

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON IN THE
MATTER OF THE HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULIC MODELS USED TO
FORM THE BASIS OF STUDY IN THE ONGOING SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD
FEASIBILITY GENERAL INVESTIGATION STUDY**

Whereas, the Seattle District, Corps of Engineers is currently engaged with Skagit County as its local partner in a General Investigation flood feasibility study of the Skagit River basin, and

Whereas, both the Seattle District and Skagit County have indicated an intent to proceed with the General Investigation study, and will therefore move forward with the development of a new Project Management Plan, and

Whereas, recently the Seattle District indicated it will use the hydrology and hydraulic model it developed as the basis for further analysis in the context of the General Investigation, and not consider using the hydrology and hydraulic model developed by Pacific International Engineering, and

Whereas, the hydrology and hydraulic model developed by Pacific International Engineering, different from the Corps hydrology and hydraulic model, uses all available Concrete gauged flow data since the gauge was installed in 1924 as well as flood volume data and further, retains but modifies the peak flow estimates of the historic floods of 1897, 1909, 1917 and 1921, and

Whereas, the hydrology and hydraulic model developed by the Corps of Engineers uses only 58 of the total available 82 years of the continuous gage data, excluding two decades of gage data, while inconsistently using peak flow estimates of the historic floods of 1897, 1909, 1917 and 1921, while not addressing a significant body of evidence and analysis which exists indicating these historic estimates are too high, and

Whereas, engineering analysis of the four historic flood estimates performed by Pacific International Engineering, as well as historical research conducted by Mr. Larry Kunzler, as well as independent investigation performed by the City of Burlington into flood marks at the “Smith” house in Hamilton all indicate the hydrology and hydraulic models being used by the Corps are based on flawed historic flood estimate data, and

Whereas, this Council is concerned that continued use of this flawed data will result in flawed General Investigation results;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF BURLINGTON REQUESTS SKAGIT COUNTY AND THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN THE REVISED PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN:

“The Seattle District and Skagit County recognize there is not consensus by impacted Cities and Dike Districts regarding the Corps’ hydrologic and hydraulic analysis. In particular, several Cities and Dike Districts continue to be concerned that the historic flood estimates are too high and skew the hydrologic analysis. It is the intention of the Seattle District and Skagit County to address this issue through a formal independent review process at the appropriate stage of the General Investigation, prior to the Project Engineering and Design Phase.”

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Roger “Gus” Tjeerdsma, Mayor

Attest:

Richard A. Patrick, Finance Director

Approved as to form:

Scott G. Thomas, City Attorney

Published