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Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476

11404 Moorage Way

LaConner, Washington 98257-0817

Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt
Commissioner Sharon Dillon
Commission Ron Wesen
County Commissioners Office.
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

January 13, 2010

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my resignation from the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee (AC) and the Environmental Technical Committee. From the very beginning of this process, the Tribe explained that our support for individual flood damage reduction elements would be based on the result of a cumulative effects analysis that would consider many flood reduction actions together and their associated environmental consequences. We believed that the General Investigation Study (GI) would provide for such an analysis, and that the adoption of individual flood reduction elements prior to its conclusion would be premature. However, the AC has moved forward and developed recommended action items without any analysis of the environmental consequences nor the level of flood damage reduction that would be achieved. Further, despite having spent a considerable amount of time developing criteria through which project elements would be filtered for review, these criteria were by and large ignored.

We therefore believe that based on the approach that the committee has taken, and the limited means that we have to invest in protection and restoration of critical natural resources, it is our best interest to withdraw from this committee. We intend to work closely with the Corps as the GI proceeds, and will take every opportunity to comment during the permit periods when individual projects come up for review or when a final GI document is available for review. . I am of course very happy to meet with you at any time to discuss matters of flood damage reduction, or on other natural resources issues.

Thank you very much

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Wasserman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Larry Wasserman
Environmental Policy Manager