



Announcement

October 20, 2014

TO: Chehalis Basin Governments
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: Flood Proofing Opportunities

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority would like to call your attention to two important upcoming opportunities to help Basin homeowners with local flood proofing needs.

Opportunity #1 **Foundation Vent Retrofits**

It has come to the Flood Authority's attention that there are likely many instances of improperly installed foundation flood vents on homes and structures throughout the Basin. Improperly installed vents create a substantial additional flood hazard for homeowners, as well can result in substantially higher flood insurance rates. The Flood Authority wishes to remedy this situation as soon as possible and do so through utilization of grant monies it has available to retrofit improperly installed foundation flood vents. See Attachment A for examples of properly and improperly installed vents.

Basin governments interested in retrofitting improperly installed foundation flood vents should provide the Flood Authority with an estimate of the number of homes and structures in their communities needing foundation flood vent retrofitting. Estimates are due to Scott Boettcher (contact information below) no later than 5:00 p.m., November 7, 2014. The Flood Authority will review and discuss all estimates received at their November 13, 2014 regular meeting and decide on an appropriate course of action based on the number and scale of estimates received. Grant awards will be made to Basin governments in the December 2014 and January 2015 timeframe.

Schedule:

- 10/20/2014 -- Request to Basin governments for estimates of the number of homes and structures needing flood vent retrofitting.
- 11/07/2014 -- Estimates due by email to Scott Boettcher.
- 11/13/2014 -- Review and discussion by Flood Authority of estimates received.
- 12/2014 and 1/2015 -- Grant award to Basin governments.
- 1/2015 and 2/2015 -- Contracts in place to do flood vent retrofits.
- 6/30/2015 -- Flood vent retrofits complete.

Contact/Questions:

Scott Boettcher, 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com.



Opportunity #2 **Local Area Analysis for Home Elevations**

The Flood Authority is aware that many residential structures in the Basin would likely benefit from being elevated to a height above known flood levels. The Flood Authority has grant funds available for such purposes (home elevations and flood proofing treatments) and through this announcement is soliciting interest from Basin Governments willing to work with the Flood Authority to pilot a local area analysis process as a precursor to home elevations.

A local area analysis requires a Basin government to conduct an assessment of one or more of their loss areas, where the greatest risk and loss potentials are and to develop a mini-plan for reducing flood losses, such as through home elevations, buyouts, and other flood proofing applications. More information about loss areas (and in particular repetitive loss areas under FEMA) can be found in French and Associates' October 12, 2014 "Chehalis River Basin Repetitive Flood Loss Strategy" which was distributed to all community contacts on October 11, 2014.

A local area analysis follows in general a five step process that can also receive credit under the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS). The five steps are:

1. Advise all property owners of the analysis.
2. Contact agencies that may have plans or activities that impact flooding in the area.
3. Collect and analyze insurance and windshield survey data on each building in the area.
4. Review alternative approaches to reduce flood losses.
5. Document the findings in a report (usually 20 – 30 pages long for each local area).

The draft reports are provided to the property owners for comment. For CRS credit, the final report is submitted to the city council or board of county commissioners for adoption. CRS credit is not required, but the CRS process has proven very useful for determining appropriate ways to protect individual flood prone buildings.

The Flood Authority will provide assistance to the pilot communities, including preparation of the report(s).

Basin governments interested in working with the Flood Authority to pilot a local area analysis process should indicate their interest to Scott Boettcher (contact information below) by no later than 5:00 p.m., November 7, 2014. The Flood Authority will review and discuss all statements of interests received at their November 13, 2014 regular meeting and decide on an appropriate course of action based on that discussion. [**Note:** Grant awards will be made to Basin governments for home elevations and other flood proofing applications at a later date following completion of the local area analyses.]

Schedule:

- 10/20/2014 -- Request to Basin governments for statements of interest to work with the Flood Authority to pilot a local area analysis process.
- 11/07/2014 -- Statements of interest due by email to Scott Boettcher.
- 11/13/2014 -- Review and discussion by Flood Authority of statements of interest received.
- 12/2014 through 6/2015 -- Conduct local pilots and prioritize home elevations and other flood proofing treatments.

Contact/Questions:

Scott Boettcher, 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com.

Attachment A
Foundation Flood Vents (Examples of Proper, Improper, Damage, Retrofit)

1. Example of Properly Installed (placed within 12" of ground to enable early flood flow through):



2. Example of Improperly Installed (placed too high to provide early flood flow through and foundation drainage):



3. Example of Resultant Damage (flood pressures without flow through relief compromise elevation foundations):



4. Example of Completed Retrofit (foundation has both air and flood vents now):

