

Clallam County has made an application to FEMA for federal funds to build the reservoir on River Road. They are saying this project is Flood Diversion and Storage. And that “Managing floodwaters through diversion, storage, and infiltration also can replenish water supply aquifers through groundwater recharge, which can increase the baseflow and enhance usable water supply to mitigate the effects of drought.”

We are not sure where the Flood Waters enter the equation.

There are many statements in these documents that might be perceived as disingenuous by some community members.

There are many documents here. Many are support letters. It is safe to say that the community supports the concept of an off-site reservoir. Unfortunately, many, if not most, of the support letters are not aware of the design that is proposed.

The bottom line is that Climate is changing. but there are issues with the proposed design.

First, not a single neighbor has been involved in the design considerations. And when neighbors have asked to be at the table, they have been repeatedly refused.

Second, their documents state the design was crafted to be the least cost, safety and impact on the community were not considered other than as an afterthought.

Third, the reservoir is designed to hold over 500 million gallons of water, with much of it above ground level in a literal bowl of dirt and gravel.

Fourth, while they claim the water might be needed over a four-week period of August and September, the irrigators use half that amount in a four-week period and that is only if every irrigator keeps their sprayers on 24x7. One can only speculate this is an economic development project to provide irrigation for new homes in Sequim and certainly not a flood control project.

Fifth, the County has refused to consider a design that places more of the water below ground level so that the berm around the reservoir is lower. They say they

do not want to pump the water out. In fact, while pumps are expensive, it is a tiny fraction of the cost for this project.

And last, but not least, earthquakes are not given proper consideration. The Olympic Peninsula is presumed to be on track for “The Big One”. We are told (by the County) to keep a month’s supplies on hand, and we practice earthquake safety every year. There are faults documented by USGS present in the immediate vicinity of the proposed reservoir.

Please read these documents. We will try to organize these better so that the more relevant documents are near the top of the list.

- And that “2022 Cost-Benefit Analysis is an interesting, albeit long, document.