



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

February 27, 2023

Subject: Letter of Support for Lower Big Quilcene Riverscape Restoration Project

To: Office of the Secretary of Transportation, DOT

Re: FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

Dear RAISE grant program staff,

The commissioners of Jefferson County are writing this letter to voice our strong support for the Lower Big Quilcene Riverscape Restoration Project. This project will comprehensively address impacts to transportation infrastructure in the town of Quilcene, WA caused by the frequent flooding of the Big Quilcene River.

Currently, roadways within close proximity to the lower Big Quilcene River are regularly inundated by floodwaters and made impassible to vehicle traffic. This issue is especially pronounced on Linger Longer Road, which is the only access route to the residential neighborhoods, public marina, and shellfish hatchery located south of the river. Flooding now prevents county residents from reaching their homes and workplace, and blocks emergency vehicle access.

The Lower Big Quilcene Riverscape Restoration Project will eliminate these serious transportation issues by:

- Replacing aging and dysfunctional infrastructure with a modern 1,040-foot floodplain spanning bridge
- Removing levees from the north bank of the Big Quilcene River. This will permanently stop flooding south of the river, and restore functional fish and wildlife habitat

Addressing impacts to transportation infrastructure caused by flooding is vital to preserving the functionality and safety of our communities. The benefits that this project would provide for both the wellbeing of Jefferson County citizens, and several imperiled stocks of salmon are greatly needed.

Thank you for considering this project for funding.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Commissioner Commissioners

Kate Dean, District No. 1

Heidi Eisenhour, District No. 2

Greg Brotherton, Chair, District No. 3