



## Local Project Success Stories

*A periodic series on flood hazard reduction success throughout the Chehalis river basin.*

### NEWS RELEASE

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### Chehalis-Centralia Airport Pump Project

#### **Chehalis basin benefits from the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority funded airport pump project.**

Since 2012 the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority has sponsored a "local projects" funding program to help local basin communities reduce flood hazards posed by Chehalis river flooding.

The Chehalis-Centralia Airport was one of many casualties as a result of the December 2007 flood. Failure of the 1940's WWII era pump necessitated a breaching of the airport levee and further added to the catastrophic impact and delayed recovery from the 2007 event.

Today the situation is much better. Thanks to a "local projects" grant from the Flood Authority, the airport, like many other communities across the Basin helped by Flood Authority grants, is much more flood-ready and flood resilient. When the airport is protected the whole basin benefits.

The purpose of the Airport Pump Project was to replace an aged WWII-era levee pump station located inside the levee at the northeast corner of the airport with a new modernized and flood-proofed redundant pump station with back-up generator and substantially greater pumping power. The new pump station has two new electric pumps capable of pumping 10,000 to 12,000 gallons per minute, a new generator capable of supplying electricity to the pump station in the event the local electrical grid should fail, and auxiliary back-up pump capacity.

The new pump station protects the airport, commercial facilities, businesses, bike and jogging trail, and associated airport infrastructure, including roads, utilities, runway, etc. The new pump station is essential to maintaining the operational capability of the airport, especially during times of flood and other natural disaster emergencies.

According to a recent economic impact study conducted by the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Chehalis-Centralia Airport contributes 1,658 jobs, \$68,050,000 in labor income, and \$186,473,000 in business revenue annually to the state and local economy. This translates to \$1,267,630 in local tax revenue, \$7,839,860 in state tax revenue, and \$9,107,490 in total tax revenue. Read more [here](#).

Said airport manager Brandon Rakes, "With funds from the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, the airport has been able to maintain itself as a central community asset in the basin." Rakes further adds, "The bang-for-the-buck generated by the state's investment in the airport pump project is incredible. For the \$1.14M spent by the state, nearly \$45M in asset are protected which in turn generate \$9M in tax revenue annually. This is an incredible investment for state taxpayers."

For more information email [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

Cost	\$1,146,000
Start	10/01/2015
End	1/03/2018
Days to Complete	825 (2 years, 3 months)
Value Protected / ROI	\$44,856,300 / 39 to 1
Future Damage Avoided (Per Event) / ROI	\$1,000,000 / 1 to 1

**Before:**



**After:**



**Airport:**



**Location:**

