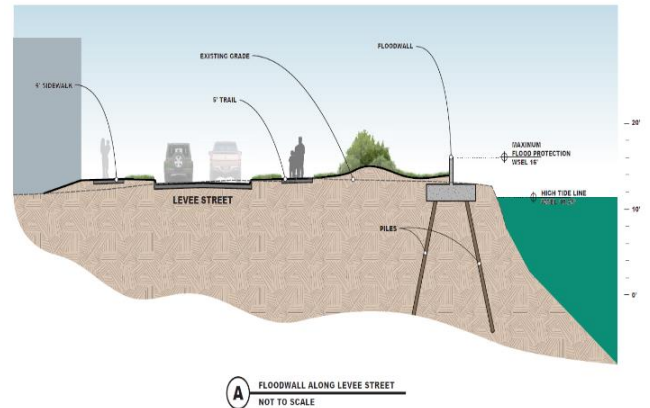


City of Hoquiam

Flood Risk Mitigation Project Fact Sheet

The City of Hoquiam has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) for a grant to construct the North Shore Levee West project (Project). Fiscal year 2020 funding would be provided through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, as authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018. The proposed project would construct up to 5.4 miles of earthen levees and concrete floodwalls around West Hoquiam to reduce riverine and coastal flooding.



What is the Purpose of the Project?

The purpose of this proposed project is to reduce flood damage in west Hoquiam. Flooding in the area has worsened over the years and west Hoquiam has flooded once a year for the past 10 years and during every king tide. With sea level rise, flooding is expected to increase in depth, frequency, and duration. West Hoquiam encompasses the central business district, residential areas, and critical services and infrastructure. Flooding impacts people and businesses directly by damaging homes and buildings, and impacts access to schools, government and tribal offices, and health services.

What is the Project?

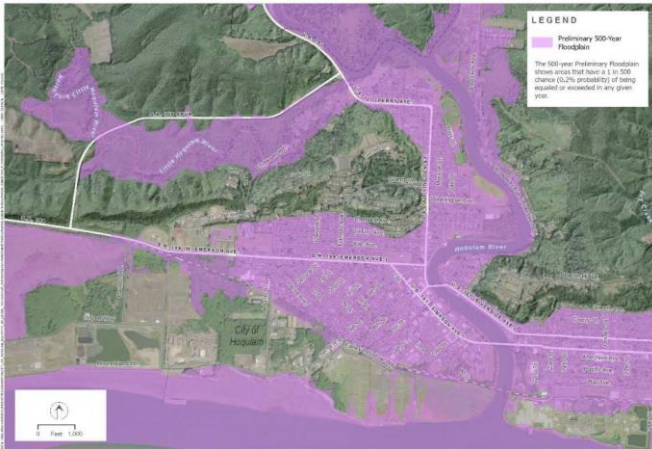
The City of Hoquiam is proposing to construct the North Shore Levee West project that would include approximately 5.4 miles of new levees on the west side of the Hoquiam River that connect areas of higher ground for a total project length of 5.7 miles. The proposed project would be designed to provide protection in a 500-year event to 2,000 properties, 360 businesses, and critical infrastructure (including schools, government offices, emergency services, and health services) in West Hoquiam.

The proposed levee would start at high ground near the intersection of Endresen Road and Highway 101. It would follow the west bank of the Hoquiam River towards Grays Harbor where it would turn west and follow the shoreline above the high tide line to the Hoquiam Wastewater Treatment Plant. From the plant, the levee would turn north, ending at high ground near the intersection of Paulson Road and State Route 109.

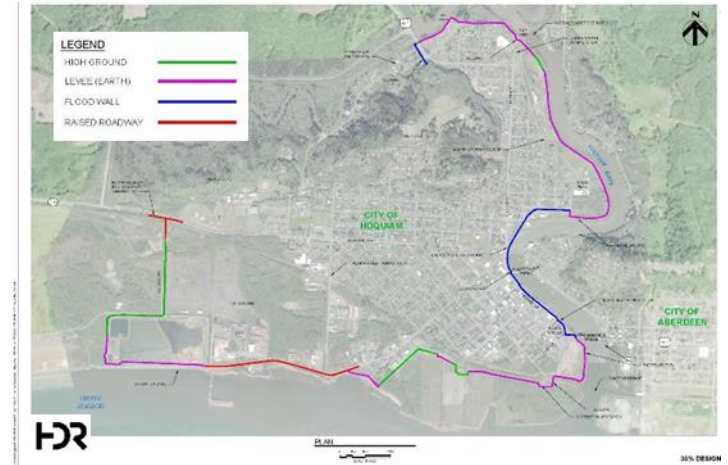


FEMA





Area Flooded During 500-year Event



Proposed Action

Key Project Features

- The proposed levee would include a combination of earthen levees, decorative concrete walls, raised roadways, and existing high ground.
- The levee would range in height from approximately 5 feet above the existing ground surface to less than 1 foot.
- The levee would provide protection from a 500-year event with approximately 1.5 feet of freeboard (additional height for protection from overtopping by waves).
- Openings would be provided for road crossings, boat launches, and shoreline access that would be closed with flood gates or stop logs in the event of a flood.
- Earthen levee segments would be much wider than concrete wall segments because the sides must be sloped for stability.

What is the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Review?

FEMA is required by law to ensure that all projects that they fund comply with environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. During the review process, FEMA evaluates the potential impacts of the project on the human and natural environment. FEMA may prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that describes environmental impacts of project alternatives and assesses whether the project requires further in-depth analysis. An EA would describe the existing environment, explain the environmental effects of the project and alternative actions, and identify mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts on the human or natural environment. The environmental review process may find that the project does not significantly impact the environment, or that it may require more detailed analysis through preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The environmental document would be prepared per Department of Homeland Security Instruction 023-01-001-01 and FEMA Instruction 108-01-1.

Alternatives Considered

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider a range of reasonable alternatives to address the purpose and need for the proposed project be evaluated. Two alternatives are currently being evaluated – the no action alternative and the proposed action. FEMA is requesting input on other potential methods to address the purpose and need for the project.

The no action alternative is included as a comparison with the proposed action (i.e., the Project described above). The no action alternative would be the future condition if no action is taken to reduce flood hazards in West Hoquiam. Under this alternative, existing conditions would remain the same, including increased flood frequency, duration, and depth, with the associated potential for loss of life and property damage.

Potential Issues and Impacts

FEMA is requesting input on potential issues and impacts of the proposed levee. Some potential issues are listed here, and you are encouraged to share your thoughts and concerns with FEMA as described below.

- Raised road segments may require roads to be closed during construction.
- The levee may impact wetlands and compensatory mitigation would need to be provided.
- Higher levee segments may block views or access to the river.
- If there are too many openings in the levee, City staff may not be able to close all of them quickly in the event of a flood. If there are too few openings in the levee, shoreline access may be restricted.
- Earthen levee segments could be 30 to 40 feet wide and would require annual mowing to prevent trees from becoming established.
- Construction would create noise, increase truck traffic around the construction area, and may require some detours or traffic delays in some locations.

Opportunities for Public Comment

The public will have multiple opportunities to provide comments on the proposed project. The first occurs during this scoping phase, where the public is invited to comment on the scope of the environmental analysis, the proposed action, potential alternatives, and key issues to consider in the analysis. A public open house will be held on June 22, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Hoquiam City Hall, 609 8th Street, Hoquiam, WA 98550. Comments may be provided at the open house, in writing via email to fema-r10-ehp-comments@fema.dhs.gov, or in a virtual meeting space at <https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/35ze40451An>. The virtual open house will be available until the comment period ends; **comments must be received by July 22, 2022.**

At a future date, the public will be invited to provide input on the information and analyses in the draft environmental document.

For more information about the project, contact:

Brian Shay, City Administrator, City of Hoquiam, BShay@cityofhoquiam.com