

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

April 13, 2022

Ms. Deanne Criswell
Office of the Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell,

I am writing to express my support for Clallam County's FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMAG) submission for the Dungeness Off-channel Reservoir Project.

The Off-channel Reservoir is an innovative and large infrastructure project that was developed to address water resource challenges due to climate change and freshwater demand in Clallam County, WA. Climate change projections for the Dungeness watershed indicate decreased snowpack with increased rain events and flooding. The Off-channel Reservoir will deliver a climate change resilient solution by storing early-season, high-flow water for use by irrigators during the late season as an alternative to river diversions in the late summer when flows are already low. This source switch will improve river flows up to 50 percent in drought years from August to September when irrigation demand is highest and ESA-listed Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout are returning to spawn in the Dungeness River. Additionally, the Off-channel Reservoir will include aquifer/groundwater recharge and will create a new County park that includes public water access.

Benefits from the Off-channel Reservoir project would also provide economic opportunity and relief to the surrounding communities, which include: 1) the creation of jobs to construct and maintain the infrastructure as well as jobs for the new County park; 2) a climate-resilient water supply that will enable the continuation of local agriculture and the livelihoods it supports that would otherwise be in danger due to climate change's threat to secure a late-summer freshwater supply; and 3) a resilient water supply for development resulting from aquifer recharge to groundwater and the streams. This project has been a coordinated project with many local partners including Clallam County, Dungeness Water Users Association (irrigators), Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Clallam Conservation District, the City of Sequim, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington Water Trust.

For these reasons, I urge your full and fair consideration of the Clallam County's FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMAG) submission for the Dungeness Off-channel Reservoir Project. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Katy Crabtree in my district office at katy.crabtree@mail.house.gov or 360-838-3156.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress