

Chehalis River Basin General Investigation: Without Project Conditions

Kristen Kerns

Plan Formulation

Seattle District

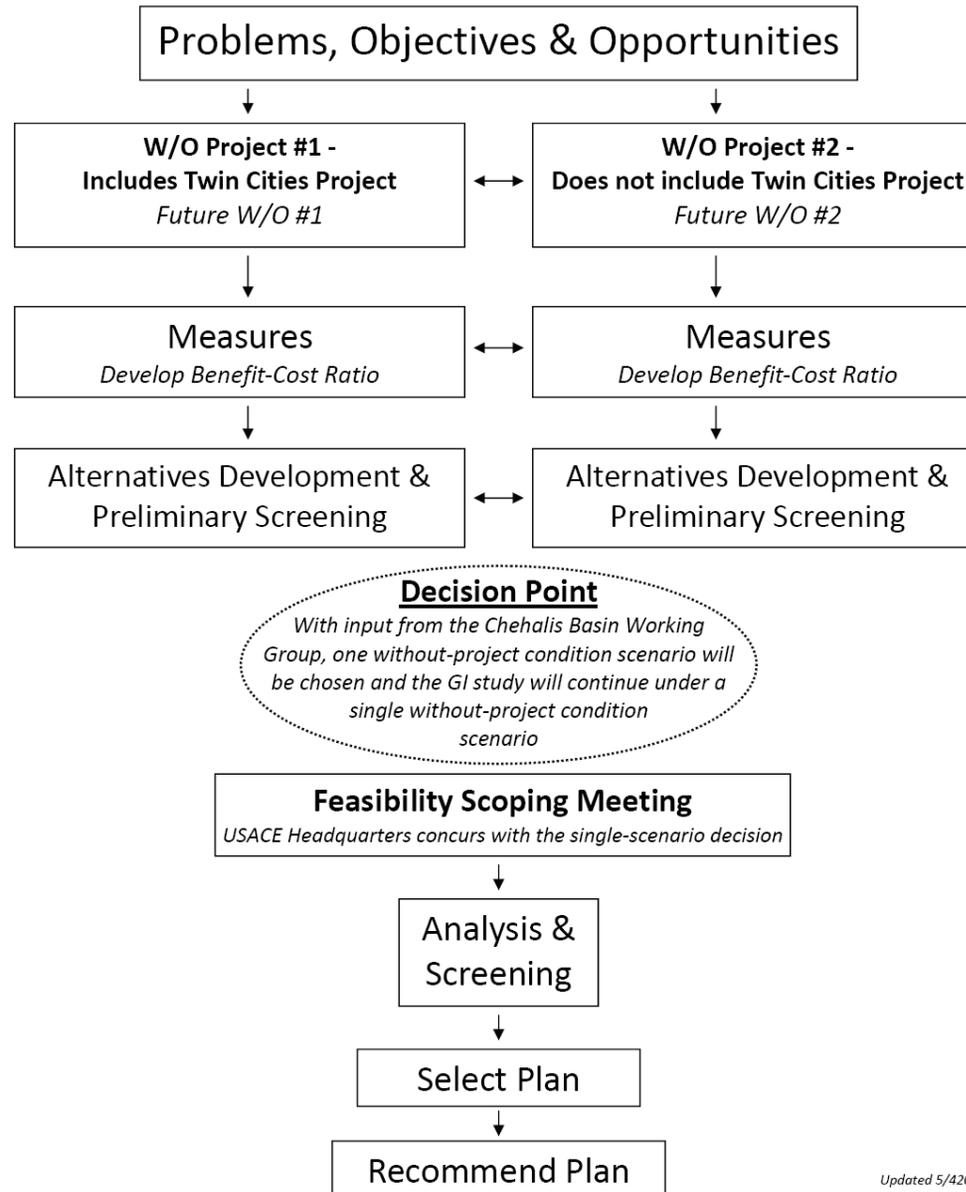
May 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

Chehalis River Basinwide General Investigation Study

2 Without-Project Conditions



Updated 5/4/2010



BUILDING STRONG®

Without and Future Without Project Conditions

■ Without and Future Without Project Conditions

- First Step of the Planning Process
- **Inventory of current conditions** in the study area. The without project conditions accounts for environmental, hydrologic, hydraulic, economic, and cultural characteristics. Also includes real estate and existing infrastructure inventory
- **Forecast the most likely conditions expected** to exist in the future (typically a 50 year period of analysis) in the absence of a proposed project
 - ▷ Projections should be made for environmental, hydrologic, hydraulic, and socio-economic characteristics
- Serves as the foundation for which measures and alternatives are developed.



Developing Two Without Project Conditions

- Two without and future without project conditions will be developed
 - Scenario including construction of the currently authorized Twin Cities Project
 - Scenario assuming no construction of the Twin Cities Project
- Each without and future without project conditions must perform a complete inventory and forecast of the two scenarios



Developing Measures Under Two Without Project Conditions

- Definition of a Measure:
 - ▶ A measure is a feature of an activity that can be implemented at a specific geographic site to address one or more planning objectives (Examples: Setback levee at X location; floodwall at X location; riparian plantings at X location)
 - ▶ Equal consideration must be given for structural and non-structural
 - ▶ Measures will be developed for both flood risk management and ecosystem restoration
 - ▶ Measures are developed to address problems and opportunities and are based on the without project conditions
- Two without project conditions scenarios will require two sets of measures development in order to sufficiently address the two scenarios



Developing Alternatives Under Two Without Project Conditions

- Definition of an Alternative:
 - ▶ An alternative is a set of one or more measures functioning together to address one or more project objectives (Example: combination of floodwall, setback levee, and water retention structure; combination of bypass channel, wetland restoration, and levee raise)
 - ▶ A range of alternative plans shall be identified at the beginning of the planning process and screened and refined in subsequent iterations throughout the planning process
- Alternatives, like measures, will need to be developed separately for the without project conditions in order to address each individual scenario and account for the unique problems and opportunities of each



Screening of Measures and Alternatives

- After the development of measures, and again at the development of alternatives, several iterations of screening will occur
- Each measure and alternative will be evaluated against a series of screening criteria including:
 - Completeness
 - Efficiency
 - Effectiveness
 - Acceptability
- Criteria must address all significant resources, outputs, and plan effects
- Criteria must address environmental compliance
- Additional criteria may be added if deemed significant by the stakeholders



The Feasibility Scoping Meeting: Selecting a Path Forward

- The Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) is a mandatory policy checkpoint with Northwestern Division (NWD) and USACE Headquarters (HQ)
- The FSM presents the first half of the planning process up to the identification and screening of preliminary alternatives
- The goal of the FSM is to gain NWD and HQ concurrence and permission to move forward with the study



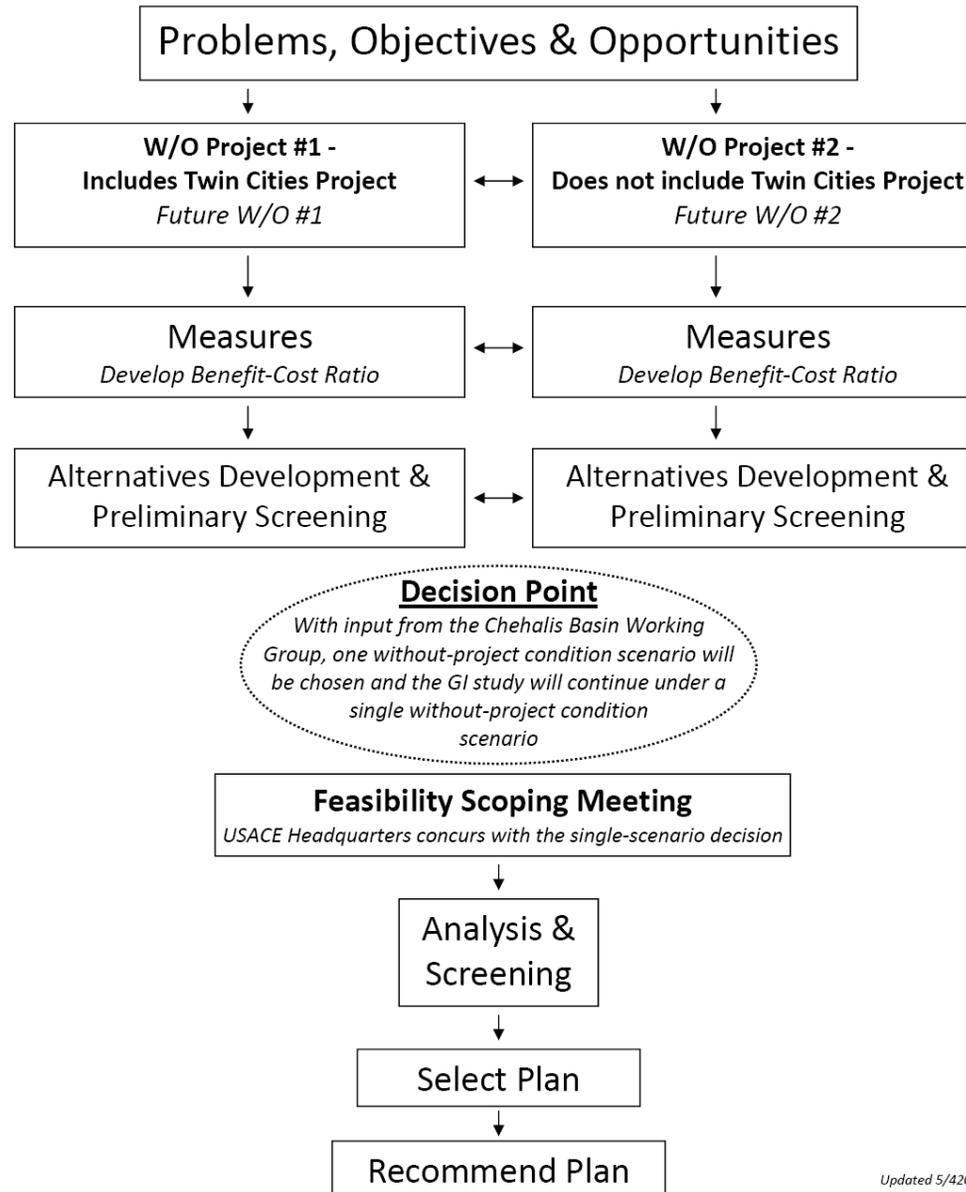
Selecting a Path Forward

- Prior to the FSM, the uncertainty of the Twin Cities project being constructed will be evaluated
- After evaluating uncertainties, a without and future without project conditions scenario with associated measures and alternatives will be selected to move forward with
- In the event that an unacceptable level of uncertainty regarding the Twin Cities project still exists, both scenarios may have to be carried further in the study process.



Chehalis River Basinwide General Investigation Study

2 Without-Project Conditions



Updated 5/4/2010



BUILDING STRONG®

Benefits and Risks of Two Without Project Conditions Scenarios

■ Risks:

- Significant impacts to schedule and cost
- Additional scrutiny from NWD and HQ regarding policy compliance for the Chehalis GI

■ Benefits:

- Two without project conditions scenarios will ensure that despite the uncertainty regarding implementation of the Twin Cities Project, the Chehalis GI will have accounted for all potential conditions



Potential Impacts to Cost and Schedule

Two without project conditions	Approximate Cost	Estimated Time *
Additional second “without project conditions” scenario	\$3 million	2 years
Totals for the feasibility phase with two “without project conditions” scenarios	\$24 million	14.5 years

* The estimated time is subject to the availability of funding

