

From: falltier@████████
To: NWS-Skagit-River-GI
Cc: falltier@████████
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Skagit River General Investigation Study
Date: Thursday, July 17, 2014 8:25:21 PM

Dear Ms.Hadley,

I am contacting you in regards to the information I received about proposed changes in the height of levies downstream from my home in Sedro Woolley. I currently reside on Fidalgo Street and have been here through many floods, including ones that have come over the roadway two blocks from my home. We also own a home behind us on Jameson Street. These homes have been here over 100 years and have never flooded and there has never been a cause for us to worry. If our homes flood, much of the town of Sedro Woolley will also flood due to the elevation of the rest of town being the same. My concern is that increased levy heights will cause this to happen and that we will then be required to purchase flood insurance. Something that has never been needed before. This will also be cause for a decrease in the value of our homes and should we ever choose to move, make it harder for us to sell our homes. It is my understanding that the areas of Sterling Road would receive higher flood waters that would also affect our hospital and a nearby care center. The flooding of roadways will cause an unsafe situation for people in need of emergency care East of us as well as communities across the river, including Clear Lake. Loss of income for many that will be unable to go to work because of road closures. What you may not realize, but that should have been very apparent, is that the areas that you are not considering in the proposed changes are lower income and have a higher poverty level and these people will be the most affected by loss of income. Most of these people are not employed in their local areas as there is not enough jobs in their communities to support them. Why is it that the proposed improvements are only to benefit Burlington and Mount Vernon areas and that all other areas are being disregarded? Is it also my understanding that there would be changes made to Gages Slough and that natural fish and wildlife habitats would also be destroyed? There has been a lot of time, money and effort by many put in to restoring these habitats so the idea that this would once again be destroyed is quite troubling. There have been previous lawsuits regarding these exact issues in reference to changing of levy heights and also changes in natural tributaries that cause an increase in flood levels but it seems as though that is being disregarded. These same issues were voted against in 1979 so why is it that they are once again being pushed through when they were previously rejected? I have many concerns regarding these changes and feel that this is something that should not be decided by the chosen few who are most likely to benefit from it.

A response to my letter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Shannon Burrow

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284