



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 19, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

### **To: People interested in the Wallacut Confluence Estuary Restoration Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) to conduct restoration actions along property to the south of the Wallacut River at its confluence with the Columbia River. BPA requested public input on the proposal in March 2016 and received a number of comments from neighbors concerned about potential flood risks.

This letter briefly describes the proposal and the hydraulic study that was done to model water movement and invites you to an upcoming public meeting to discuss those findings and answer any further questions.

**Project Description** – The project would involve removal of a partially functioning levee on a 113-acre property owned by CLT. In addition, the project would include removal of some ditches, excavation of channels, invasive plant species control, and planting of native vegetation on the property. The proposal would not modify or affect the flood protection infrastructure that protects the Vandalia neighborhood which includes the existing levee along Stringtown Road and tidegates at the intersection of the Wallacut River and Stringtown Road.

To better understand potential changes to surface and ground water movements with the proposal, hydraulic modeling, documented in the Basis of Design Report, was conducted for the project area. The models compare existing site conditions to those if the proposed project were to be constructed.

Findings from the hydraulic modeling show that the removal of the farm levee on the CLT property would not increase the potential of overtopping Stringtown Road or impair the function of the Wallacut River tidegates. The project would increase high tide water depth within the interior of the CLT property itself, but would not increase water in the ditch along Stringtown Road or against the Wallacut River tidegates. The modeling also shows that changes to ground water within the Vandalia neighborhood would not occur due to the relatively small increase in high tide elevation and the short durations of the high tide events.

The Pacific County Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the Stringtown Road levee and the Wallacut River tidegates; the Department's engineer has reviewed the project modeling and design and agrees with the conclusion that the project is not expected to impact either the Stringtown Road levee or the Wallacut River tidegates. The Basis of Design Report containing the hydraulic modeling is available on the BPA project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/WallacutRiverConfluenceEstuary](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/WallacutRiverConfluenceEstuary).

**Public Meeting** - We have scheduled an informal, open-house meeting to discuss the hydraulic findings on the Wallacut project and to answer any questions.

**August 4, 2016  
6:00-8:00pm  
Ilwaco Community Building  
158 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N  
Ilwaco, WA 98624**

**For More Information** - If you have any questions about the environmental analysis process for the project, please contact me at [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov) or 503-230-4764. If you have any questions about the engineering, design, or construction plans for the project, please contact Ian Sinks, CLT Stewardship Director, at [isinks@columbialandtrust.org](mailto:isinks@columbialandtrust.org) or 360-696-0131.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dave Goodman*

Dave Goodman  
Environmental Protection Specialist