

From: DaveBrookings </O=SKAGIT/OU=ADMIN/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DAVEB>  
Date: 7/16/2001 11:10:42 PM  
To: JacquelineVander Veen  
Subject: FW: Alternatives

Jackie,

I gave this some additional thought this weekend after a brief discussion with Larry Wasserman. At this point I'm willing to abort our attempt to get signatures on a document to forward onto the BCC. Lets focus our efforts on closing the process and forwarding it to the Commissioners. We will discuss in more detail. DB

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Tonnes [mailto:Dan.Tonnes@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2001 7:30 AM  
To: daveb@co.skagit.wa.us; jvanderv@co.skagit.wa.us  
Cc: Scuderi, Michael R NWS; Larry Wasserman; LouEllyn\_Jones@r1.fws.gov  
Subject: Alternatives

Hi Jackie and Dave:

Valerie Lee wanted to me send you a note regarding the request to sign the consensus agreement for the two alternatives. NMFS is reluctant to do so for several reasons: 1) Regardless if we sign it or not, a section 7 jeopardy analysis (a formal consultation and biological opinion) of the project will occur. Signing the agreement may lead to expectations that we are "on board", and frustration down the road as we work our way through this and the potentially significant issues that may arrive. 2) We simply do not know enough about the potential impacts (and benefits) of either project at this early stage. While it can be expensive and logistically tough to do various analysis of the environmental effects of the project, we need to rely on best available science and data in order to conduct the section 7 review and make a justifiable and dependable determination. Our two recent meetings at the COE office were good starts in delineating out the potential concerns with the projects. Now that there are two alternatives, perhaps we can meet again and further refine what information would be helpful for our review. I appreciate the County's efforts to keep NMFS informed of how the process is moving along, and look forward to meeting with you and the COE relatively soon. Dan Tonnes NMFS (206) 526-4656