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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) Case 2020-1390

Description of Proposal: Grays Harbor County, acting in its capacity as Lead Entity of the Chehalis Basin Partnership, and acting under authority of RCW 90.82, proposes an update to the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan. The plan explicitly addresses future permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals over the next 20 years, the potential impacts of those forecasted withdrawals on streamflows, and strategies to offset those impacts.

Proponent: Mark Cox, Director of Utilities and Community Development
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Location of Proposal: Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 22 and 23 (Chehalis Basin), which cover portions of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, Mason, Pacific, Cowlitz, Jefferson, and Wahkiakum Counties.

Lead Agency: Grays Harbor County.

Environmental Documents on File:

Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc. (2020). Chehalis Watershed (WRIA 22/23) Response to 2018 Streamflow Restoration Law: Addendum to the Chehalis Watershed Management Plan —DRAFT.

Final EIS for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW, Department of Ecology Publication #03-06-013. In addition, the Partnership compiled all known water-related information about the geographic area, including reports from various agencies. A bibliography is included as a supplemental appendix to the Plan.

SEPA Environmental Checklist for the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan, April 9, 2004, DNS Issued.

Chehalis Basin Salmon Restoration and Preservation Strategy (Lead Entity Program) and Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Program, on which the Chehalis Basin Partnership based the Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) of the proposed projects to offset forecasted withdrawals on streamflows.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that the proposed project does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340; Grays Harbor County will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by: 4:30 p.m. on October 15, 2020.

for
Responsible Official: Mark Cox



Position/title: Director of Utilities and Community Development

Telephone: 360-249-4222.

Address: 100 W. Broadway Ave. #31, Montesano, WA 98563.

Date: October 1, 2020.

Appeals of this determination shall be made as set forth in the laws of the State of Washington RCW 43.21(C)