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May 27th, 2020

Gordon White, Program Manager
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance
Department of Ecology, State of Washington
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
<gordon.white@ecy.wa.gov>

Andrea Doyle, Program Director
Office of Chehalis Basin
Department of Ecology, State of Washington
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
<andrea.doyle@ecy.wa.gov>

Submitted Electronically: <<https://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form/>>

RE: American Whitewater Comments on Washington State Department of Ecology's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

Dear Mr. White and Ms. Doyle:

I am writing on behalf of American Whitewater regarding the Washington State Department of Ecology's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project (DEIS). American Whitewater is opposed to a new dam on the Chehalis River (aka Flood Retention Expandable Facility). The State of Washington should cease efforts to dam the Chehalis. Instead, the Department of Ecology should lead an effort to enhance natural floodplain storage capacity, provide mitigation and assistance to landowners in the floodplain, discourage new floodplain development, and improve opportunities for the public to use and enjoy private forest lands for recreation. Healthy rivers, vibrant fish runs, and outdoor recreation are keystones to the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. We should be

seeking ways to secure these values for the future while addressing the issues of flooding and fisheries declines.

Interest of American Whitewater

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with approximately 50,000 supporters, 6,000 dues-paying members, and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. Our vision is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates. As an organization that represents recreational river runners on issues related to both conservation and public access to waterways, American Whitewater has an interest in the Chehalis River. A significant percentage of our members reside in Washington State—a short driving distance from this river for recreation.

The Chehalis River has one of Washington state's longest continuous sections of Class III whitewater, yet it remains relatively unknown to many paddlers due to access issues involving restrictive policies of a private timber company. The reaches below the proposed dam site were mapped and documented for recreational use by Wolf Bauer on the Washington Kayak Club's Kayaking River Map during the 1950s and 1960s.¹ The reach upstream of the proposed dam site was first described in detail in *A Guide to the Whitewater Rivers of Washington*;² it is also included in American Whitewater's National Whitewater Inventory.³ A new flood control dam proposal would eliminate 14 miles of this wild and free-flowing Class III whitewater (West Fork to Pe Ell), forever keeping paddlers from discovering this underused trove of quality whitewater in southwestern Washington. Our vision is for a river that remains free-flowing and is accessible to the public.

Process Comments

While we appreciate the attempt to make accommodations in response to the evolving health and safety policies designed to hinder the spread of COVID-19 in Washington, we feel they

¹ <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Document/view/documentid/578/>

² Bennett, J. 1991. *A Guide to the Whitewater Rivers of Washington*. Swiftwater Publishing Company.

³ <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/2081/>

resulted in inadequate public engagement. Our members contacted us that they had trouble joining the webinar meetings that were not well designed for mobile devices and presented challenges for those living in communities without access to high-speed internet. The comment period should have been further extended to allow for adequate public participation and to provide critical opportunities for direct engagement that public meetings provide.

In addition, no email comment option was provided and members of the general public were required to navigate several pages through the Department of Ecology website to find the comment form. During the scoping phase, an email address was provided and we directed comments to this same email address. To ensure these comments are included as part of the administrative record, we have copied and summarized comments sent by American Whitewater members and supporters as Exhibit A included with this filing.

Comments on Purpose and Objective

The project purpose is defined as, “to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis-Centralia area by constructing a flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near Pe Ell and making changes to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee,” with an objective “to reduce flooding coming from the Willapa Hills and improve the levee protection level at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport.”⁴ As the DEIS acknowledges, the proposed project “would not protect all basin communities from all flooding, and it is not designed to stop regular annual flooding from the Chehalis River or smaller floods.”⁵ Catastrophic floods would continue to impact the community and vulnerable infrastructure.⁶ The “benefits” of the proposed dam would thus not justify the significant cost and severe and irreversible adverse impacts of the proposed project. The proposal represents a 19th century approach to a problem that requires 21st century solutions that apply modern science and a current understanding of ecosystem function.

The Local Actions Alternative is identified as an approach that “could potentially achieve the Applicant’s objective through improving floodplain function”⁷ but with no specific projects proposed, there is no meaningful basis for evaluating this alternative.

⁴ At Page S-3, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

⁵ At Page S-3, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

⁶ At Page 172, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

⁷ At Page S-6, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

As an alternative to the dam, we urge the Department of Ecology to instead adopt a comprehensive plan that mitigates flood damage throughout the Chehalis Basin without further degrading the Chehalis River system.

Comments on Recreation

In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river would be lost with the construction of a new dam. We concur with the analysis in the DEIS that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a “significant and unavoidable” adverse environmental impact to recreation with “permanent loss of use of 13.8 miles of the Chehalis River for kayaking and whitewater boating and 12.8 miles of riverbank for recreational fishing.”⁸

While current access policies implemented by Weyerhaeuser restrict access, our vision for the future is a river that is open and accessible and not lost permanently by a dam and reservoir that would foreclose use of this reach of the Chehalis River for whitewater kayaking and rafting. We encourage the state to work with private forest land owners to enhance recreational opportunities on rivers that flow through commercial timberlands. Outdoor recreation is important to our quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. We should be seeking ways to improve opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation and access to our waterways and not further limit them.

The assessment of impacts to recreation was inadequate in the DEIS. In our previous comments, American Whitewater requested a site visit focused on recreation.⁹ We have directly participated in dozens of studies to evaluate the impacts to whitewater recreation of proposed and existing dams. As noted in our prior scoping comments, an established peer-reviewed methodology for these studies is available from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program.¹⁰ Unfortunately the DEIS only included a cursory 29-page review of impacts to recreation that was substantially less than is standard for projects of this scope and scale.¹¹

⁸ Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Summary, Exhibit S-6, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

⁹ Scoping Comments of American Whitewater on Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project Environmental Impact Statement, October 29th, 2018, <<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Document/view/documentid/2178/>>

¹⁰ Whittaker, D. B. Shelby, and J. Gangemi, 2005. Flows and Recreation: A Guide to Studies for River Professionals. Hydropower Reform Coalition and National Park Service – Hydropower Recreation Assistance. Available at: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/hydro/flowrec.htm>

¹¹ Appendix J, Recreation Discipline Report, State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Conclusion

American Whitewater is opposed to a new dam on the Chehalis River based on the degradation of the Chehalis River system that would result and the significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to whitewater recreation. As an alternative to the dam, we urge the Department of Ecology to instead adopt a comprehensive plan that mitigates flood damage throughout the Chehalis Basin without further degrading the Chehalis River system. Such an approach should apply modern science and a current understanding of ecosystem function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Keefe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Exhibit A

We have compiled 169 comments from American Whitewater members and supporters. These comments are divided into form comments (the first 124 signatures to our organizational comment), and the second portion are personalized comments from 45 individuals.

American Whitewater Form Comment:

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River.

In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a "significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact" to recreation with "permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing."

The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts.

I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

Signed By:

4/20/20,"Anderson, Dane",Seattle,WA,98112
4/19/20,"Antenucci, Kiira",Tacoma,WA,98416-2924
4/23/20,"Arnett, Caitlin",Logan,UT,84321-3441
4/24/20,"Atkins, Brian",Bellingham,WA,98226-6866
4/4/20,"Bailey, Mike",Pittsburgh,PA,15227-4303
4/25/20,"baker, jonathan",Winthrop,WA,98862-9728
4/23/20,"Barausky, Peter",Tampa,FL,33611-1649
4/8/20,"Barber, Steve",Hopwood,PA,15445-2145
4/6/20,"Beasley, Craig",Evergreen,CO,80439

4/18/20,"Berg, David",Bow,WA,98232-9577
4/22/20,"Bhageshpur, Kiran",Seattle,WA,98101-5106
5/27/20,"Bigler, Lisa",Corvallis,OR,97333
4/8/20,"Bland, Micah",Homestead,PA,15120-3012
5/27/20,"Bond, Ashley",Knoxville,TN,37909-3522
4/3/20,"Branstetter, Kevin",Applegate,CA,95703-0383
4/19/20,"Brodigan, Dee",Port Orchard,WA,98367
4/4/20,"Collins, Dac",White Salmon,WA,98672-8324
4/10/20,"Cottam, Daniel",North Salt Lake,UT,84054-3386
4/19/20,"Cox, Lora",Lake Forest Park,WA,98155-4345
4/19/20,"Crawford, Mariah",Bellingham,WA,98225-6827
4/2/20,"Crisp, Aidan",West Linn,OR,97068-5130
4/4/20,"Crisp, Aidan",West Linn,OR,97068-5130
4/3/20,"Crosswhite, E Shannon",Portland,OR,97213-4454
4/2/20,"Curtis, Mark",Silver Creek,WA,98585
5/27/20,"D'Agnolo, Sean",Deming,WA,98244
5/10/20,"Day, Brian",Hobart,WI,54155-9250
4/19/20,"deicator, jones",Boise,ID,83708
5/27/20,"Dufay, Jon",Snohomish,WA,98290-2224
4/20/20,"Duvall, Ethan",North Bend,WA,98045
4/20/20,"Dvornikova, Mariia",Issaquah,WA,98027-3177
5/15/20,"Elder, Chris",Deming,WA,98244
4/2/20,"Eller, Gerald",Bothell,WA,98011
4/19/20,"Elsbury, Steven",Bellingham,WA,98229
5/1/20,"EMERICK, BRIAN",Portland,OR,97239-2997
4/14/20,"Engerman, Sara",Westminster,VT,5158
4/23/20,"Evans, Kelly",Three Rivers,CA,93271-9515
4/13/20,"Everett, Will",North Salt Lake,UT,84054-6001
5/27/20,"Fink, Troy",Gilbert,AZ,85295
4/7/20,"Franco, Thomas",Portland,OR,97202-3197
4/13/20,"fretty, dana",Chicago,IL,60622
4/2/20,"Fryauf, Matthew",Hubbard,OR,97032
4/4/20,"Fullmer, Shawn",Durango,CO,81301-6635
4/2/20,"Goodwin, Matt",Bellingham,WA,98229-4163
4/3/20,"H, Kate",Athens,GA,30607
5/27/20,"Hampton, James",Issaquah,WA,98027-9087
4/22/20,"Harms, Michael",Index,WA,98256
5/14/20,"Harms, Michael",Index,WA,98256
5/27/20,"Hinde, Haykey",Saint Joseph,MO,64506-1933

5/27/20,"Hoffman, Ian",Seattle,WA,98133-8835
4/13/20,"Holder, Clara",Minneapolis,MN,55414
5/27/20,"House, Walt",Longmont,CO,80501-6917
4/13/20,"Howells, Trevor",Lake Mills,WI,53551
4/19/20,"Johns, Christopher",Seattle,WA,98103-7607
4/2/20,"Jones, Ed",Spokane,WA,99203-3838
4/9/20,"Jones, Dan",Covington,WA,98042-8273
4/18/20,"Jostad, Jeremy",Cheney,WA,99004-1426
4/5/20,"K, Don",Mercer Island,WA,98040
4/26/20,"Keahon, Christopher",Pearl River,NY,10965-1878
4/22/20,"Keeler, Roy",Annandale,VA,22003-2216
4/4/20,"kelly, john",Lake Forest Park,WA,98155-1704
4/19/20,"kelly, Megan",Bothell,WA,98011
4/8/20,"Konigsberg, David",Arvada,CO,80004
4/19/20,"Laitila, James",Auburn,WA,98092-1590
4/2/20,"Leh, Nolan",Bellingham,WA,98225-5446
5/27/20,"Leigh, Ariel",Seattle,WA,98103
5/27/20,"Lloyd Jr, James",Clarksville,TN,37040
5/7/20,"Lockridge-Mehetabel, Christopher",Albuquerque,NM,87120-7085
4/2/20,"Loeffler, Jonathan",Seattle,WA,98115-5810
4/17/20,"Lovell, Robert",Big Sky,MT,59716
5/27/20,"MacCallum, Katie",Peshastin,WA,98847
4/5/20,"Mallery, John",Murfreesboro,TN,37129
4/3/20,"Mast, William",White Salmon,WA,98672-8935
4/2/20,"Mastick, Ford",Santa Rosa,CA,95409-4175
4/8/20,"Mathews, James",Memphis,TN,38117-6414
5/1/20,"McAdams, Darby",White Salmon,WA,98672-0137
4/10/20,"Mcgraw, Sean",Vail,CO,81657
5/27/20,"Mckenna, Joseph",Cardiff By The Sea,CA,92007
4/26/20,"McMurray, Carson",Vashon,WA,98070-3607
4/6/20,"Meixner, Kirk",Hoboken,NJ,7030
4/9/20,"Metcalf, Joel",Spokane,WA,99204-3728
5/27/20,"Metheny, Chris",Chattanooga,TN,37415
5/27/20,"Metzger, Chelsea",Cary,NC,27513
4/7/20,"Meuth, Zack",Frankfort,KY,40601-1429
4/3/20,"Mitchell, Jack",South Lake Tahoe,CA,96150
4/21/20,"Murray, Elliott",Seattle,WA,98144-2207
4/2/20,"Nicholson, Eli",Portland,OR,97202-7227
4/19/20,"Nikirk, Neil",Lake Isabella,CA,93240

5/27/20,"Norman, Jesse",Brookfield,WI,53005
4/19/20,"o'connor, ryan",Knoxville,TN,37920-8915
4/6/20,"OKEEFFE, DANIEL",Tacoma,WA,98409-7346
5/27/20,"Paine, Katherine",College Station,TX,77845-5656
5/27/20,"Pettinger, Jesse",Albuquerque,NM,87111
4/13/20,"Powers, Margret",Milwaukee,WI,53211-4128
4/21/20,"Price, Benjamin",Post Falls,ID,83854-7620
4/13/20,"Primmer, Elias",Waterloo,WI,53594-9407
4/14/20,"Quandt, McKenna",Minneapolis,MN,55414
4/13/20,"Ren, Eli",Federal Way,WA,98003
5/27/20,"Rogers, Laurie",White Salmon,WA,98672-2129
4/19/20,"Romeo, Mike",Bozeman,MT,59718-3800
4/20/20,"Sambataro, Joe",Edmonds,WA,98020-3340
4/20/20,"Satzinger, Paul",Mount Vernon,WA,98274-5106
4/3/20,"Schoen, Rick",Fox Island,WA,98333
4/4/20,"Schuster, Philip",Long Island City,NY,11101
4/2/20,"Sepulveda, Rick",Glendale,OH,45246-4331
4/9/20,"Sheline, Chris",Portland,OR,97219-5246
4/2/20,"Sheridan, Mitchell",Portland,OR,97206-6847
4/5/20,"Sheridan, Mitchell",Portland,OR,97206
5/1/20,"Shimabuku, Morgan",Spokane,WA,99203-3650
4/14/20,"Skriver, Tannen",Madison,WI,53719
4/19/20,"Slack, Robert",Seattle,WA,98118
5/27/20,"Sosnowski, Raquel",Mount Vernon,WA,98274
4/3/20,"Staples, Seton",Kirkland,WA,98034
4/16/20,"Stoppe, Brenton",White Salmon,WA,98672-8345
4/3/20,"Subramanian, Rahul",Denver,CO,80228
4/19/20,"Tabor, Luke",Bellingham,WA,98229-7681
4/2/20,"Taylor, Bob",Granby,CT,06035-2121
4/13/20,"Venery, Bohdi",Bozeman,MT,59715
4/14/20,"Wallace, William",Lake Mills,WI,53551-9719
5/27/20,"Wasuta, Cody",Nevada City,CA,95959-2808
5/27/20,"Watts, Leila",Ogden,UT,84403
4/9/20,"Welch, James",Phoenix,OR,97535-7754
4/6/20,"wells, sam",Boise,ID,83706-4105
4/20/20,"West, Benjamin",Glenwood Springs,CO,81601-4053
5/27/20,"Zerba, Spencer",Missoula,MT,59802

American Whitewater Member and Supporter Individual Comments:

4/2/20 Allen, Tyler White Salmon WA 98672-0428

Dams aren't the answer. While flood control measures are understandable and necessary, the onus is on the individual to reconcile the risk of living in a flood-prone region and act accordingly without unduly affecting anadromous fish populations and the greater riparian ecosystem. As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/3/20 Almquist, Jon Seattle WA 98126

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. I've been kayaking Washington's rivers for over 35 years, and up until the recent land restrictions implemented by Weyerhaeuser, the many kayak 'runs' on the Chehalis River upstream of Pe Ell were some of my favorite rainy season / fall and winter paddling options. While the access restrictions are hopefully temporary, any form of dam would forever end paddling and other river recreation on this amazing and unique resource. In addition to kayaking, impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, and as noted above all recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and

unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/27/20 Anderson, Sara Seattle WA 98155

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. It is illogical that during a time of positive change in protecting animals, the environment, and recreational enjoyment, efforts counteracting this would be undergone. How much money is being spent currently to restore lands? And now money is being allocated to create this exact destruction elsewhere. I am opposed to the 'not in my backyard' mentality-- this earth should feel like the backyard of each individual, and opportunities for all to experience and enjoy it should be preserved. Not just those today, but future generations that are likewise negatively impacted by actions like this. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' If you do not partake in these activities, this loss may seem small. I assure you it isn't. This type of recreation benefits the health (mental, emotional, and physical) and happiness of countless individuals. It should not be ignored or diminished. The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. Please, please rethink your actions. Stop wasting hard earned money on foolhardy actions. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. We can be better! Bright minds should be utilized to achieve results that benefit all rather than the few. This proposed action is a microcosm of what's occurring globally. It is significant-- and I urge you to move in the right direction, and be on the right side of history, rather than plod on the path of those misguided souls that came before you.

4/19/20 Atkins, Brian Bellingham WA 98226-6866

Mr. White: As a whitewater boater and river advocate who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/9/20 Boyer, Megan Kamas UT 84036-1271

As a professional and recreational whitewater boater who enjoys the opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/3/20 brame, scott Clemson SC 29631-1951

I oppose the plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River and wish to enter my comments on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. As a whitewater paddler and fisherman who has enjoyed Washington's rivers, I see nothing good coming from this project. This proposal falls back on outdated modes of solving social problems that have been shown to

cause more problems than they solve. We should be taking down dams, NOT building more! The current dam proposal does not address flooding and salmon/steelhead declines in a holistic way. This proposal does not adequately acknowledge and account for the long term impacts from significant reductions in water quality, changes in sediment transport/deposition, changes in fish migrations and reproduction, modifications to riparian and floodplain habitat and the organisms that rely on this habitat. In short, the proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. As it states in the SEPA document, a new dam on the Chehalis River will result in a significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' This is unacceptable. The consensus among river ecologists is that dams are the single greatest cause of the decline of river ecosystems. There are better solutions. History has shown that rising flood costs, despite increased spending on flood protection, has forced the United States to rethink long-held flood management policies that focused on dams and other engineered structures. New approaches focus on integrated management of the watershed, river, and floodplain, and incorporates nonstructural strategies. I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

4/23/20 Brower, Paul EverettWA 98203-3458

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. I am also a fisherman and scuba diver and have seen the fish populations reduced significantly in the last several decades. With more people coming into the area and using these resources I believe we should be protecting the migrating fish habitat for the health of the rivers and Puget Sound and protecting river access for the recreation that draws people to this area. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/9/20 Calfee, Erin Davis CA 95618-5055

I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. It will not solve the issue of flooding

but it will reduce recreational whitewater access, water quality, and fish populations. Dams are an outdated solution to a complex problem of flooding, that would be better addressed with policies that assist current landowners, reduce new floodplain development, enhance natural floodplain capacity, and promote the public use of this healthy free-flowing river. I currently live in California, but kayakers have a way of crossing state borders, with boaters from Washington and Oregon traveling to paddle our granite slides and boaters from here traveling up to your beautiful forested rivers further north. Freely flowing rivers are rare gems across the West and a public resource that should be preserved for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

4/2/20 Carter, Ben Portland OR 97219

I have been a whitewater kayaker for over twenty years and I enjoy the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide. I am writing today to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost, at least for my lifetime. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately, the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/18/20 chopping, tammy Stockbridge GA 30281-1786

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address

either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. I like real solutions and good designs that address a multiple of issues, however THIS design seems negligible at best. Seems to me, for that kinda money, yawl could come up with a better plan...One that would keep the dwindling salmon migration at a maximum & to expand salmon populations,(ie fish ladder). Two, a series of low impact flood mitigation zones which not only allow for the FULL RESTORATION of taxpayer RECREATIONAL USE of the river, but tree,...mitigate ACTUAL flooding by giving the water somewhere to go for a short time in smaller pools that everybody might fill up come spring or storm. thank you.

5/3/20 Cieslewicz, Joseph Toquerville UT 84774-0485

I agree strongly with the statements below and would like to pointedly voice my concern of how such dams destroy the very places we love and strive to protect for future generations. From the rivers and canyons of the desert southwest to the deep wild places of China I've seen too many beloved places drown with a variety of adverse effects. I plead, DO NOT build this dam. We are the stewards of this land and have better tools at hand to protect and revive this river basin for a controlled and healthy watershed. As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know negatively affect the struggling salmon populations and further disrupt a environment.

4/2/20 Dent, Scott Bingen WA 98605-0445

The last thing that the wettest area of the country needs is more dams. Please stop constructing Dams. If the stupid corps of engineering wants work, have them take dams down. Or maybe they could repair some roads, bridges and infrastructure first. Thanks As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact

Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/6/20 Egan, Michael Charlotte NC 28277

Hello, I am a 15 year old from Charlotte, NC. Though I may be far away from this great river, I am saddened to hear that it may be dammed. For me, rivers are my outlet from the stress and hardships of everyday life. I love going kayaking, and every time I do it I am happy. Also, I enjoy fishing. When dams are built, wildlife suffers and so do all of the fisherman. With the United States being energy independent, there is no need to take away our, the citizens', river. Building a dam will A: hurt already suffering wildlife. B: Prevent paddlers from enjoying this river. And C: Hurt fisherman. Please stop this dam from ruining one of our nation's rivers.

5/27/20 Elkins, Paulette EverettWA 98204-9387

As a whitewater boater since 1975 who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/27/20 Good, Dylan Denver CO 80210-3435

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. With the number of runnable whitewater stretches in America already dwindling, we need to do our best to find alternative solutions that don't cause a permanent loss of fishing and boating opportunities. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/13/20 haley, aidan Tacoma WA 98407-6323

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. Rivers are the arteries of our planet. THEY DESERVE OUR PROTECTION. A healthy ecosystem promotes healthy people. Dams are not worth it.

5/14/20 Hollis, Katherine Seattle WA 98125

As an avid outdoor recreationist who understands and enjoys the role rivers play in our ecosystem and our recreation, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. We can do better. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/13/20 Hooker, Megan Bend OR 97701-8093

As someone who enjoys Washington's rivers, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/3/20 Hunter, Jim Issaquah WA 98027-0059

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in

the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. I would also like to add that from the research that I have read dam's have a lot of adverse long term affects on the environment that are more subtle than destroying native fish runs and destroying habitat. It has recently come to my attention that the river silt that is being held behind these dams used to help keep coast lines stable. I find it hard to believe that the state of Washington is even considering allowing as new dam to be constructed regardless of the reason. Very Sincerely Jim Hunter

4/2/20 Jackman, Jarred Camas WA 98607-1126

When I heard about the proposed dam on the Chehalis I couldn't help but laugh. Have we learned nothing from our mistakes of the past century? I realize that some dams provide so much that the environmental impacts might be worth the costs, the dams on the Columbia River come to mind. But damming a small river like the Chehalis, for nothing more than control of the flow of the water??? This is ludicrous. I realize there would be short-term economic gains, but the long-term environmental losses far outweigh those proposed gains. Please take this opportunity to speak out against this dam. Please take the time to find another solution to the issues you're trying to solve. We're ruining this world of ours quickly enough. We don't need to start adding dams to our list of mistakes. Thank you for your time and please, do not move forward with this dam project.

4/6/20 Jackson, Eric Canton MI 48187-3512

As a whitewater boater who has recently vacationed in Washington state, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The

proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/15/20 Kappeyne van de Coppello, Cypress Eugene OR 97405

I'm a whitewater kayaker who loves Washington's rivers. I'm commenting on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. We will lose access to some of Washington's best whitewater recreation. I agree with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' Additionally, the construction of a dam on the Chehalis River will decrease salmon habitat and overall river health. The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/27/20 Kriz, Austin Kirkland WA 98033

Hope all is well! As a whitewater boater residing in Seattle who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are devastating to the ecology and environmental wealth of the region.

5/27/20 Lacy, Mason Bend OR 97703

Please do what you can to avoid building a new dam on the Chehalis River. I like to think of Washington as a forward thinking state that relies on science and values natural places and processes, and building a dam such as what is proposed goes against everything the people of the PNW hold dear. The science has progressed to better understand the myriad negative impacts of these dams, and the limited benefits. Let's please not take a big step backwards. As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/13/20 Lensemire, Simon La Crosse WI 54601-3420

STOP ACTING ON YOUR OWN PERSONAL AGENDA OR THAT OF WHATEVER DONOR IS PAYING YOU. COMPASSION FOR OTHERS AND NATURE IS MORE IMPORTANT. As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/19/20 Marley, Kira Bellingham WA 98229-5032

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. My husband and I had the opportunity to paddle this section of river back in 2011. Since the road is closed to motor vehicles, we had to hike our raft 13 miles in on a hand-cart, including through a few road wash-outs. It was a grueling day, but the paddle made it all worth it. This section of river is stunning! Two beautiful canyons, each with their own unique features and set of quality whitewater rapids. This run would instantly be a classic if there were access. And even if the access remains closed, I believe there is immense value in the varied ecosystem of this section and the recreational opportunities for those paddlers who are willing to work a little harder for it. This is a quote from my trip report, 'And in the final stretch of river before Pe Ell, the Chehalis carves one of the most beautiful green mossy corridors I've ever seen. Floating through that hallway of waterfalls, soft emerald blankets of moss and great curtains of ivy hanging off the cliffs, I wanted that moment to last forever.' Please help protect this beautiful place. Thank you for your time and consideration.

4/4/20 McAllester, Devin Pasco WA 99301-8578

I am writing to express my opposition to a new dam on the Chehalis River, a project that is currently being analyzed by the Department of Ecology. I moved to Washington for a large part because of the wild and scenic rivers that would be in my backyard. I came from the Midwest, a flat (dare I say boring) section of country which long ago threw its natural resources under the bus. The rivers there almost all contain dams, which muddy the water and do little to prevent flooding. When I was in high school in Northern Illinois, I spent a lot of time paddling on the Des Plaines river. It was close to my house, and I liked to be on the water, but the river was not healthy. It was littered with low head dams, which made the water stagnant and murky. The dams were dangerous, and every year another unsuspecting paddler or fisherman drowned in the hydraulics. Furthermore, in the spring during heavy rains the river would still flood, inundating the surrounding houses. The dams only did harm, and provided no benefit to the

community. That's why by my senior year in high school the local land managers began taking down the dams. I still remember staring at the void left in the wake of one such dam removal, not knowing what to make of it. By the following summer however, it was obvious that it was the right thing to do. The water was clearer. I could see the bottom. I could see fish swimming! The experience seems pertinent to the decision you currently have to make: whether to build a new dam on the Chehalis River. As I saw on the Des Plaines, dams like this are bad. They ruin the natural beauty of a river, degrade water quality, and harm fish populations. I moved to Washington state to enjoy the rivers (specifically whitewater rivers) that it offers. Thousands and thousands of other people across the state also benefit from free flowing rivers. Rivers like the Chehalis serve the state's populous in a way that a dam never could. Please, I urge you, do not build this dam. Learn from the mistakes of others, who built dams like this and came to regret it. Keep the river wild.

4/2/20 Mcmillen, Sam Seattle WA 98118

As a whitewater boater, and avid fisherman, who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/29/20 Milliron, Craig Tacoma WA 98433

As a family of whitewater kayakers, we are writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. We oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River, as the benefits do not at all outweigh the risks. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of

kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/6/20 Morgan, chuck Bellevue WA 98008-5760

Govenor Inslee As a supporter of the environment As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a `significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/27/20 Murray, Audrey Shingletown CA 96088

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a `significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are damaging to fish and the environment.

4/19/20 Persons, Weston Bellingham WA 98229-5920

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. We must stop making the same mistakes.

5/15/20 Price, Heather Seattle WA 98115

As a whitewater boater, raised on the Olympic Peninsula, who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/7/20 Roberts-Pierel, Ben Corvallis OR 97330

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I very

strongly oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. We live in a time where many dams are being removed from rivers in the Northwest (e.g. Condit, Elwah and proposed plans in the Klamath basin) and therefore building a new dam in this era would not only send the wrong message, it is behind the times. It does not make sense to build large dams in the PNW anymore, that time has passed. As noted, comprehensive basin management plans involving multiple stakeholders should by all means be undertaken but large dam projects have passed their heyday. We have seen the long term ecological and recreational opportunities lost to large dam projects in the Northwest for decades now and a renewal of that approach is antiquated and illogical. Please consider pursuing other more reasonable (both cost wise and in terms of impacts) approaches before proceeding with this plan. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/15/20 Rurka, James Roanoke VA 24014-4239

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. Just remember dams have a permanent impact on rivers, it's like a bad tattoo. You feel its impact everyday.

4/13/20 Schultz, Nichole Minneapolis MN 55436

As a lover of the beauty and joy Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/1/20 Sperosen, Conrad Boulder CO 80306-8401

Hi Gordon, I love the PNW and I am a whitewater boater. I've made many memories with friends and family on scenic and wild rivers. My love of paddling stems from trips down uninterrupted stretches of flowing rapids, where nature is unencumbered from the sounds of man's technologies and the tonal dredging of greywashed cement structures. This beauty, while seemingly fleeting in these times, is priceless. I understand aesthetics have to be balanced with the needs of society. However this damn is a step in the wrong direction. It does not help to reduce flooding appropriately, it will damage ecology and, for people like it will only stop me from traveling to and recreating in Washington. As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/25/20 Sundby, Evan Rapid City SD 57702

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, and as an ecologist, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

4/22/20 Taylor, Cynthia Seattle WA 98115-3253

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. I live in Washington for the whitewater. 13 miles of Class III whitewater is a special, uncommon natural asset. I would be appalled if we were to lose this recreational whitewater stretch. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/22/20 Taylor, Justin Snohomish WA 98296-7992

Please don't damn the Chehalis River. Washington has enough hydroelectric and not enough nuclear power. Nuclear is the best carbon-free energy source for Washington's environment.

Nuclear does not forever ruin river ecosystems like hydro, displace desert species and end up producing tons of electrical waste in the form of dead solar panels, or kill thousands of raptors like wind. Yes, it has its issues, but I believe they are more easily innovated to resolve than renewables' fluctuating nature, which keeps us reliant on natural gas. PLEASE SAVE THE CHEHALIS for the sake of the ECOSYSTEM and us WASHINGTONIANS who cherish it.

4/13/20 Valade, Cassidy Minneapolis MN 55413

As a person who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. I also urge you to use the wealth of resources available and knowledgeable scientists, activists, and citizens use know the land. A thorough well-executed plan that minimizes costs, protects wildlife, and aids in human recreation, can be achieved. The answer is not through the plan to build the Chehalis River.

5/14/20 Wagenbach, Michael Seattle WA 98107

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' Additionally, I know the Quinault Nation is opposed to this dam. The wishes of traditional residents of the area to prevent further degradation of the habitat should be respected. The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address

either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment.

5/27/20 Wilder, Taylor Fredericksburg TX 78624

As a outdoor enthusiast who also works in the industry dependent on free flowing rivers, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. It is beyond important to protect these areas from being tampered with, leaving them in their most natural state is essential. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. While action must be taken, this is not a proposal that all will be able to accept. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. We have the opportunity to take strides in environmental protection while still being business forward. We must improve the solutions we seek for issues in the outdoor sector, or we risk losing these areas forever. Thank you for your time.

4/17/20 Woodworth, Eliza Bellingham WA 98225-6925

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed

approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. I know we have lots of issues these days and COVID-19 has been a magnifying glass for many of these issues. What it has shown us is that deep down what matters are basic human rights and clean healthy water is one of those. Lets learn from history and stop doing things that go against mother nature. Why do humans keep trying so hard to mess up a good thing. Rivers should be free and humans are clever enough to create intelligent harmonious solutions to energy production that doesn't harm nature and hurt recreation and sport all at once. Please do what is right and what you know you need to do. Say no to this dam, and sleep better at night knowing you helped stop this atrocity.

4/13/20 Younger, Katelyn Seattle WA 98144

As a whitewater boater who enjoys the recreational opportunities Washington's rivers provide, I am writing to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I oppose the current plan to build a dam on the upper Chehalis River. In addition to impacts on salmon habitat and overall river health that will be degraded with construction of a dam on the Chehalis River, recreational opportunities on the river will be lost. I concur with the analysis in the SEPA document that a new dam on the Chehalis River would result in a 'significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impact' to recreation with 'permanent loss of access to 14 miles of kayaking and 13 miles of recreational riverbank fishing.' The Chehalis River basin is clearly in need of a comprehensive strategy to address both heavy flooding and salmon and steelhead declines. Unfortunately the current dam proposal will not comprehensively address either problem. The proposed dam is not fiscally responsible, benefits too few, and has unacceptable impacts. I urge you to work towards solutions that do not rely on the failed approaches of the last century we know are bad for fish and bad for the environment. What about a fish habitat friendly dam? I think this whole project needs to be overhauled to take the environment into consideration. If this is implemented, fish populations will decrease. That will have a food chain effect and could even end up affecting WA's beautiful Orcas! Climate change is real. WA needs to be at the forefront of caring for the environment in this crazy time.