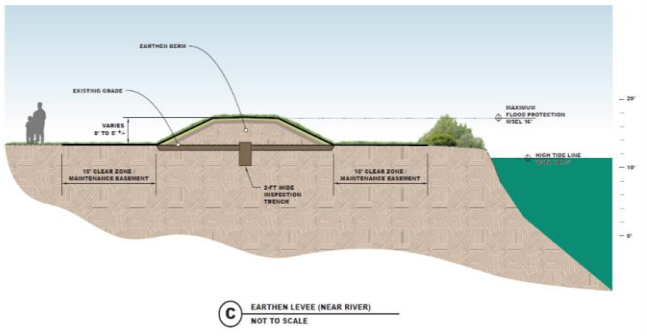
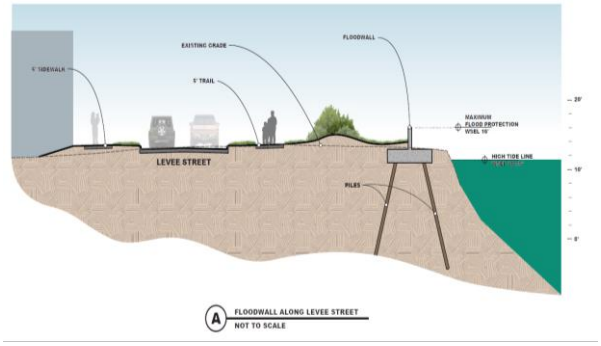
City of Hoquiam
Flood Risk Mitigation Project Fact Sheet

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 or Proposed Action). 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 5.5 miles of earthen levees, floodwalls, and raised road around west Hoquiam to reduce riverine and coastal flooding.





What is the Purpose of the Project?

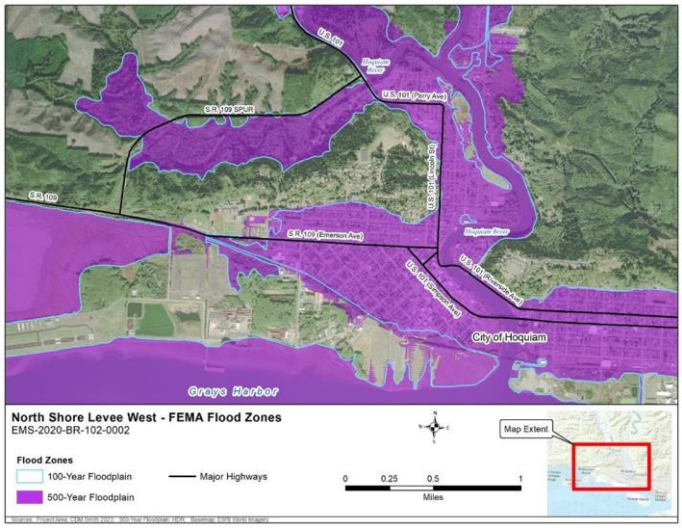
The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce riverine and coastal flooding and flood damage throughout west Hoquiam, including the business district, critical infrastructure, and residences. An existing levee in the City is compromised, the levee's integrity has been substantially diminished and degraded by severe flood events over the past 85 years and it no longer protects Hoquiam from river flooding. With sea level rise, flooding is expected to increase in depth, frequency, and duration. The proposed levee is designed to reduce flood risk in the downtown business district, reduce flood risk to critical infrastructure and residences in west Hoquiam from the 500-year flood, and improve community economic and social flood hazard resilience.

What is the Project?

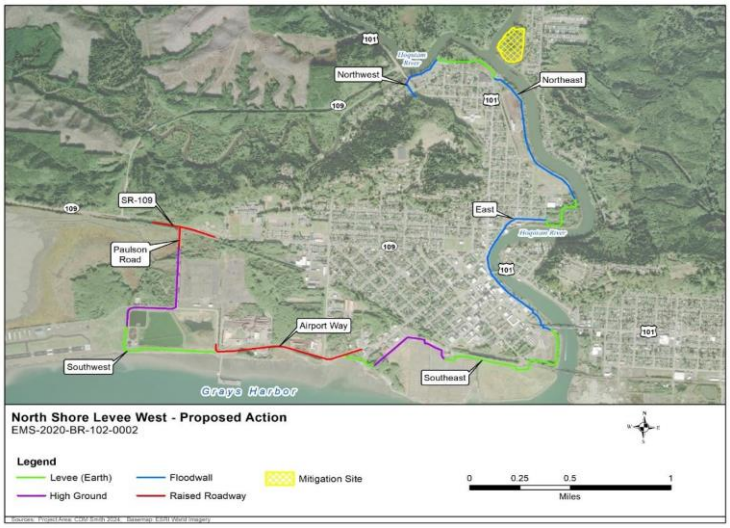
The City would construct the 6.6-mile North Shore Levee West project to include approximately 5.5 miles of new levee, floodwalls, and raised road around the western side of Hoquiam that would connect with approximately 1.1 miles of existing higher ground. The proposed project would be designed to reduce risks from a 500-year flood at approximately 2,000 properties, 360 businesses, and critical infrastructure (including schools, city hall, the police department, fire station, and social security office) in west Hoquiam.

FEMA

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.



100- and 500-Year Floodplains



Proposed Action

Key Project Features

- The proposed levee would include a combination of earthen levees, concrete walls, raised roadways, and existing high ground.
- The levee would range in height from approximately 2 to 5 feet above the existing ground surface.
- The levee would reduce risks from a 500-year flood event.
- The floodwall portions of the levee would be constructed on foundations capable of supporting an additional 2-foot increase in height over the projected 50-year lifespan of the levee. Earthen berms could also be raised an additional 2 feet with fill if widened to one side.
- Openings would be provided for road crossings, railroad tracks, driveways, and paths and to provide access across railroad tracks, and to the water and sidewalks. Closure types would include stoplogs, swing gates, rolling gates, and trolley gates.

What is the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Review?

FEMA is required to ensure that all projects that they fund comply with environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. During the review process, FEMA evaluated the potential impacts of the project on the human and natural environment. FEMA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which describes environmental impacts of project alternatives and assesses whether the project requires further in-depth analysis. The draft EA describes the existing environment, explains the environmental effects of the project and alternative

actions, and identifies mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts on the human or natural environment. The draft EA was 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 were evaluated: the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action.

The No Action alternative is included as a comparison with the Proposed Action (i.e., the Project described above). The No Action alternative describes 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 Impacts

The environmental review process found that the Proposed Action would result in short-term, construction-related, negligible-to-minor adverse impacts on most resources and moderate-to-major localized adverse impacts related to noise and vibration. The use of pile drivers to install the floodwall foundations would result in short-term adverse impacts during construction, particularly on parcels close to the alignment. The transport of soil and other materials for earthen levee segments would require multiple truck trips throughout the duration of construction that could adversely impact local transportation networks.

The Proposed Action would result in long-term minor adverse impacts on topography, visual quality and aesthetics, vegetation, wildlife, fish, and threatened and endangered species. The creation of high-quality wetlands would provide long-term benefits. Based on hydraulic modeling, the Proposed Action would result in some parcels experiencing slight increases in flood risk (107 parcels); none of the currently developed parcels would experience modeled increases greater than 6 inches. Up to five parcels may be added to Zone X-shaded (areas of moderate flood hazards) where the average depth of the 1 percent annual chance floodplain is less than 1 foot. However, the construction of the proposed levee would remove approximately 91 percent of the parcels from the regulated floodplain (1,765 parcels) (following accreditation and LOMR review processes) providing long-term benefits from reduced flood risks and potentially reduced flood insurance costs.

See the draft EA for a complete description of potential short, long, and cumulative impacts.

Opportunities for Public Comment

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the draft EA including the alternatives, purpose and need, and the potential impacts.

The draft EA will be available on FEMA's website at https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa/environmental-assessment-north-shore-0. The Draft EA is also available on the project website at https://www.ezview.wa.gov/?alias=1997&pageid=37701.

Hard copies of the draft EA may be viewed at the Hoquiam Library, 420 - 7th Street, and in the Building Department, on the second floor of the Hoquiam City Hall, 609 - 8th Street, Hoquiam, WA.

Comments may be mailed to FEMA Region X, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021 or submitted via email to fema-r10-ehp-comments@fema.dhs.gov. Please include "Hoquiam North Shore Levee West" in your subject line.

Comments must be received by January 22, 2025.

For more information about the project, contact:

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