

11 JUL 1977

Robert E. Schofield, Executive Director
Skagit Regional Planning Council
120 West Kincaid, Annex II
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mr. Schofield:

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is beginning a review to determine if the Avon Bypass Project, Skagit River Basin, Washington, should be recommended for deauthorization. Our review is being initiated in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, approved 7 March 1974 (Public Law 93-251, Section 12), which requires the Corps of Engineers to provide Congress annually with information on unconstructed projects, or portions of projects, not funded for the past 8 years and no longer considered appropriate for continued authorization. As an important consideration of the Avon Bypass Project review, we request that you and other interested parties examine the inclosed project-related material and provide us with comments.

Inclosure 1 is a draft public notice we propose to issue to solicit public comments, inclosure 2 is a project information sheet, and inclosure 3 is a map of the project area. Following your review, we will issue the public notice and project information material to the general public for review and comment. Dependent upon public response, a public meeting may be held to discuss deauthorization of the Avon Bypass.

To further facilitate your review, paragraphs below briefly describe the status of related Corps of Engineers' flood control studies in the Skagit River Basin.

a. Additional Flood Control at Upper Baker Project. The Upper Baker Project recently received congressional approval. The operation of the Upper Baker Dam will be modified for flood control purposes by providing up to 58,000 additional acre-feet of flood control storage

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Robert E. Schofield, Executive Director

by increasing reservoir drawdown in the period 1 November to 15 November of each year. Implementation of the project will not require structural modifications to existing facilities. Coupled with flood plain management, the project will increase flood protection in the Skagit River flood plain below Concrete, Washington, by decreasing peak discharges from those now experienced. Flood frequencies in areas protected by low levees will remain unchanged, although for major floods the extent of flooding will be less.

b. Levee and Channel Improvements. The Seattle District, Corps of Engineers, currently is performing advanced engineering and design studies of the Skagit River - Levee and Channel Improvements Project. Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966, approved 7 November 1966 (Public Law 89-789), the project involves raising and strengthening existing levees downstream from Burlington and Mount Vernon, Washington, and making minor channel improvements to increase minimum channel capacities. In conjunction with the Upper Baker Project, the levee and channel improvements project, if constructed as authorized, would increase the minimum level of flood protection in areas downstream from Burlington, Washington, from 3 years to an average recurrence interval of 11 years, with 3-foot freeboard. During our studies, consideration will be given to providing higher levels of protection for the urban areas of Mount Vernon and Burlington.

Together with the projects mentioned above, the Avon Bypass Project would increase minimum flood protection from 11 to 59 years for the area downstream from Burlington.

We would appreciate your comments on the proposed deauthorization of the Avon Bypass Project before we issue the public notice. Your comments are requested by 25 July 1977 so that the public notice can be issued in August 1977.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jim Newman, Study Manager, telephone (206) 764-3620. Similar letters are being sent to those persons listed on inclosure 4.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. FOGARTY
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

4 Incl
As stated

cc w/incl:
Newman
✓ Brooks
Dice

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BROOKS

SKRINDE

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LTC [Signature]

1 Aug 1977
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DIVISION: NORTH PACIFIC
DISTRICT: SEATTLE

D-72716-F(2)
July 1977

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Project: AVON BYPASS, SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON

Authorization: The Avon Bypass Project was authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1966 in accordance with H.D. 187, 73d Congress, 2d Session, and H.D. 483, 89th Congress, 2d Session, respectively.

Location: The Skagit River basin is in the northwest corner of Washington State and drains an area of 3,140 square miles between the crest of the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound. The basin is bounded by British Columbia and the Nooksack Basin on the north and the basins of the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers on the south. Upper reaches of the basin are steep mountain valleys, while the main river is in a valley 1 to 3 miles wide from Rockport to Sedro Woolley, Washington. Below Sedro Woolley, the valley falls to nearly sea level and widens to a flat fertile outwash plain which includes the Samish valley on the north.

Description: The Avon Bypass Project would divert up to 60,000 c.f.s. of excess floodflows from the Skagit River between Mount Vernon and Burlington into Padilla Bay and would provide flood protection for the 68,000-acre Skagit-Samish River delta downstream from Sedro Woolley. The Flood Control Act of 1966 authorized the addition of recreation to the Avon Bypass Project. The project was reclassified in April 1972 from "active" to "deferred."

Proposed Improvements: The proposed plan provides for a bypass entrance at river mile 15.8 and widening of the Skagit River channel for about 2 miles upstream from the entrance. The bypass channel would extend westward from the entrance discharging into Padilla Bay at Telegraph Slough. This alignment requires four new highway bridges and a railroad bridge along the channel. River widening requires lengthening of two four-lane highway bridges and modification of a railroad bridge. The basis for this plan is the shortness of the route and the minimum number of structures it would be necessary to relocate.

Local Cooperation: A county-wide flood control district has been established by Skagit County to organize local cooperation for flood control and to assist in all phases of water resource planning. The county has developed a comprehensive flood control plan for the Skagit Valley, one element of which is the Avon Bypass. However, local cost-sharing requirements currently are beyond the means of the county.

Summarized Financial Data: Estimated costs based on July 1966 price levels are as follows:

Federal	\$22,100,000
Non-Federal	6,100,000
TOTAL	\$28,200,000

Federal costs to date \$54,468

Reasons for Classification of Deferred: Preconstruction planning studies were started in FY 1966 and stopped in FY 1968 for lack of a local sponsor. The project was reclassified in April 1972 from "active" to "deferred" status due to the continued inability of local government to assume requirements of sponsorship.

Reasons for the Deauthorization Study: The Avon Bypass Project qualifies for deauthorization according to congressional criteria established by Section 12, Public Law 93-251. These criteria mandate that deauthorization action can be taken if:

- a. A project has been authorized for at least eight years.
- b. No funds for Advanced Engineering and Design (AE&D) or construction have been appropriated by Congress, or allotted with specific congressional approval, during the preceding 8 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION REVIEW

The Water Resources Development Act of 1974, approved 7 March 1974 (Public Law 93-251, Section 12), requires that the Congress annually be provided a list of unconstructed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects which no longer are considered appropriate for continued authorization. The rationale for this legislative requirement is expressed by the Committees on Public Works of the United States Congress in reports on the act and reads:

"Many water resources development projects become, after they are authorized, inappropriate for one reason or another. Changing economic conditions may render them uneconomic. Population and industrial growth may make them inadequate to serve new needs. The local interests may decide they do not want a project. Yet, in all of these cases, unless the time-consuming process of obtaining specific congressional deauthorization through an Act of Congress is followed, the project remains authorized, is considered part of the backlog of authorized but unconstructed projects, and continues to discourage homeowners and landowners in the project area from maintaining, much less improving, their property."

Based on these views, the legislative criteria of Section 12, and implementing guidelines of the Chief of Engineers, I find that the unconstructed Avon Bypass Project, Skagit River, Washington, is eligible for deauthorization action.

This determination, in general, is related to one or more of the following criteria:

- a. The project is not economically justified, and it is apparent that a restudy would not develop an economically justified plan.
- b. The project, as authorized, is not adequate to meet current or prospective needs, and to obtain an adequate improvement would require such substantial modifications and involve such increased costs that the Corps of Engineers could not proceed without new authorization from Congress.
- c. The project generally is opposed by local interests, or there is little or no prospect that the required local cooperation will be forthcoming.

d. The project, or part thereof, is no longer required because it has been accomplished by local interests or another agency, has been superseded by another project, or is no longer required for any other reason.

Prior to submitting my recommendations to the Chief of Engineers, your view with regard to the appropriateness of deauthorization action is desired. If response to this notice warrants, a public meeting will be held to obtain further public input. For your information, the final decision on the deauthorization recommendations of the Chief of Engineers rests with the Congress. Under that prerogative, any project submitted on the Chief of Engineers' recommended list may be removed by a resolution adopted by either of the Committees on Public Works within a 90-day congressional review period.

Your comments are requested by _____ in order that they may be included in my recommendations to be submitted to the Chief of Engineers. Please address your comments to the undersigned, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box C-3755, Seattle, Washington 98124.

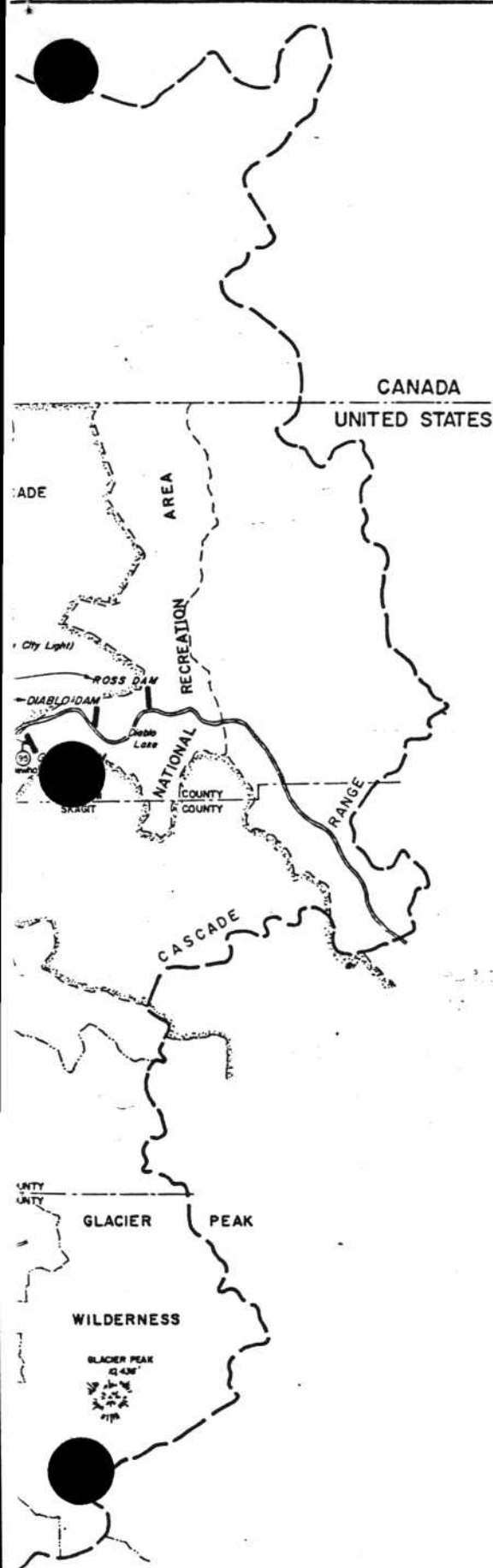
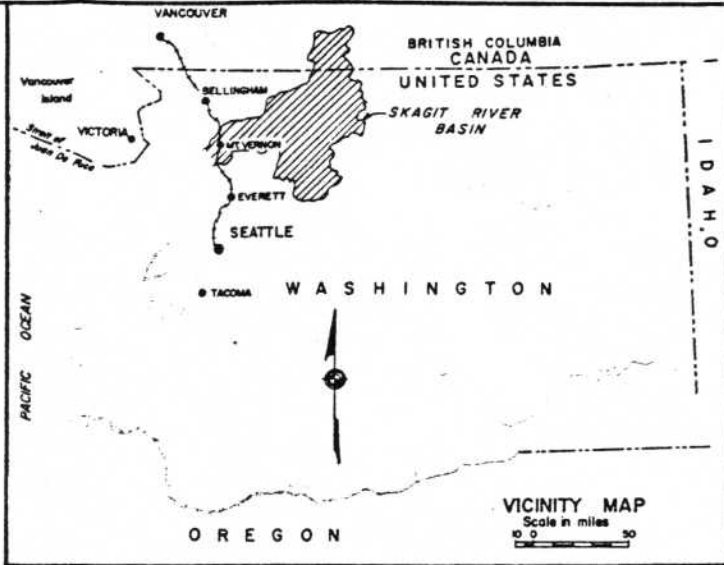
A project information sheet is inclosed. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone who has an interest in this matter.

2 Incl





1. Project Information Sheet
2. Maps (2)

JOHN A. POTEAT

Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



LEGEND

- EXISTING PROJECT 
- FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROPOSAL 
- AUTHORIZED PROJECT 
- MAJOR FLOOD DAMAGE AREA 

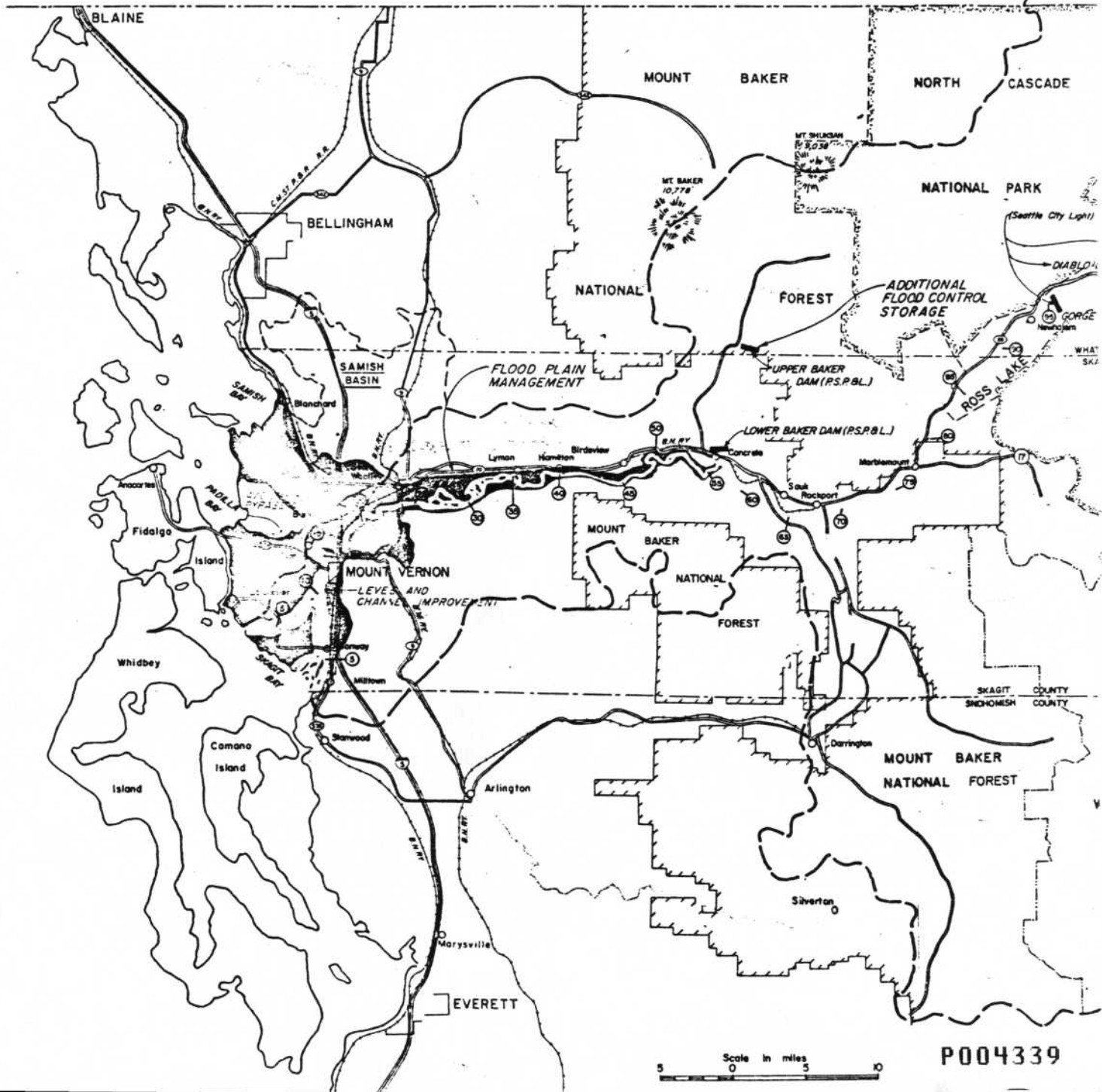
**SKAGIT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES
WASHINGTON**

BASIN MAP

In sheets Sheet No. Scale: As shown
 U. S. Army Engineer District, Seattle, Wash.
 Prepared by: *[Signature]* Submitted by: *[Signature]*
 Chief, Basin Planning Section
 Recommended by: *[Signature]* Approved by: *[Signature]*
 Chief, Engineering Division
 Drawn by: J.O.
 Checked by: J.J.U. dated June 1975

File No.
E 6-6-306

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SAME CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO:

Robert E. Schofield, Executive Director
Skagit Regional Planning Council
120 West Kincaid, Annex II
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Howard Miller, Chairman
Skagit County Board of Commissioners
Skagit County Courthouse, Room 102
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Mr. Lloyd H. Johnson
Skagit County Engineer
Skagit County Courthouse
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Honorable James Rice
Mayor of Anacortes
Anacortes City Hall
Anacortes, Washington 98221

Honorable Harry R. Ethington
Mayor of Burlington
Burlington, Washington 98233

Honorable Frederick Martin
Mayor of LaConner
LaConner, Washington 98257

Honorable Jack D. Miller
Mayor of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Honorable William O. Pearson
Mayor of Sedro Woolley
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