

Scott Boettcher, *Principal*

SBGH-Partners, LLC

“ . . . achieving success through sound environmental decision-making . . . ”

February 5, 2024

TO: Vickie Raines
FROM: Scott Boettcher
SUBJECT: Connor Creek Update

Following is intended to provide a brief update on Connor Creek Flooding Project for you to share with others as discussed. Please feel free to call or email with questions (scottb@sbgh-partners.com, 360/480-6600).

A. Activities To Date (9/01/2023 to present)

1. Held two in-person **community meetings** (with Zoom option) at Ocean Shores Outdoor Recreation Club, and one in-person **community site-visit** (Attachment A).
2. Met with key people to identify **core issues** (Attachment A).
3. Collected and reviewed past **information** (studies, plans, photos, tide histories, etc.).
4. Generated **next steps ideas** and **possible solutions**.
 - ✓ Develop **master drainage plan** for Connor Creek watershed.
 - ✓ Consider formation of formal **drainage district**.
 - ✓ Ensure **first responders** are adequately equipped.
 - ✓ Install **flood warning** and gaging infrastructure.
 - ✓ **Update** GHC's 1999 [North Beach Flood Hazard Reduction Plan](#).

B. Key Issues

1. Connor Creek flooding is a **chronic, complex, and historically unaddressed** flooding issue adversely affecting residents, visitors, businesses, emergency responders, and the very future of North Beach.
2. **High tides** and **King tides** substantially enhance Connor Creek flooding (and inhibit drainage).
 - ✓ Five “King Tide” events (10.4 ft and greater) since 9/28/2023 community meeting.
 - ✓ Two additional “Tides of Concern” events (9.5 ft and greater).
 - ✓ Seven events totaling 75 days since 9/28/2023 community meeting (62% of days)!
 - ✓ 8% of all tides annually are 9.5 ft and greater (Westport Station).

C. Next Steps

Work with **Community Implementation Group** to scope immediate and longer-term planning focus, solutions, costs, and next steps for upcoming 3/21/2024 Community Meeting.

Attachment A – Meetings/Conversations

Date	Who	Core Issues
9/28/2024	Community Meeting #1 – Ocean Shores Outdoor Recreation Club	
10/05/2023	Luke Crooks (OSORC)	Drainage/Conveyance
10/16/2023	Chris Talevich, Kyle Scott (GH County Utilities)	Infrastructure (protection/access)
10/16/2023	Mike Wichers (Homeowner)	Drainage/Conveyance
10/16/2023	Vladimir Shepsis (Applied Ocean Energy Co.)	Past Planning/Studies (coastal geomorphology)
10/16/2023	Stan Sturgeon (Sturgeon Trailer Harbor)	Drainage/Conveyance
11/15/2023	Bill Scott, Tricia Sorenson (WSDOT Maintenance)	Drainage/Conveyance, SR109 (travel, maintenance)
11/21/2023	Brandon Carman, Amy Spoon (WDFW)	Drainage/Conveyance
12/01/2023	Lynette Buffington (Greater Grays Harbor)	North Beach Future
12/06/2023	Jim Weber (OSORC, Drone enthusiast)	Documentation (flooding pictures/drone)
12/07/2023	Matt Reichenberger (GH Drainage District 1)	Drainage/Conveyance (managing, operating drainage district)
12/08/2023	Stan Sturgeon (Sturgeon Trailer Harbor)	Drainage/Conveyance
12/13/2023	Chief Stephanie Selin (GHFD#7)	Emergency Response
12/13/2023	Lisa McElliot (Pacific Beach Business Owner)	SR109 (travel)
12/21/2023	Stephen Poulakos (Seabrook)	North Beach Future, Past Planning/Studies
12/26/2023	LJ Robinson (Kiewit Project Manager)	SR109 (Summer 2024 fish passage projects)
1/10/2024	Mike Nordin (Grays Harbor Conservation District)	Drainage/Conveyance
1/17/2024	Vicki Cummings (Grays Harbor Council of Governments)	North Beach Future, Past Planning/Studies
1/18/2024	Community Meeting #2 – Ocean Shores Outdoor Recreation Club	
1/24/2024	Property Owners	Drainage Location #1 Site Visit

* Additionally, several site visits to observe High tide and King tide events have occurred.

** Presentation from Community Meeting #2 is available [here](#).

Attachment B – Chronic, Regular, Predictable Flooding



← SR109
1-03-2021

Sturgeon
Trailer Harbor
1-07-2022 →



OSORC
12-28-2022 →



← OSORC
1-05-2021

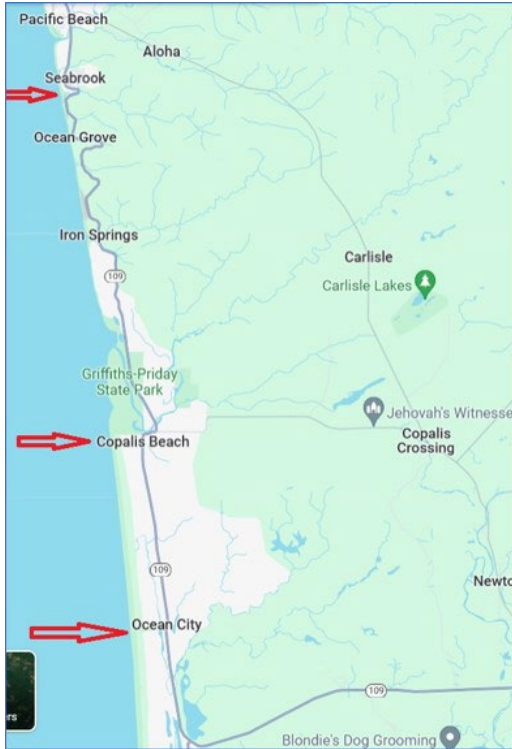
Sturgeon
Trailer Harbor
1-07-2022 →



Sturgeon
Trailer Harbor
1-13-2023 →



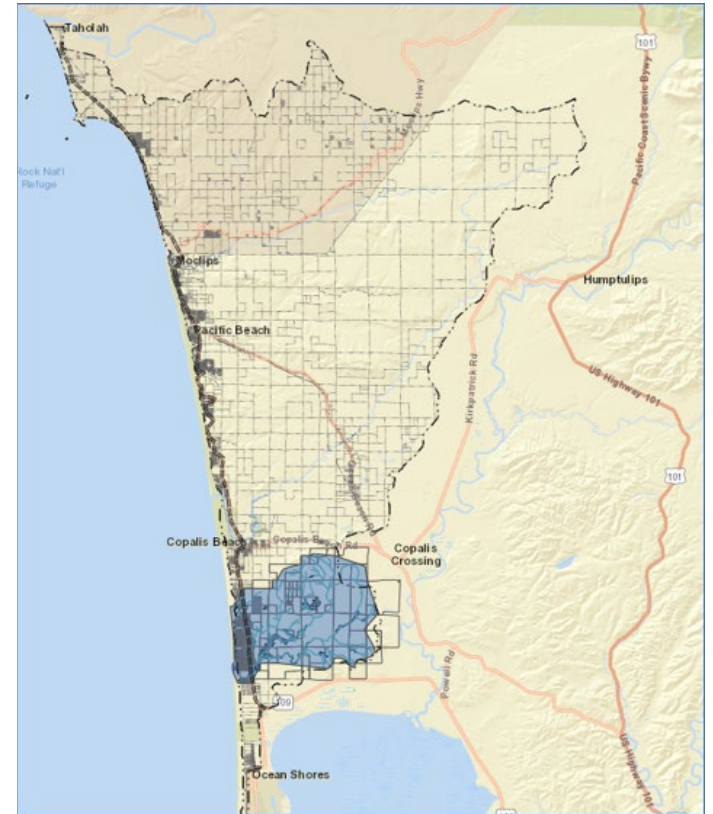
Attachment B – Chronic, Regular, Predictable Flooding (cont.)



Known SR109 Problem Flood Areas



Grays Harbor County Utilities Department
Water Well, 1-07-2022



North Beach
Area Affected By Connor Creek Flooding