



Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@clallamcountywa.gov

MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
MIKE FRENCH, District 3

RICH SILL, County Administrator

April 18, 2023

Dungeness River Management Team
Hansi Hals, Chair

Dear Chair Hals and DRMT Members,

Thank you for your letter dated March 8 and the corrected letter dated April 4. We appreciate both DRMT's support for the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir project as well as support for our efforts to enhance the safety of the project.

As you know, the county has engaged experienced engineers to assist with the design of the project. While there will be multiple levels of permitting and many involved agencies, the Dam Safety Office (DSO) within the Department of Ecology will be most relevant to the seismic and other safety considerations. They already provide oversight for many hundreds of similar earthen dams throughout the state and have been actively participating and providing feedback on the reservoir design. Our engineers and those at the DSO have affirmed that the project will be built to the highest safety standard. Final approval of design and permit for construction will occur only when the DSO is satisfied that safety parameters meet their standards.

Based on the conversations we have had with downgradient neighbors and the concerns they have expressed, we are actively working with our engineering team to consider additional design improvements. The current 30% design has already seen significant changes in ways that we hope will build confidence in those with concerns; for example, the current design shows the reservoir moved approximately 1500 feet further south from the north property line as well as accommodating a greater portion of the water being held below-grade (as opposed to the preliminary design which showed all of the water being stored above-grade on the north end).

We are committed to continuing to work with the project engineers and DSO to ensure a safe project as well as to work with neighbors and other stakeholders to provide information, answer questions and solicit ideas and feedback that might further inform the project.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Ozias, Chair


Randy Johnson


Mike French