT: So I've called everybody up
24 who's . . . That's okay. That's just what I was going
25 to do. I called everybody up who's signed up to testify.

1 I'd like to get a sense of who else in the room would
2 still like to testify so we know whether the court
3 reporter needs a break or not. So I have one gentleman
4 here in the front row. Was there anybody else? Another
5 gentleman? You? Okay. Three, four. Okay. Then I'm
6 going to call a break because need you break; right?
7 Five-minute break. So the hearing will resume at 8:30.

8 (Brief recess.)

9 MS. SANT: Hi, folks. If you could come back
10 and take your seat so we can get wrapped up for the
11 evening. And if I could maybe have the folks that want
12 to testify that didn't sign up, if you could go ahead and
13 maybe come up to the front for me, that would be helpful.
14 Anybody else wishing to testify, if you could come on up
15 front here and just sign in real quick and then we'll get
16 back to the testimony.

17 So I have four more people. Is there anybody else
18 that would like to testify tonight, part of the oral
19 testimony? Five? Okay. Everybody that's wanting to
20 testify is up here signing in. Great. We'll go ahead
21 and get started in just a moment. Thank you, everyone,
22 for your patience.

23 Mary, you're going to be up next. This is Mary
24 Kurtzbein. After Mary is going to be Dan Keahey - Keahey
25 (pronouncing). Thank you.

1 MS. KURTZBEIN: Thank you. My name is Mary
2 Kurtzbein. And I moved to Lewis County in the third
3 grade from Olympia, where my family had secured sales -
4 sales records for the Daily Olympian newspaper. We hold
5 the record for most sales for the - selling subscriptions
6 for the Daily Olympian newspaper. When I was four years
7 old, I ran up the stairs to the Capitol in my ballet
8 slippers to greet Governor Booth Gardner and have my
9 picture taken. We were honored with free roundtrips to
10 Disneyland for the family for a week, and I got to go to
11 Disneyland when I was four, five, six and seven. After
12 the fourth year of winning, they made a rule that you
13 could only win once.

14 We have one win here with this. I am not connected
15 with any one side. I have no idea how many sides are
16 there. I'm connected with nature. You can probably look
17 at me and tell. The soil quality regarding farming and
18 agriculture should really get looked at. We've heard a
19 little bit about that. Somehow needs to be connected
20 with this.

21 And don't we - don't we need to look at the farming
22 and the agriculture that is right on the river, with
23 regard to foresting and agricultural not only with fish
24 but with the hoof rot, the Round-up, the genetically
25 modified crops? There's no regulation on the poison that

1 goes into the river or the soil, whether it's high or
2 low. We see our animals drown. But have you seen an elk
3 down with hoof rot? Can't take him out yourself. You
4 just gotta watch and make a phone call. I have. It's
5 ugly. Or the disappearing understories in our forest.

6 Regulating the round up from the farmers' fields
7 would most likely have the largest effect on the
8 declining fish population. The millions spent on
9 flooding in Lewis County these last few years, wouldn't a
10 small portion of a gathered fund that came from a
11 mandated emission law for the cars and vehicles that we
12 drive here do something to help with that? We're talking
13 about the most good for the most people with regard to
14 health, safety and welfare of all living things.

15 There are many options that Lewis County could look
16 at with regard to tax recovery - we've heard a little bit
17 about that - mainly collecting emissions funds. Are we
18 the only county that doesn't require an emission test
19 when you're licensing a vehicle? Shouldn't learning how
20 to drive include being responsible for the emissions of
21 it?

22 I have no formal education by and through college,
23 but I've had a lot of different training. And I worked
24 for several years as a community outreach worker with the
25 Lewis County Health Department. My mother is a local

1 business owner in Centralia. I am very active with a
2 volunteer group that is working to save the Veterans
3 Memorial Pearl Street Pool in Centralia so that kids here
4 in Lewis County and the surrounding areas can have real
5 access to swimming lessons here in the flood zone.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. SANT: After Dan, we're going to have Steve
8 Mansfield.

9 MR. KEAHEY: My name is Dan Keahey. I live in
10 Centralia, and I'm a realtor. I've been a realtor for 21
11 years. But I grew up in Lewis County, fourth generation
12 in this area, and all blue collar workers.

13 We've worked hard, worked the land. And my great
14 grandfather was a farmer out in Boistfort Valley area.
15 And the reason they had farms out there was because it
16 was good farmland. If you build on the hills, it's
17 typically clay soil. And clay soil does not work real
18 well for growing any kind of crops. So any idea of
19 moving farms off doesn't make any sense. There's a
20 reason they're down in the floodplain, because that's
21 where the good soil is.

22 The other thing is the value of a farm. If you use
23 assessed value, no farmer would sell for that price.
24 It's set low on purpose to encourage them to farm that
25 land. Actual value of any of those properties could be

1 based on many things, partially just the love of the land
2 of the people and the excitement a buyer gets when they
3 see that property. They'll pay for that. The other part
4 of it is the value. What can that land produce, whether
5 it's timber or animals or products. What can the value
6 of that property bring back? So your assessments of
7 value based on assessed value means absolutely nothing.
8 It'll be much higher than that.

9 So I want to say Option 4 you're not only going to
10 be buying out those people; you're probably going to have
11 to buy out a bunch of people in both Centralia, Chehalis
12 and this whole area because you're really going to
13 devastate our economy. Lot of other people will have to
14 leave as well.

15 Option 1 seems to have the best benefit for the
16 buck. And I'm all in favor of Option 1. Thank you.

17 MS. SANT: After Steve, Ed Orcutt, you'll be
18 next.

19 MR. MANSFIELD: My name is Steve Mansfield.
20 Most of you know me in here. You need me to use that
21 microphone?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, please.

23 MR. MANSFIELD: Okay. I've worked for you for
24 the past 32 years in a number of different capacities. I
25 was there in '86 picking people out of the water. I was

1 there in '90, in '91, hoisting people in a helicopter,
2 putting them in a basket. I was there in '96 - '95 and
3 '96. As your sheriff, I was there in 2006 on the east
4 end, the devastation that hit up there. And then came
5 2007. Like I said, I've worked with many of you in this
6 room. And that was one of the most devastating things I
7 think our community ever faced on such a large scale.
8 And then again in 2009.

9 So from my perspective, we've heard a lot of talk
10 here. We've heard a lot of people saying a lot of
11 things. You talk about property tax. You talk about
12 values. You talk about a lot of different things that
13 we've lost or will lose again in a big flood. And it's
14 time to do something. Okay? Because what a lot of us
15 saw outside of the people that were directly affected was
16 a response to something and then everything went away.
17 But there's still families that haven't recovered. Their
18 businesses have gone away forever. And there's people's
19 lives that have been busted apart because of the things
20 that happened five, 10, 15, 20 years ago.

21 So I applaud what you have done, what you continue
22 to do. And it's really time to move forward. And this
23 community, whether it's unanimous or not, has spoken.
24 And things need to happen and we need to keep moving
25 forward on this.

1 And if one person in here - and it was alluded to by
2 several of you - Pastor Kyle talked about his family at
3 Bethel Church. And - and I appreciate that. But I want
4 you to remember about our family in Lewis County, our
5 families in Boistfort, our families in Pe Ell, Doty, our
6 families in Adna, our families in Chehalis, our families
7 in Centralia, our families in the east end. So if you
8 want to look at our families that have been impacted,
9 Lewis County, as a family, has been impacted. And we
10 need to do something about this and we need to move
11 forward as a group, as a family, and effect some positive
12 change here.

13 You know, I'm not a politician anymore, but I'm
14 supporting Alternative 1 because it makes the most sense
15 for a variety of different reasons. I work with Tacoma
16 City Light. I work with Cowlitz Falls Project. I work
17 with the Skookumchuck Dam folks. And I know that their
18 dams do, what they can't do. And quite frankly, the dams
19 on the Cowlitz are what keep us from mega flooding all
20 the time. They're there for power generation, but they
21 also serve as effective flood control. Okay? And
22 they're safe; they're sane. And they have saved families
23 and they have saved businesses in the Cowlitz Valley.

24 So once again, I appreciate all your input. I
25 appreciate all your support through the years. And we

1 need to move forward for our families in Lewis County.
2 We need to move forward as a family of Lewis County.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. SANT: And after Ed speaks, I have Jay
5 Gordon.

6 MR. ORCUTT: Thank you. For the record, I'm Ed
7 Orcutt, State Representative in the 20th District,
8 probably the only one testifying here that does not live
9 in the Chehalis Basin. The reason why I'm standing up
10 here testifying, first of all I decided to go last or
11 near last for a reason, because I wanted to make sure
12 that everybody who lived in the Basin had a chance to
13 speak, and I could always go online and provide comments
14 then.

15 I came in here planning to support Option 1. And
16 basically you've made it very clear that that is the
17 right option for the citizens here in the Chehalis Basin.
18 I leave here tonight as much committed to it, if not more
19 so, than when I walked in the door. It protects
20 citizens, farms, businesses, residences. It does provide
21 the greatest good for the greatest number - and I'll take
22 that one step further - for the greatest period of time,
23 which is the Forest Service mandate. But the greatest
24 number of people, the greatest good, the greatest period
25 of time is what the people in the Chehalis Basin deserve.

1 We know that dams or retention structures can reduce
2 flooding. It doesn't eliminate flooding, but it does
3 reduce the severity of it. And anything that we can do
4 to reduce the severity I think is important to do.

5 I'm opposed to options that only protect I-5 because
6 I think we need to protect more than just the people
7 going from Portland to Seattle or me going to - from
8 Kalama to Olympia. We need to protect the jobs and the
9 way of life that we have in the Chehalis Basin.

10 I oppose Option 4, notwithstanding the fact I don't
11 think it can withstand a constitutional challenge. If
12 the government's going to take property for the public
13 benefit, they need to pay fair market value, not assessed
14 value.

15 If we move people up onto the forestland, just
16 imagine even trying to do that. Imagine trying to go up
17 there and cut 21,000 acres of timber, take all of the
18 stumps out and turn it all into farmland. Just picture
19 that for a minute. Then you'll be on slopes maybe not
20 great slopes but you'll be on slopes, which means you
21 have an increase in the likelihood of erosion and
22 sedimentation of the river, which we know is bad.

23 It will redistribute the tax base. It'll move it
24 out of some school districts and into others. And that's
25 going to cause problems with our school districts.

1 80 years, 80 studies, the no action alternative is not
2 acceptable. It's time for us to move forward, provide
3 the best amount of flood protection we can for the
4 greatest number of people for the greatest period of
5 time. I support Option 1. Thank you.

6 MR. GORDON: For the record, my name is Jay
7 Gordon. I am a dairy farmer, crop farmer, sixth
8 generation farmer. My neighbor Al Zepp and I are
9 downriver. I get to be last and I get to say thank you
10 to you.

11 I was also at the Chehalis/Centralia School when the
12 Corps of Engineers unfolded their plan to build a levee
13 around Chehalis with what, eight holes in it. My
14 grandfather attended a flood meeting in 1936 with the
15 Corps of Engineers where they tried to do something about
16 flooding in the Elma area and it failed.

17 Ed, actually you missed a zero. It's 830 studies is
18 what we tallied. I'm also a member of the Work Group.
19 I've been honored to serve you. I've been honored to be
20 part of that group that's had the help and the leadership
21 and the wisdom of a lot of people, Ecology, Department of
22 Transportation, Jim Kramer not the least from the
23 Ruckleshaus Center, has helped this community get to
24 where we were that day when the Corps of Engineers said,
25 "Here's our plan after \$18 million. We're going to give

1 you a dike with eight holes in it."

2 We've moved a long ways. I remember the fights
3 earlier about let's just dredge the hump and send it down
4 to Grays Harbor. Al and I are both glad that we've moved
5 beyond that.

6 You all deserve a hand. This is the most
7 respectful, courteous, thoughtful set of preparations
8 I've ever been part of. You have a number of folks from
9 the Work Group in this room. We have a lot more work and
10 people to listen to. We have other communities
11 downriver, the Chehalis, Quinaults, the environmental
12 community, Montesano. But this valley has finally come
13 together. And we had all hoped that we could do that a
14 long time ago. When we looked at that mess that the
15 Corps put in front of us, we as a community needed to
16 come together. We may not get a hundred percent
17 consensus. But I agree with the sheriff we need to get a
18 good decision.

19 I also agree we don't get a second chance. We
20 cannot afford to look back 20 years from now and say,
21 "Oops, we screwed up the fishery," or "Oops, we didn't
22 get a dam built right and Pe Ell is gone; oops, we didn't
23 get something right."

24 We put a lot of time into this. It's taken more
25 than any of us could hope for. But you all get to

1 deserve yourselves a great big pat on the back. I
2 absolutely am proud of this community and I'm proud to be
3 part of this valley. Thank you for your time. Bear with
4 us.

5 MS. SANT: I apologize folks. I have one more
6 person here that wants to testify.

7 MR. KURTZBEIN: All right. So my name is Rylon.
8 And I'm probably going to be one of the youngest people
9 you see here. Public speaking has never been a problem
10 with me because I attended Portland Bible College.

11 I appreciate the pastoral leadership our city has.
12 I don't think that our pastoral leadership is where it
13 can be because of what we already do know and where we've
14 been.

15 In support of whichever assessment you guys choose
16 to take, as the youngest here, knowing as a
17 constructionist, as a state certified legal welder, as a
18 very vested person in my community as well, not just in
19 the churches around this area or the state or around the
20 world, very connected throughout music ministry that I've
21 been a part of and that I just sort of got to be a part
22 of in relationship with the Lord.

23 In these days, you're going to see bigger changes
24 than you thought you've seen, way bigger. And it's not
25 because of something you guys can anticipate or market or

1 put down. It's going to be because this is out of our
2 control. This is our planet. This is our world. And
3 the way our technologies are changing as well, you're
4 going to see much more diverse assessments. You're going
5 to see much more collaborative assessments. You're going
6 to see a larger network. You're going to see a greater
7 body. You're going to see a larger power. We already
8 know these things. If you choose to believe that, you
9 do, and you'll receive from - from your faith.

10 I think a lot of disconnect in our county has come
11 because we're not able to utilize everyone's gifts,
12 talents and skills and actually appreciate each other
13 for, you know, the things that we have received. Because
14 this isn't ours. And as soon as we feel like we're
15 entitled to this, that we can do that, that we can do
16 that, things will slip. Things will go between the
17 cracks. You're not going to find solutions the way you
18 have been trying to find solutions.

19 But like I said, as a constructionist myself, I'm
20 the kind of guy that would step into the middle of the
21 river, dredge the river, pan the gold, find the resource,
22 make the money, not use the waste. Use what God has
23 given us through wisdom because, you know, building a
24 dam, that's a great start. That is a good start. You're
25 going to be able to use much more and our generation is

1 going to be able to build off of that. And honestly
2 you're trying to pass something down to us and you're
3 trying to build something for yourselves.

4 But in respect to all of this, the youngest
5 generations are going to be the ones that stand up and
6 fix all of the problems and fix the oopses. And we're
7 going to be more than prepared. We're going to be more
8 than equipped. We're going to be more than ready, not
9 just as people, as a church.

10 And like I said, just prepare yourselves because
11 this isn't about the dollar. This is for your families.
12 Prepare yourselves in ways you aren't out of control
13 with. And you know, that's something that, you know, you
14 guys aren't - you're not slaves to this, even though we
15 are underneath quite the oppression and we're not blind
16 to it.

17 MS. SANT: Rylon, you're close to time.

18 MR. KURTZBEIN: Thank you for your time. Don't
19 stop. Keep thinking. Write it down. Remember it.
20 Share it. Visit people you didn't visit. Time is short,
21 as you can all tell. Be ready.

22 MS. SANT: All right. Have we heard from
23 everybody that wants to speak tonight? Great. So I'm
24 going to talk to you a little bit about the next steps.
25 So all testimony received at this hearing as well as the

1 hearing to be held in Montesano on October 27th along
2 with all written comments received at this hearing by
3 mail or submitted online will be a part of the official
4 hearing record for this draft environmental review.

5 The comment period on this draft EIS closes October
6 31st, 2016. If you would like to send written comments,
7 please remember they must be postmarked by October 31,
8 2016. You will send them to the Chehalis Basin Strategy
9 EIS, Care of Anchor QEA at 720 Olive Way, Suite 1900,
10 Seattle, Washington, 98104. Written comments may also be
11 submitted online at info@chehalisbasinstrategy.com.

12 The next steps are for the Department of Ecology to
13 consider the comments and prepare the final SEPA EIS.
14 Comments received on the draft will be included in the
15 final EIS along with responses. The final EIS is
16 expected to be released in 2017.

17 On behalf of the Department of Ecology, thank you
18 all for coming. I appreciate your cooperation and
19 courtesy.

20 Please let the record show that this hearing is
21 adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Thank you.

22 (Concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, CONNIE CHURCH, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Montesano, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were reported by me and thereafter reduced to a typed format under my direction; that the transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of said proceedings;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any party to this action, or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

That upon completion, the original transcript will be securely sealed and served upon the appropriate party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day of October, 2016.

Connie Church



CONNIE CHURCH
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
CCR #2555