

RESOLUTION NO. _____

THE CITIES OF MOUNT VERNON AND BURLINGTON

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE CITY OF BURLINGTON TO ADOPT THE HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE CITIES' CONTRACTOR TO BE USED FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE FEMA BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTIONS OF THE CITIES

WHEREAS, the Cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington (Cities) agree that it is in their mutual best interests to identify and adopt a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the Skagit River Basin that reflects the best and most accurate science available, and;

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed preliminary maps presenting Base Flood Elevations using hydrologic evaluations provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers based on estimates of peak flows near Concrete, WA of four unrecorded floods published by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) (Stewart estimates), and;

WHEREAS, the Cities' engineers and engineering consultant, Pacific International Engineering, have reviewed the FEMA analysis and determined the flow data used by the Corps of Engineers to perform the hydrologic analysis is seriously flawed and that the Base Flood Elevations derived from this analysis are therefore significantly overstated, and;

WHEREAS, implementation of FEMA's flawed Base Flood Elevations would significantly damage the Cities' ability to sustain growth of residential, commercial, and industrial development critical to the economic health of the community, provide for essential public infrastructure, and sustain the tax base, and;

WHEREAS, the size of the protection measures necessitated by the FEMA hydrology would be massive; the cost of constructing these measures would be prohibitive; the environmental impacts of such protection measures would be significant; and associated mitigation costs would likewise be undoable, and;

WHEREAS, the Cities have directed their technical consultant to complete a Hydraulic Report, a Hydrology Report (H&H Reports) and prepare Base Flood Elevation Maps with Base Flood Elevations calculated in accordance with the H&H Reports and presented according to FEMA standards, and;

WHEREAS, during the last two years the Cities' engineers and planning staff have had continuous review of the supporting analysis of the H&H work, performed a review of the draft H&H Reports and preliminary Base Flood Elevations and believe that the H&H Reports represent the most accurate and best available scientific work, and;

WHEREAS, the Cities have held numerous meetings presenting the findings to the Cities' elected officials, citizens, the county elected officials and staff, state and federal agencies,

and have committed numerous hours educating the service groups and the public in general about this most important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON: that the Cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington direct the preparation of Flood Insurance Rate Maps to comply with all provisions of the FEMA Flood Insurance Program (Base Flood Elevation, Floodplain Boundary and Floodway Maps) using the best and most accurate science available, which in the Cities' opinion is the science performed by Pacific International Engineering; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities' staff are directed to prepare drafts of the H&H Reports and FEMA Base Flood Elevation Maps, hold meetings within the Cities to receive public comment on the drafts, finalize the H&H Reports and Base Flood Elevation Maps incorporating comments received, and submit these products formally to FEMA with a request that FEMA review the submittal, work directly with the Cities' representatives to incorporate any FEMA comments into revisions of the submittal, and finalize the Flood Insurance Rate Maps using the Cities' technical analysis.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Washington, held _____, 2007.

By _____
BUD NORRIS, Mayor

Attest: _____
ALICIA D. HUSCHKA, Finance Director

Approved as to form:

_____ Published _____
KEVIN ROGERSON, City Attorney