

## Corps holds Shoalwater Bay shoreline erosion project public meeting on March 29

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SEATTLE – The Shoalwater Bay shoreline erosion project, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project that will provide erosion protection for the tribal reservation of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe on Willapa Bay, is the topic for the March 29 public meeting.

The meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Shoalwater Administration Building meeting room, located at 2373 Tokeland Road, Tokeland, Wash.

During the meeting, the Corps will describe the findings and conclusions of the study and explain the alternative plan that has been formulated to address identified problems and opportunities.

"Barrier dune restoration with flood berm extension has been determined to be the most appropriate long-term solution to the shoreline erosion and coastal storm damage problems affecting the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation," said Steven Babcock, project manager.

The initial construction cost is estimated to be \$12.2 million, with an annualized cost of \$1.2 million.

"This is a cost-effective means of providing coastal erosion protection, is environmentally acceptable, and is technically feasible. By reducing shoreline erosion and related coastal storm damage problems, the plan will also improve the economic and social conditions of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe," said Babcock.

The alternative will protect tribal uplands from storm-related shoreline erosion and flooding, as well as prevent further degradation of the 700-acre North Cove embayment subsistence intertidal habitat.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project.

Representatives from the Corps' Seattle District office and the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council will participate in the meeting.

The Corps' draft decision document is available on the Corps' public website at [http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc\\_table.cfm](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc_table.cfm). Look for "Shoalwater Bay Erosion Project" in recent documents. The public comment period on the draft

decision document ends on April 6, 2007.

This project, to provide coastal erosion protection for the tribal reservation of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, was authorized by Section 545 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The authorization required a study be conducted to determine measures that are technically feasible, cost-effective and environmentally acceptable to construct and maintain.

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