

9 May 1979
Towle/lh/3450

NPSEN-DB

14 May 1979

Ms. Barbara McNair
1332 Beaver Lake Road
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Ms. McNair:

This is a reply to your 26 April 1979 letter in which you expressed concern for possible adverse impacts from the proposed Skagit River, Washington, flood damage reduction project.

You asked a question relating to market value of real estate which might be encumbered as a condition of the project; and, in another question, you wondered about the knowledge that "this year" might be a year for substantial flooding. These are both valid questions and need to be considered as they apply in individual circumstances.

The final plan to be recommended by the District Engineer at completion of current studies has not been determined. Suggestions, comments, and recommendations which are brought to our attention through workshop meetings, letters, and even the final public meeting to be held on 19 June at Mount Vernon, will all contribute to development of what will become the recommended plan.

Thank you for your comments. You will be receiving an invitation to the final public meeting to be held on 19 June 1979.

Sincerely,

VERNON E. COOK
Project Manager

COOK/EN-DB
DERRICK/EN-DB
SELLEVOLD/EN
ED-DB FILE

cc:
~~Cook/Towle~~
Reg Ping
WP Engrg (2062E)

P004152

April 26, 1978

Vernon Cook
Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box C-3755
Seattle, WA. 98124

*Draft reply
by 11 May 1978*

Dear Mr Cook:

I hope a single voice still can be heard by our decision makers. Everything that my family has worked for depends on it.

I refer to the proposed Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement project and to the Highway project now being considered by the "powers that be". Either project will bring more flooding to our part of the valley, as you know.

No matter what appeasement is offered, common sense tells me it wouldn't be enough. As far as resale value goes, would you yourself buy a house whose deed or title (I don't know which) clearly states that you must accept any additional waters that your fellow man bestows upon you? And how about living with the knowledge year after year that "this year" might be it? No one, not even an engineer, can accurately predict what his addition to Mother Nature's wrath will do. Would we be appeased for mental anguish I wonder?

I also wonder if anyone has the right to sacrifice the holdings of some for the benefit of others. Surely I wouldn't wish flooding on anyone, just as I know no one would wish it on me. I deal with Mount Vernon people everyday and not one person to whom I've spoken is aware of what that levee thing will do to us out here in Clearlake.

When a state sacrifices some for others, causes anguish or does harm to even one human being (particularly when there ARE other alternatives), it's an offence which should not be taken lightly by anyone. Surely this isn't the American way. We need your recommendation that this levee project, the way it is set up now, should be dropped. Please, Mr. Cook.

Sincerely,

Barbara McNair
1332 Beaver Lake Road
Mount Vernon, WA. 98273
(Clearlake)

P004153