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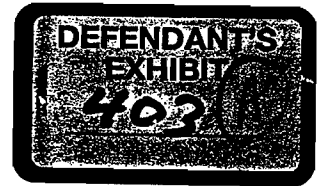
BEFORE THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE
SEATTLE DISTRICT

In the Matter of Public)
Meeting Proceedings)
on the)
SEAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON)
LEVEE IMPROVEMENT)

P R O C E E D I N G S

Hearing Room
New County Admin Bldg.
2nd & Kincaid Streets
Mount Vernon, Washington
7:30 p.m. (1930 hours)
19 June 1979

The above meeting was called to order at said time and place by
Colonel John A. Poteat, District Engineer of the Seattle District, Corps
of Engineers; before a panel consisting of Walter Farrar, Chief,
Regional Planning Section, Planning Branch, Engineering Division, Vernon
Cook, Skagit Project Manager and Forest Brooks, Skagit Study Manager.



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SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON, LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETING
New County Administration Building
2nd & Kincaid Street
Mount Vernon, Washington
19 June 1979

Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Abbott, Harold R.	1359 Memorial Highway Mount Vernon, WA 424-7366	Ditch District #19
Anderson, Bennie	1410 Moore Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2983	Dike District #13
Anderson, Frank	2061 Babcock Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-6081	
Anderson, Harold E.	2507 Cindy Place Mount Vernon, WA	
Anderson, Harry	1413 Avon Allen Bd. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-1253	
Austin, Donald & Barbars	1381 Austin Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-2393	Clear Lake Group
*Baillie, Geoffrey L. (Spoke page 50)	1117-1/2 4th Anacortes, WA 98221	Consultant
Bell, Alvin D.	2060 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 445-5981	Dike District #21
Bendtser, Pete J.	1587 Sam Bell Road Bow, WA 98232	
Benham, Roy F.	1500 25 Mount Vernon, WA 856-0863	
*Boettcher, Lawrence G. (Spoke pages 67,79,82, 85 and 92)	2010 E. Rio Vista Burlington, WA 98233 757-6682	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Boon, Charlie M. (Spoke page 45)	2080 Mud Lake Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-1500	
Boyes, Kristen J.	2181 A Old Day Creek Road	
Britten, Charles H.	2025 Urban Avenue Mount Vernon, WA 424-1751	
Brooks, Bernice L.	2229 So. Skagit Hwy. Sedro Woolley, WA 856-0114	
Brooks, Stan D.	2229 So. Skagit Highway Sedro Woolley, WA 856-0114	
Brough, Sally	3630 Wallingford Ave. N.	
Buchanan, Cynthia H.	1331 Austin Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-1853	
Buchanan, Virgil W.	1331 Austin Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-1853	
*Buckley, Robert R. (Spoke page 64)	1872 Skagit City Road 445-2954	
*Cecotti, Gus (Spoke page 33)	P.O. Box 426 Mount Vernon, WA 757-4044	
Clausen, Orland E.	1359 Avon Allen Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-6852	
Clinton, Robert L.	1060 Peter Anderson 756-6826	
Clubb, Robert W.		Puget Power Puget Power Building Bellevue, WA 98052 453-6871

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Crawford, Jack T.	1478 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 445-4383	
Cuperus, Richard A.	1776 Dike Road Mount Vernon, WA 429-0417	
Dahl, Vernon D.	1484 Allen West 757-0417	
Dahlstedt, Norman H.	1306 Highway 237 Mount Vernon, WA 424-1771	
DeBoor, Sidney	893 Dirshire Burlington, WA 98233 757-6971	
Dralle, Milo & Pat	2077 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 856-6804	
Dunham, Laurie S.		Reporter, SV Herald Mount Vernon, WA 424-3251
Dunnerberg, Betty L.	1534 Bennett Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-1353	
Dykstra, Donne	1709 Gear Road Burlington, WA 98233	
*Dykstra, Kornelis D., Jr. (Spoke page 37)	2201 E. Fir Mount Vernon, WA 424-7569	
*Dykstra, Tunis R. (Kornelis spoke for Tunis - page 38)	1524 McLean Road Mount Vernon, WA	
Dyizkawski, Joseph P.	3327 Alikemont Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio	
Easter, Frank R.	2121 E. College Way Mount Vernon, WA 424-5151	Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist
Fisher, Herman	1524 Bennett Road Mount Vernon, WA	
Fields Rogers, Bess C.	325 W. Fairhaven 757-6840	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Fisher, William W.	1584 Sam Ball Road Bow, Washington	
*Fox, Dorothy B. (Spoke page 93)	13353-B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 856-1807	
Gadbois, Carrol M.	1329 Babcock Road Mount Vernon, WA 856-6082	Clear Lake
*Gadbois, Larry G. (Spoke pages 40 & 99)	2046 Mud Lake Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 856-1606	
Gadbois, Suzanne M.	2046 Mud Lake Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 856-6541	
Gilkey, Richard C.	2278 Mann Road Mount Vernon, WA	
Griffin, Wallace I.	P.O. Box 1361 Lyman, WA 286,3404	Lyman, WA - Councilman
Hageman, Edna R.	408 Baker Mount Vernon, WA 336-2097	
Hamburg, Neil B.	2332 Riverbend Road Mount Vernon, Washington	
*Hanson, Florine Z. (Spoke page 64)	2187 River Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 856-6292	
*Hanson, Ruthie O. (Spoke page 43)	1480 Memorial Highway Mount Vernon, WA 336-3129	Teamsters 411 Business Agent P.O. Box 702, Mount Vernon, WA
Hawkins, Fred W.	1824 Beaver Marsh Mount Vernon, WA 424-3550	
Hayduk, Duke & Sarah	1972 Polson Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273	
Hayton, Leroy R.	1450 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Henery, Ray C. (Spoke page 27)	1509 Avon Burlington, WA 757-6137	Mayor City of Burlington
Hockman, Beulah E.	1528C Bennett Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-9788	
Hoffman, Claude W.	816 Bayview Edison Road Bow, WA 766-6292	
*Hoffman, Lawrence R. (Spoke page 49)	1197 Maupin Road	Dike District #15
Howell, Dale P.	4757 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA	
*Howell, Patricia M. (Spoke page 54)	4757 Francis Road 424-9614	
*Huber, Neil M. (Spoke page 64)	375 Martin Sedro Woolley, WA 856-2706	
*Hulbert, Robert J. (Spoke page 54)	2049 Dry Slough Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-4565	
*Huston, Janet (Spoke page 37)	1816 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-3091	
Inman, Mimi	401 Stanford Dr #8 Mount Vernon, WA 424-7014	
Ivey, Lloyd	1524 Beavermarsh Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-3048	Dike District #12
Jenning, Philip R.	1610 Best Road Mount Vernon, WA 466-3478	Drainage #15
*Jewett, Althea (Spoke pages 36 & 91)	2233 So. Skagit Sedro Woolley, WA	
Johnson, Hubert C.	1929 Dry Slough Road 445-4222	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Johnson, Ken F. (Spoke page 41)	1981-C Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-5422	
*Johnson, Lloyd H. (Spoke page 57)	1765 Mount Vernon 424-6080	County Engineer (retired)
Jones, Gary T.	1180 Landing Road Mount Vernon, WA 466-3809	
Kastner, Joan E.	1849 Revilo Drive Burlington, WA 98233 747-4816	
Kastner, Paul A.	1849 Revilo Dr Burlington, WA 98233 757-4816	
*Knutzen, Einer C. (Spoke page 63)	727 N. Barl St. Burlington, WA 757-6325	
*Knutzen, Jess A. (Spoke page 54 - deferred to R. Hulbert)	1183 Avon Allen Rd. Burlington, WA 98233	Skagit Conservation District
Knutzen, Mark I.	118 Pulver Road Burlington, WA 98233	
Kosbab, Geraldine C.	814 Fruitdale Road	
*Kosbab, Theodore A. (Spoke page 51)	814 Fruitdale Road 856-0322	Skagit River Guide Association
*Kunzler, Larry J. (Spoke page 43)	4801 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 24-4314	
Ladd, Stephen G.	P.O. Box 145 Clear Lake, WA	Skagit Regional Planning Council City Planner, City Hall Sedro Woolley, WA
Larson, Jack L.	1304 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273	Dike District #21
Lee, Donn V.	1568 Moore Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2964	

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lee, Viernal K.	1568 Moore Road Mount Vernon, WA	Dike 2
Linvog, Elwood M.	1121 Sterling Road Sedro Woolley, WA 856-6186	
*Ed, Lipsey B. (Spoke page 58)	1157 Cockplham Road Sedro Woolley, WA	
Lott, Kathi M.	226 N. 8th, Apt. 1 Mount Vernon, WA 336-2008	
Lloyd, Michael B.	1209 So. Walnut Burlington, WA 757-0961	Skagit County P.O. Box 396 Mount Vernon, WA
Lynch, Maryann E.	2036 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2291	
Lynch, Robert A.	2036 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2291	
MacKenzie, Pete S.	1120-1/2 12th Mount Vernon, WA 336-3027	Managing Editor Stanwood News Box 999, Stanwood, WA
Mallett, Floyd (Mr. & Mrs.)	2231 So. Skagit Hwy. Sedro Woolley, WA 856-2377	
Mansfield, Jerry	(No card)	
*Mapes, Gerald D. (Spoke page 36)	1065 Sterling Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 856-0954	Dike District #12
Martin, Frederick S.	Box 477 LaConner, WA 98257	Mayor Town of LaConner
Martin, John W.	1380 Avon Allen Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-5831	Mt. Vernon Meat Co. 1327 D. McLean Road Mount Vernon, WA
McNair, Douglas R.	1332 Beaver Lake Road 856-6659	
Miller, Howard A.	423 Talcott Sedro Woolley, WA	Skagit County Commissioner Courthouse, Mount Vernon, WA
*Munce, Ian (Spoke page 27)	(No card)	(Spoke for Mayor Walley)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Moeller, Dennis A. (Spoke page 63)	1877 Cascade Burlington, WA 757-6670	
Moore, William C.	1989 Swan Rd Mount Vernon, WA 424-3751	
McMoran, Don	1270 McLean Road Mount Vernon, WA	
*Munson, Skip (Mr. & Mrs.) (Spoke page 48)	1824 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-5543	
Murdock, Wm. H.	114 N. Front Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273 336-3926	
*Neble, Sophie (Spoke pages 29, 69, 87)	2662 Utopia Road Sedro Woolley, WA 856-0313	
Nelson, Donald E.	4964 E. Div. Mount Vernon, WA 424-1738	Skagit County Engineer Courthouse, Mount Vernon
Nelson, Helen C.	1140 Bayview Edison Road Mount Vernon, WA 757-0235	
Nelson, Kenneth C.	1521 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2082	
Nelson, Lucille	1383 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA	Dike District #3
Nelson, Raymond L.	1140 Bayview Edison Road Mount Vernon, WA 757-0235	
Nelson, Rodney N.	1200 Rawlins Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 445-2554	Dike District #15
Norbeck, John R.	1970 Lafayette Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 856-4034	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Norris, Bud (Spoke page 25)	(No card)	Chairman Skagit County Commissioner
Norton, Betty	1571 McLean Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273	
O'Leary, Joseph E.	68 Kalama Place Shelter Bay LaConner, WA 98257 466-3363	Retired (U.S. Engr. Dept.)
Olson, Carl R.	1410 Berniece Mount Vernon, WA 424-1744	Stokely-Van Camp P.O. Box 456, Mount Vernon, WA
*Olson, Gene L. (Spoke page 49)	2018 Dike Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 445-4175	
Olson, Winton W.	1323 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-4245	Secretary, Dike District #21
Olson, William L.	1735 Stackpole Mount Vernon, WA	Ditch 17
*Ondahl, Neil S. (Spoke page 39)	1449 Allen ? Rd. 757-6861	
Paul, Everet	1954-C Dry Slough 424-3645	
Pearson, Jay	3002 Colby Everett, WA 252-3188	Congressman Swift
Petter, John H.	1721 E. Division Mount Vernon, WA 424-5149	
Posey, Geneal	5109 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-3740	
*Power, Jack L. (Spoke page 80)	953 Dist Line Road Burlington, WA 757-4671	Chukluck Farms, Inc.
Pressentin, Lyle V.	1570 Bennett Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-1268	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Roberson, David E.	3630 Wallingford N. Seattle, WA 98103 632-6377	
*Roozen, John V. (Spoke pages 65,97)	1393 Calhoun Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-5533	Washington Bulb Co., Inc.
*Samply, Gene (Spoke page 27)	(No card)	
*Sibley, Donald S. (Spoke page 64- declined)	1847 Beaver Marsh Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-3497	
Siegal, Seth L.	1930 Dry Slough Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273	
*Skinner, Thomas R. (Spoke page 37)	1838 Dry Sough Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-2953	Fir Island Residents
Skrinde, Raymond A.	14306 Frans Drive Stanwood, WA 98292	Skagit County Engineer (Advisor)
*Smith, Richard H. (Spoke page 65)	1849 Dike Road Mount Vernon, WA	
Spragg, Norm G.	2034 Bulson Road Mount Vernon, WA	Dike District #17
*Stamos, Gerald C. (Spoke page 51)	4800 Oakes Anacortes, WA 98221 283-5562	Teamsters Local #411
Steel, Mary Susan	305 Pine Street Mount Vernon, WA 336-3284	
Stein, Janet I.	Ball Street Mount Vernon, WA 336-5174	
Stein, Robert J.	Ball Street Mount Vernon, WA	
Stendal, Art G.	1531 Forest Ridge Place Mount Vernon, WA	Department of Game 1100 E. College Way Mount Vernon, WA
Stevens, Terry C.		Skagit County Planning

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Stoker, Bruce A. (Spoke page 30)	2376-D Walker Valley Mount Vernon, WA 98273	
Storrs, R. B.	1552 Junguison Road 424-6859	
Straathof, Carole	P.O. Box 207 Clear Lake, WA 856-4321	
*Straathof, Jack (Spoke page 41)	1214 Highway 9 Clear Lake, WA 856-4321	
Stuber, Alice Dee	1548 Moore Road 445-2455	
Stuber, Sanford	1880 Skagit City Road Mount Vernon, WA	
Swanson, Leroy A. & Jo	2239 Sedro Woolley, WA 856-0795	
*Tellesbo, Alfred M. (Spoke page 30)	1509 Fir Island Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-5031	Dike No. 2
Tellesbo, Joe	1954 Dry Slough Road Mount Vernon, WA	
*Thompson, Robert G. (Spoke pages 82, 85)	3600 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA	Dike-Drainage 20
Top, Emma	2247 River Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 856-1713	
Top, Sid	2247 River Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 856-1713	
Tranum, Don	3036 165th Pl., N.E. Bellevue, WA 98008	Washington Department of Transportation
Treiber, Laurel J.	18018 85th Pl. W. Edmonds, WA	
*Treibel, Wilhelm E. (Spoke page 48)	18018 85th Pl. W. Edmonds, WA 776-7971	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Tronsdal, Owen Tony (Spoke page 49)	Conway, WA 445-5806	Dike #3
VanderPol, Larry	1617 Moores Garden Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-3362	
*Vander Sar, Carl I. (Spoke page 56)	2028 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 424-6997	
Van Slageren, Beverly	P.O. Box 122 Clear Lake, WA 856-1040	Clear Lake Defense
Vander Sar, Cathy J.	2028 Francis Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-6997	
VanWieringen, William	1646 Penn Road 424-1891	
*Verdoes, Dick (Spoke page 34)	2050 Babcock 856-6085	Abe Verdoes & Sons
Vinje, Roy M.	1411 Avon Allen Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-4513	
Vraner, Ruby D.	1057 Burlington, WA 98122 757-0506	
*Walker, Michael D. (Spoke page 39)	610 Bellingham Tower Bellingham, WA 671-2200	Nookachamps - Clear Lake Flood Defence Organization
*Walker, Peter R. (Spoke page 35)	1265 McLean Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-9534	Skagit County Flood Control Council Public Works Department, Mt. Vern
Walley, Donald		Major - Sedro Woolley (Chairman, Skagit Regional Planning Council Burlington, WA 98233)
Walter, J. Ralph	1548 Sam Bell Road Bow, WA 98232	
*Waltner, Charles E. (Spoke page 38)	1987 Dike Road Mount Vernon, WA 445-4171	Drainage Dist #17
West, Steve	2021 E. College Way Mount Vernon, WA	Department of Ecology

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
*Wibbelman, Carl A. (Spoke page 88)	2048 Mud Lake Road 865-0457	
Woods, James	P.O. Box 581 Conway, WA 98238 445-5232	
Wudtke, Gergrude L.	102 Front Street Mount Vernon, WA 336-2837	
Wudtke, Sharon	Martin Road Mount Vernon, WA 424-3982	
*Wylie, Jim (Spoke page 28)	2216 Mann Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273 445-3511	Dike District #18
*Young, Zel (Spoke pages 59, 79)	Box 433 Mount Vernon, WA	

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

**Poteat, John A.	P.O. Box C-3755 Seattle, WA 98124	District Engineer Seattle Dist, Corps of Engrs
Sellevoid, Richard P.	" "	Chief, Engineering Division Seattle Dist, Corps of Engrs
**Farrar, Walter	" "	Chief, Regional Planning Section Engrg Div, Seattle Dist, CofE
**Cook, Vernon	" "	Skagit Project Manager, Des Br Engrg Div, Seattle Dist, CofE
**Brooks, Forest	" "	Skagit Study Manager, Plng Br Engrg Div, Seattle Dist, CofE
**McNamara, Ginger	" "	Recorder, Engineering Div Seattle Dist, Corps of Engrs
**Thomas, Mary	" "	Public Affairs Officer
**Robinson, Walter	" "	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Stephens, Del	" "	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs

NameAddressRepresenting

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

**Malnerich, Michael	P.O. Box C-3755 Seattle, WA 98124	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Rowe, Wayne R.	" "	Design Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Towle, James V.	" "	Design Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
Vert, Linda B.	" "	Real Estate Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Smith, Linda A.	" "	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Northup, Karen S.	" "	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
Jump, Clyde J.	" "	Design Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
Konold, John L.	" "	Planning Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
Woodard, Richard L.	" "	Design Br, Engrg Division Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
Ross, David A.	P.O. Box 2870 Portland, Oregon 97208	North Pacific Division Engineering Division
**Anderson, Willie O.	P.O. Box C-3755 Seattle, WA 98124	Reproduction Branch Seattle District, Corps of Engrs
**Sipes, Allen	" "	Reproduction Branch Seattle District, Corps of Engrs

*Spoke at meeting.

**Aided in meeting and/or preparation of meeting.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. Statement Board of Skagit County Commissioners, Skagit County, Washington, dated 19 June 1979.
2. Statement Skagit Regional Planning Council.
3. Statement by Bruce A. Stoker with 2 inclosures - (River Management Criteria for Oregon and Washington; Application of Land-Use Constraints in Oregon.
4. Statement - Officers and Directors of the Skagit County Flood Control Council.
5. Letter from Janet Huston for residents of Skagit City Road on Fir Island.
6. Letter from Janet Huston dated June 29, 1979 with petition attached.
7. Petition submitted by Ruthie Hanson, Local 411 (115 signatures).
8. Statement of Lawrence Boettcher.
9. Letter from Northwest Regional Council dated June 15, 1979.
10. Letter from Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce dated 18 June 1979.
11. Statement from George M. Dynes, Chairman of Flood Control Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Those of
2 you who I haven't had an opportunity to meet, I am Colonel John Poteat,
3 the District Engineer for the Corps of Seattle District. I want to
4 welcome you to our public meeting on the Skagit River Levee Improvement
5 Project. We will be concentrating tonight on our flood damage reduction
6 study for the Skagit River Delta and on the proposed recommendation that
7 we have for modifications to the 1966 authorized project for flood pro-
8 tection in the lower part of the valley.

9 I am not a total stranger to your flood problems. I became
10 acquainted with them in my previous position in the Office of the Chief
11 of Engineers in Washington, D.C., when some years ago I was the
12 Assistant Director of Civil Works for the Pacific Area. So, in my past
13 job in 1975-76 in Washington, D.C., I became familiar with your flood
14 problem out here, despite the fact that we were separated by about 3,000
15 miles. During the past three years as the District Engineer, I have had
16 a number of discussions on your flooding problems with your senators,
17 your congressmen, members of their staff, your county commissioners and
18 other local officials, as well as many of you individually. As the
19 District Engineer, I have felt a personal obligation to give this study a
20 very high priority in my office, since in my view the Skagit River flood
21 problem is the most serious potential flood problem in the entire
22 Seattle District area which covers most of the State of Washington,
23 northern Idaho and western Montana.

24 I find it a little difficult sometimes to come to any town,
25 particularly Mount Vernon on a pretty day like this, with the sun out,

1 and talk about floods, but they do happen and big ones come. The one that
2 you had here in 1975-76, that time frame that was what we call about a
3 ten year flood, as I recall, that means, relatively speaking is a small
4 flood, it occurs as often as once every ten years. In 1977, the area
5 west of the Cascades, we had down in the Green River about a 75-year flood,
6 so large that it occurs only once every 75 years. I think on the White
7 it was about once every 90 years. The storage reservoirs were there so
8 the floods didn't attract all that much attention, the reservoirs prevented
9 much of the damage. To the people in Mississippi, who have recently
10 experienced in April of this year, the Pearl River flood, that by the
11 way was, all they will say now, well about a 100-year event, it looks
12 like probably well above a 200-year event - what you call a real large
13 flood. It was 24 feet above flood stage, the Pearl River. It caused
14 \$600 million of damage to the Jackson, Mississippi area.

15 During the same time frame the Red River up in Minnesota and North
16 Dakota estimated at over a 100-year flood. In Fargo at over a 200-year
17 flood in Grand Forks. So, what would a 100-year flood do, just to set
18 the stage a little bit we put a red mark on the wall back there, on the
19 column, you can see the red tape around the column - if we were sitting
20 here tonight in a 100-year flood that would be a water level, so it can
21 be very serious.

22 Just a little personal note, unfortunately my tour of duty as the
23 District Engineer is coming to an end out here. I will return to
24 Washington, D.C. the end of this month to take a new job as the Executive
25 Officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Though in

1 that capacity I will continue to be involved with this particular project
2 though from a little different angle. I am pleased that will continue
3 that association because I think we have a problem here, that you have
4 worked very hard on and members of my staff have and I would like to see
5 it progress satisfactorily with maximum benefit to each of you out here.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, this is your meeting. We are very interested
7 in hearing your views. I would like to make just a few introductory
8 remarks, announcements on the presentation of our study. I guess first
9 I ought to introduce members of my staff who are with me tonight. No
10 stranger to you is the Skagit Project Manager, Vern Cook; Walt Farrar,
11 the Chief of our Regional Planning Section, also at the table to my
12 right along with Forest Brooks, Forest is the Skagit Study Manager.
13 Mary Thomas, our Public Affairs Officer is in the back; Ginger McNamara,
14 the lady whose face you seldom see, because she is talking into the
15 recording equipment over here; Walter Robinson, Del Stephens, Mike
16 Malnerich, Wayne Rowe, Jim Towle, whom you met at the door, I think
17 tonight and they are all helping with the meeting and I certainly appreciate
18 their assistance. We do have a stranger from out of town, a member of our
19 headquarters staff our Division Office down in Portland, David Ross -
20 welcome David, it's pretty nice country up here in the Skagit Valley
21 and I suppose you already know that by now. We do have a number of
22 technical experts from our staff in attendance so that we can answer in
23 a good deal more detail your questions whether they be formally at the
24 or during the break, or after the meeting, or some members of my staff
25 will be remaining in the area tomorrow as I will announce later on. The

1 real brains of the outfit then, Karen Northup, our Environmental
2 Coordinator, stand up Karen so that they can see you and if you have an
3 environmental problem call on Karen; Ernie Sabo, Ernie is a total stranger
4 to this valley, stand up Ernie, I doubt if very many people know you.
5 Ernie is the Chief of our Exploration Section in the Foundation and
6 Materials Branch. Ernie has had some small amount of flood fighting
7 experience in the Skagit Valley too. Dick Regan, the brains of our
8 Hydraulic Section; Bob Frey, did he make it, or Linda Vert is here from
9 our Real Estate Office, Linda; Larry Scudder who works in Civil Design.

10 We are very pleased to have several of our locally elected public
11 officials here tonight - Jay Pearson, Congressman Swift's office is here
12 Jay, again welcome to you sir. At a real sacrifice, Howard Miller, from
13 the County Commissioners is here - Howard is in very bad shape these days
14 he hasn't been fishing in four days he said and you know there is a real
15 crisis when that happens; Bud Norris, Bud's the Chairman these days, Bud
16 I was so anxious to get that little story in on Howard and try to get some
17 sympathy I forgot to introduce the head of the outfit, Bud; and Jerry
18 Mansfield is also here, Jerry. It is certainly nice to see you gentlemen
19 the people that I have enjoyed working with a great deal during my tenure
20 out here and have the highest regard for them professionally and a great
21 deal of fun personally - I enjoy them very much.

22 We have Major Jack Miller here from Mount Vernon; Mayor Raymond C.
23 Henery, Burlington and Mayor Don Walley from Sedro Woolley. There may be
24 others that are here.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, when you came into the room tonight some of

1 the members of my staff were at the door to encourage you to fill out an
2 attendance card, one of these little things right here (holding up card).
3 If you have not filled out a card, please raise your hand at this time and
4 we will get one to you to complete and turn in. Does anybody need a
5 card - in the back, in the very back. We need this information for our
6 meeting record. Also, at the registration table there were copies of
7 tonight's agenda, the single sheet here (holding up agenda), a public
8 brochure (holding up brochure). Does anybody need an agenda or a brochure,
9 particularly this brochure. The brochure, by the way, was mailed last
10 week to all persons or agencies known to have an interest in the project.
11 That's one of the reasons we keep these attendance cards is to keep you
12 properly posted. In the brochure you will find information on our
13 proposed recommended plan and the alternative flood damage reduction
14 measures. If you have any comments or questions on the material you
15 can speak to us tonight or you can use the buff colored page in the
16 brochure for your written comments. That page can be removed from the
17 brochure, folded so our address is on the outside, stapled and simply
18 toss in the mail to us and we will pay the postage.

19 If some of you have specific concerns that we do not answer tonight
20 at the meeting and you wish to discuss them with us, as I said earlier,
21 several members of my staff will be in the area tomorrow and frankly, we
22 will remain tonight as long as you care, to answer any questions. Forest
23 Brooks is going to be in charge, I think, of the delegation remaining here
24 tomorrow. He will be at the Skagit County Engineer's Office on the second
25 floor of this building from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and from noon until
26 2:00 p.m.

1 Okay, could we have the lights turned down a little bit? Let's
2 get to the meat of why we are here this evening. As most of you are
3 aware, for sometime now, 2-1/2 years, the Corps of Engineers has conducted
4 what we call advance engineering and design studies of the Skagit Levee
5 and Channel Improvement Project, which was authorized by the Congress in
6 1966. It involved raising existing levees and strengthening them and
7 channel improvement in the Skagit River downstream of the Burlington
8 Northern Bridge at Mount Vernon. Our present study has reviewed that
9 earlier authorization and determined that it did not address the complete
10 flooding problem in the Skagit River Delta.

11 As part of our preliminary studies, we developed six alternatives that
12 combined different flood protection reduction measures including the 1966
13 project, upstream storage was considered, urban levees, and the Avon
14 Bypass. At the public meeting a year ago, March 1978, the general con-
15 sensus of the group was that we should concentrate our detailed studies on
16 improving the entire levee system including lower levees for rural areas,
17 and higher levees, that is for a higher degree of protection for the urban
18 areas, the so-called Alternative 3 that we discussed then and as outlined
19 in the book.

20 We then persued our detailed studies and developed five different
21 combinations of rural and urban levee protection which we designated 3A
22 through 3E. That is, the general Alternative 3, then was flushed out in
23 a little greater detail to include five variations of Alternative 3. These
24 were discussed at the public workshop in December of 1978. The primary
25 concern expressed at that workshop centered on the increased flooding, which

1 areas riverward of the improved levee system would receive, what the
2 impact would be then and what to do about it. Following the workshop the
3 Skagit County Commissioners asked the Corps to undertake additional
4 studies of these areas to determine whether any flood damage reduction
5 measures could be implemented, not only to offset any added damage but
6 also to offset some of the potential damage that could result from con-
7 ditions today.

8 We have completed these studies and have modified Alternative 3 as
9 shown on page 3 of your public brochure, that little buff brochure. That's
10 been modified then to include some of the structural and non-structural
11 measures which you asked about at the workshop. These measures will then
12 not only reduce the flood damage that has been induced by levees across
13 the river, but also provide some general damage reduction over what
14 occurs under present conditions.

15 The meeting tonight will center on the decision to accept
16 Alternative 3E. I have tentatively decided that, considering on the
17 balance so to speak, considering the engineering, economics, environmental
18 and social factors, Alternative 3E should be recommended - that's our
19 proposal to you to see what you think about it. We have come here
20 tonight then to gain your views on this proposed recommendation. Our job
21 again, I emphasize, is to try to serve you in the best method possible and
22 to give you a project which best meets your needs, the needs of the state,
23 and the interests of the Federal Government. We are interested in each
24 and every opinion, whether you are an elected official, a private
25 individual, a taxpayer, a resident with a personal interest, or a

1 representative from a concerned group. So, we certainly do hope you
2 will participate tonight.

3 In order to help us proceed, let me explain the pattern of tonight's
4 meeting. Forest Brooks, our Skagit Study Manager, will review the process
5 very briefly, go over the process the Corps of Engineers follows in
6 building water resource projects and how this particular project for the
7 Skagit Valley fits into this model. He will review the preliminary
8 alternatives, that we have look at over the past, the detailed
9 alternatives that we have narrowed down to and finally our proposed
10 recommended plan, the so-called 3E proposal. At that point, we will
11 listen to those of you who wish to make a formal comment. Following that,
12 we will open up the meeting for general discussion, then you can ask
13 questions or comment upon what has been presented before or what is in
14 the book. So, Forest without further adieu let's have you discuss some
15 of the details of our study.

16 FOREST BROOKS. Thank you, Colonel. I am pleased we have such a
17 good turnout here tonight. I will now take about 20 minutes to review
18 how the Corps of Engineers goes about studying and building projects and
19 to discuss our tentatively selected alternative as well as the other
20 alternatives which were considered.

21 The usual Corps process, by which we plan, design and build water
22 resource projects, can generally be broken down into three phases -- what
23 we call General Investigation studies, Advance Engineering and Design
24 studies and then actual construction.

25 In the first phase, the General Investigation studies, people ask

1 their congressional representatives for help in resolving water resource
2 problems. Congress then directs the Corps of Engineers to study the
3 problems and make recommendations as to the Federal interest in measures
4 which could alleviate these problems. For the Skagit Project, Congress
5 authorized such a study in 1960. This study was completed in 1965 and
6 the Corps recommended that a project be constructed. In the Flood Control
7 Act of 1966; Congress authorized the Corps to proceed with the project.
8 However, Congress did not fund the second phase of the project until
9 Fiscal Year 1977.

10 The second phase of a Corps project involves advance engineering and
11 design studies. During this phase, the Corps reviews the authorized project
12 to determine whether there are changes in the needs of the area, and the
13 desires of the people and local officials since the first phase of studies.
14 Then, either the formulation of the authorized project is affirmed or it
15 is changed to meet new and greater needs. On the Skagit project, Congress
16 first funded this phase in Fiscal Year 1977. We are scheduled to submit
17 our report next month. It tentatively reformulates the project to
18 Alternative 3E. This recommendation would require additional congressional
19 authority before construction can begin.

20 The third phase of a Corps of Engineers project is the actual
21 construction. This can take from one to several years depending upon the
22 scope of the project. Construction of this project, would probably first
23 begin on Fir Island. Timing would be dependent upon congressional
24 authorization and funding. Hopefully, construction could be underway by
25 1980 and would probably continue for three or four years. At that time,

1 the completed project would be turned over to Skagit County to operate
2 and maintain.

3 In our preliminary studies we developed six alternative flood
4 damage reduction measures which were discussed at our March 1978
5 meeting. The first alternative was to continue existing conditions.
6 This is our "do nothing" alternative. Under this alternative, no new
7 dams, levees, channel modifications, or diversion structures would be
8 built for flood damage reduction purposes. Development within the flood
9 plain would be restricted through existing zoning. The existing levee
10 system and the upstream flood control storage would be maintained as
11 they presently are. Under this alternative, the river would remain
12 partially controlled by the existing structural flood prevention
13 measures; however, existing average annual damages of \$7.2 million, would
14 continue.

15 The second alternative was the 1966 project which involved
16 raising and strengthening the existing levee system from the mouth of
17 the North and South Forks upstream to the Burlington Northern Railroad
18 Bridge, and improving the hydraulic capacity of the North Fork and Fresh-
19 water Sloughs so that the safe channel capacity downstream from the
20 Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge would be 120,000 cubic feet per
21 second which is equivalent to about an eight or nine year flood.

22 Alternative three included the improvements described by
23 Alternative 2 and in addition, higher urban levees to protect Burlington
24 and Mt. Vernon.

25 Alternative four would include the improvements described by

1 Alternative 3 and, in addition, upstream flood control storage of 134,000
2 acre-feet provided by a dam on the Sauk River.

3 Alternative five would include the improvements described by
4 Alternative 2 and in addition, the Avon Bypass and the urban levee
5 system. The existing levee system would be extended to Sedro Woolley,
6 and the bypass channel would have a capacity of 60,000 cubic feet per
7 second.

8 Alternative six would include the improvements described by
9 Alternative 2, and, in addition, the Avon Bypass and upstream storage
10 on the Sauk River. The existing levee system would be extended to
11 Sedro Woolley, and the bypass channel would have a capacity of 60,000
12 cubic feet per second. Since approximately 100-year flood protection
13 would be provided to the entire flood plain downstream from Sedro Woolley,
14 most of the restrictions regarding flood plain regulations would no
15 longer be required.

16 Of the preliminary alternatives, Alternative 3 received public
17 and local government support as the first priority for flood damage
18 reduction in the Skagit River Delta and was selected for further develop-
19 ment in our detailed studies.

20 For detailed studies, Alternative 1, the without condition, was
21 carried throughout plan formulation, as was Alternative 2, the 1966
22 project, to serve as a basis for evaluating alternatives. We developed
23 five combinations of urban and rural levee protection and designated them
24 3A through 3E.

25 Alternative 3A would provide urban levees (100-year or more

1 protection) for east Mount Vernon, west Mount Vernon, and Burlington.
2 Rural levees which would provide 50-year protection for Avon-Fredonia and
3 for the area downstream of Mount Vernon. This would provide protection
4 for 100-year or greater flood for 6,600 acres and protection from a 50-year
5 flood for 35,600 acres. The total cost would be about \$55 million of
6 which about \$12.5 million would be local. Average annual induced
7 damages would be \$102,000 with average annual net benefits of \$956,000.
8 The benefit-to-cost ratio would 1.2 to 1.

9 Alternative 3B would be similar to 3A except that the Avon-Fredonia
10 area would be provided 100-year or more protection. 11,700 acres would
11 be protected from the 100-year or greater flood and 30,500 acres from
12 the 50-year flood. Total cost would be about \$41 million of which about
13 \$7.5 million would be local. Average annual induced damages would be
14 \$64,000, with net benefits of \$2,089,000. The benefit-to-cost ratio
15 would be about 1.6 to 1.

16 Alternative 3C would be similar to 3A except that the Cook Road
17 area, the Skagit overflow into the Samish, would be provided 100-year
18 or more protection. 17,600 acres would be protected from the 100-year or
19 greater flood and 35,000 acres from a 50-year flood. The total cost
20 would be about \$94 million of which about \$13 million would be local.
21 Average annual induced damages would be \$117,000 and net benefits would
22 be a negative \$1,430,000. The benefit-to-cost ratio would be 0.8 to 1.

23 Alternative 3D would be similar to 3C except that the Avon-Fredonia
24 area would also be provided 100-year or more protection. Under this
25 alternative 22,100 acres would be protected from 100-year or greater floods

1 and 30,500 acres from a 50-year flood. Total cost would be about
2 \$80 million of which about \$9 million would be local costs. The average
3 annual induced damages would be \$120,000 and the net benefits a
4 negative \$375,000 annually. The benefit-to-cost ratio would be 0.9 to 1.

5 Alternative 3E would be similar to 3B except that an overflow to
6 the Samish Valley would be provided at Gages Slough east of Burlington
7 with erosion control sills and levees added to protect the Sedro
8 Woolley-Sterling area and the Clear Lake area. Other flood plain
9 improvements would receive flood damage reduction through raising,
10 floodproofing, moving, or flowage easement. 14,200 acres would be
11 protected from 100-year or greater floods and 39,000 acres from the
12 50-year flood. Total cost would be \$55 million of which \$10 million
13 would be local. The average annual induced damages would be about
14 \$25,000 and the net benefits \$2,288,000. The benefit-to-cost ratio would
15 be about 1.5 to 1.

16 In evaluating these alternatives engineering economic and social
17 factors were considered.

18 Alternative 1, the without condition, was eliminated because it
19 did not provide any flood damage reduction to existing developments in
20 the flood plain. Little support has been expressed for this alternative
21 by any agency or group.

22 Alternative 2, the originally authorized project, was eliminated
23 because it did not geographically include the full flood control problem
24 of the Skagit Valley Delta downstream from Sedro Woolley.

25 Alternatives 3C and 3D were eliminated because the total project
26 costs exceeded the total project benefits that would be realized by
27 building the project.

1 Alternative 3A was eliminated because it had the lowest amount of
2 total benefits and would provide the lowest amount of flood protection
3 and have the highest amount of induced damages of the three remaining
4 alternatives.

5 Of the two remaining Alternatives, 3B has lower total benefits,
6 lower net benefits and a higher benefit-to-cost ratio than alternative 3E.
7 3B would reduce flood damages significantly for about 42,000 acres of the
8 Skagit River flood plain downstream of Sedro Woolley but would increase
9 flood damages somewhat for about 32,000 acres.

10 Alternative 3E has the greatest total and net benefits and includes
11 additional structural and non-structural measures to eliminate much of
12 the induced flooding damages. The environmental effects of Alternatives
13 3A through 3E are approximately the same with Alternative 3A protecting
14 the least urban land having the least environmental impacts and
15 Alternative 3D protecting the largest amount of land with 100-year or
16 greater protection, having the greatest environmental impacts. From a
17 social viewpoint, Alternative 3E would provide flood damage reduction
18 of various levels to the largest number of people in the Skagit River
19 Delta. Thus, after considering these factors and others which are
20 discussed in the public brochure, Alternative 3E was tentatively selected
21 as the recommended plan.

22 Following the selection of 3E as the tentative plan the design
23 was refined to insure that a catastrophic failure of the levee in a
24 heavily populated area would not occur. The levee system includes
25 designed overflow areas of reduced freeboard so that in floods greater than

1 the project design, protected areas would be flooded gradually by
2 backwater preventing a sudden flowout which could cause a wall of water
3 to rush through either Burlington or Mount Vernon. As part of this design
4 refinement, it was determined that by raising the east side levee at
5 Mount Vernon by only about 0.3 or 0.4 of a foot over the 100-year levee
6 height, standard project flood protection could be provided to downtown
7 Mount Vernon. Standard project flood would be a flood which is greater
8 than, in this case, would be greater than a 500-year flood. We could
9 provide this protection without significantly impacting any other area.
10 We deemed this additional protection for the highly developed downtown
11 area of Mount Vernon was appropriate.

12 Thus the tentatively selected plan includes - standard project
13 flood protection for 2,200 acres in Mount Vernon; 100 year or greater
14 protection for 12,000 acres in west Mount Vernon, Avon-Freedonia, Burlington
15 Sedro Woolley, Sterling and in Clear Lake and 50 year protection for
16 39,000 acres of rural agricultural land. Also, in addition on
17 Alternative 3E we have non-structural measures for those lands which are
18 located riverward of the improved levee system.

19 The improved levee system has a basic levee design. The top of
20 the levee height was selected by determining the design water surface
21 which is 50 years for rural levees and 100 years or standard project flood
22 for urban levees. This design water surface includes an allowance for
23 sedimentation over the economic life of the project, which in this case is
24 100 years. To this design water surface an allowance for wave action
25 for superelevation and bridge losses is made as appropriate and then a

1 factor of safety called freeboard is added to determine what the top of
2 the levee should be. For the urban areas the freeboard is generally three
3 feet and in rural areas it is generally two feet. The amount that we will
4 be raising the existing levees to the new height would range from
5 generally one to seven feet.

6 Now, the typical earth levee embankment will be constructed of
7 silty, sandy gravel or silty, gravelly sand placed on a ground which has
8 been cleared, grubbed, and stripped as required. The standard levee top
9 will be 12 feet wide; the side slopes are typically one vertical on two
10 horizontal. Maximum use will be made of embankment materials from the
11 existing levees. The side slopes would receive topsoil and seeding with
12 the top of the levee having gravel and seeding. In many areas of the
13 project, a 12-foot gravel berm on the landward levee side is necessary to
14 control water seepage under the levee and to prevent loss of levee
15 integrity. This gravel berm will also serve as an access road during
16 floodfighting and for levee maintenance purposes. In many locations
17 where the existing county road is located adjacent to the existing levee,
18 the road will be moved and placed on top of the berm. In these cases
19 the berm will be whatever width is required for the road. To provide
20 protection against erosion where levees will be subjected to high-water
21 velocities, wind waves and debris attack, rock riprap will be placed
22 along approximately 8.3 miles of the total project length. In cases
23 where a sufficiently wide bench is available between the levee and the
24 river, a buried toe levee design will be utilized as shown on this slide.
25 In other cases where encroachment into the river is unavoidable, a weighted

1 toe levee design will be utilized as shown in the slide on the screen
2 now.

3 On the left bank of the river through Mount Vernon, where right-of-
4 way through the urban area is limited, a floodwall will be constructed
5 instead of a levee. This will occur along approximately 1.4 miles of
6 the total project. The bank protection in this reach will be rock riprap
7 with a weighted levee toe. The basic levee design is shown in this slide.

8 Because of the esthetic impacts a wall would have in the Lions Club
9 Roadside Park and in the downtown waterfront parking area in Mount Vernon
10 a folding floodwall has been proposed for these areas and it is shown on
11 the slide on the screen now. This design would be similar to one which
12 the Corps of Engineers has built in Monroe, Louisiana which is shown in
13 these pictures on the screen now being erected during a flood exercise last
14 year. When not in use for preventing a flood the levee can lie flat and
15 be used as a sidewalk. As part of the modifications to 3E the weir which
16 was located near Sterling has been removed and two erosion control sills
17 installed. These sills are designed to prevent the 100-year flood over-
18 flow to the Samish from the Skagit from being any worse with the project
19 than would be experienced without the project as well as prevent a
20 possible channel shift during a major flood. The screen shows the levee
21 in the Sterling area. The new levee would start in Sedro Woolley, come
22 along the southeast side of the Burlington Northern to District Line Road,
23 then cross the railroad and highway and follow along the District Line
24 Road to high ground adjacent to Sterling Hill. At this point a buried
25 sheet pile wall with a buried riprap blanket for erosion protection would

1 be installed from the end of this levee to Sterling Hill. A cross section
2 through this sill is shown on the left screen. Prior to construction
3 topsoil would be stripped from the area and excavation for the riprap
4 made after placement, the material that would be removed from the
5 excavation will be replaced over the riprap and reshaped with flat side
6 slopes to form a berm, so that the water increased caused by the project
7 is compensated for in the design of the erosion control sill and once the
8 topsoil has been replaced over it then normal farming operations could
9 be resumed in the area.

10 On the left side of the Sterling levee slide, the existing levee
11 system will be raised and a new levee constructed along the south side
12 of Gages Slough almost to Sterling Hill where it turns to the west to
13 tie into the Burlington Hill. A sill similar to the one on the east
14 side of the hill would be placed from the hill to this levee.

15 The modified 3E Alternative includes structural and non-structural
16 measures to not only substantially reduce any flood damages caused by the
17 project but, where possible, to provide flood damage reduction up to the
18 100-year flood for improvements in the flood plain riverward of the improved
19 levee system. These non-structural measures include - raising or flood-
20 proofing buildings, relocating or removing buildings and if necessary
21 purchase of flowage easements. The measures to be used will vary
22 depending upon the specific area and the structures under consideration.

23 At west Mount Vernon the levee alignment has been moved from Ball
24 Street one block east to Front Street. The property between Front Street
25 and the river will probably be purchased and the buildings removed since

1 since they are presently located in the Skagit River floodway.

2 On the other side of the river at Mount Vernon, raising, flowage
3 easements, or floodproofing would be probably provide for the Moose Hall
4 and the Stokley Van Camp Warehouse which are currently outside the proposed
5 levee alinement.

6 For the community fo Clear Lake a levee would be added west of
7 Highway 9 to provide 100-year protection to Clear Lake and the area south
8 of it on the East Fork Nookachamps Creek.

9 At Sterling the levee along District Line Road has been added. This
10 will provide 100-year protection to the houses and the developments such
11 as the hospital and convalescent center that are adjacent to and northwest
12 of Highway 20.

13 For the remainder of theas riverward of the improved levee system
14 improvements would be raised, floodproofed, relocated, removed or a
15 flowage easement obtained. Generally it would following the following
16 criteria. All residences would be floodproofed so that the first floor
17 would be one foöt above the 100-year flood, with project water surface, or
18 the residences would be acquired in fee and removed from the flood plain.

19 All farmers having livestock would have mounds constructed to one
20 foot above the 50-year flood water surface with space provided for livestock
21 feed storage, and emergency milking operations if that's applicable to the
22 type of livestock involved.

23 All land that would flooded during the 100-year event because of
24 the project, that would not have been flooded without the project, would
25 be subject to flowage easements.

1 All improvements, other than residences, would be considered on a
2 case-by-case basis for floodproofing to offset any significant detrimental
3 effect caused by the project.

4 The limited recreational features which were proposed as part of the
5 project originally have now been dropped from the present plan, due to
6 problems regarding the Federal interest and the type of development
7 proposed and the local desires.

8 We have included a special habitat restoration features into the
9 project to minimize adverse environmental impacts associated with the
10 loss of habitat due to project construction. To accelerate the re-
11 establishment of vegetation following project construction, all levee tops
12 and berms will be seeded with native grass species. Stripped material
13 stockpiled during levee construction will be placed on all riprap and
14 quarry spall slopes above ordinary high water and grass seeded. Buried
15 levee toes will be backfilled with excavated material and also seeded.

16 In certain reaches of the project where immediate restoration of
17 shrub habitat has been identified as critical to fish and wildlife, re-
18 vegetation with shrubs, in addition to grass is proposed. This occurs at
19 five locations with a total length of 7,500 lineal feet, in these locations
20 the riprap would be thickened and the rock sizes increased in reaches for
21 shrub plantings in order that the vegetation, when established, would not
22 weaken the riprap or the levee protection. The program of revegetation
23 will consist of placing topsoil over the riprap and into the voids and
24 seeding it in grass, followed by the planting of a 4-foot zone of shrub
25 species above the ordinary high water line. Restoration planting is also

1 planned for the 400-foot reach of Fisher Slough that will be realigned.
2 Planting will occur on approximately 0.2 acre of the right bank and will
3 consist of native species existing there at the time that the realignment
4 takes place.

5 We have proposed sufficient wildlife mitigation to reduce impacts
6 resulting from the project-related losses of shore zone habitat and
7 overstory with vegetation. It will be located on the Skagit wildlife
8 recreation area, which is currently owned and operated by the Washington
9 State Department of Game.

10 Mitigation for the loss of shallow rearing habitat for juvenile
11 fish would be provided by reopening the slough on No Name Island on the
12 Skagit wildlife recreation area which is between Steamboat and Freshwater
13 Sloughs. This involves the placement of two culverts, one at each end
14 of the 2,500 foot slough to permit freshwater into the Skagit River. The
15 planting of trees on the wildlife recreation area is planned to mitigate
16 for the loss of approximately 10 acres of overstory vegetation which
17 would be permanently lost along the river due to levee right-of-way and
18 maintenance requirements. One site involves improving the existing levee
19 along Freshwater Slough to approximately 10-year protection sufficient
20 to maintain the planting of a zone of trees along the inside of the levee.
21 A second zone of vegetation will be planted on Milltown Island along the
22 river's edge. In the future other sites may be identified in the wildlife
23 recreation area during continued coordination with the resource agencies.

24 Now, I will just say a few words about the local cost sharing
25 requirements. Federal participation in water resource projects is

1 contingent upon the local governmental agency serving as the local
2 sponsor, which in this case is Skagit County, providing the items of
3 local cooperation. These generally include all land, easements and
4 rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the project; providing
5 alterations and relocations of buildings, transportation facilities, and
6 utilities; holding the United States free from damages due to the
7 construction work; and maintaining and operating the project after com-
8 pletion. In the case of this project there are probably several other
9 requirements which were part of the original authorization and these in-
10 cluded to prevent encroachment on improved channels and to annually
11 notify the public of the limited flood protection provided by the project.
12 Another item which would be added as part of the modified 3E would be
13 cost sharing for the non-structural measures on a 20 percent local, 80
14 percent Federal basis. The total local cost to provide these items is
15 currently estimated at about \$10 million.

16 Now, what will happen next? We are currently in the third year
17 of our advance engineering and design phase of the Skagit Levee Improvement
18 Project. We have completed our studies and tentatively selected the plan
19 which we feel is the best when engineering, economics, environmental and
20 social effects are considered. After this meeting we are scheduled to
21 submit to our higher authority in Portland, Oregon, our project report
22 which we call our General Design Memorandum and also a final Environmental
23 Impact Statement. For your comments to be considered as part of our
24 process we must receive them by the end of the month, by the 30th of June.
25 We consider your input essential so that we can have a complete evaluation.

1 As Colonel Poteat said we will be willing to stay tonight to speak
2 with you, if you don't get your question answered during the meeting,
3 either at a break or afterwards and I will stay, I will be here tomorrow
4 upstairs in the County Engineer's Office to meet with whoever wants to
5 come in and talk about the project, about our plan or anything else about
6 it. I will be there from 8:00 to 11:00 and from noon until 2:00. Now, if
7 there is somebody who can't come during those hours please see me tonight
8 and we will try to work out another time when I can be there. Generally
9 I will be there from 8:00 to 11:00 and from noon to 2:00. Now this con-
10 cludes my presentation on this and I think I will turn it back over to you
11 Colonel.

12 COLONEL POTEAT. Thanks Forest. Ladies and gentlemen, this is
13 basically your meeting. We are here, of course, to provide information
14 but we particularly want to hear and record your comments and to do our
15 best to answer your questions. For those of you who indicated on the
16 attendance cards that you would like to say something, we have a couple of
17 microphones in the center aisle or you can use the one up here but please
18 use one the microphones so that the audience can hear you and Ginger can
19 record your comments. When you speak, would you please give your name
20 and an organization that you represent, if indeed you do, state whether
21 your views are your own or those of the organization.

22 Now, to expedite the meeting tonight I would ask that those of you
23 who have formal written comments to submit, turn them in to us and then
24 summarize the significant ideas in your comments for the people in
25 attendance. We will, by the way, print the entire version which you turn

1 in to us. We will take the speakers who wish to make formal comments
2 in the following order - first, the elected officials, Federal, State,
3 local; next, representatives of Federal, State and local agencies; third,
4 persons from organized groups and then individuals. Following the
5 formal comments, we will open the floor to general questions and discussions
6 on the issues that are raised tonight. I think that about 9:30 or so, we
7 will be about two hours into the meeting and we will take a little break.

8 The first card I have here for the County Commissioners I think
9 they are matching out over in the corner to see who will deliver this.
10 I believe the Chairman is Bud Norris.

11 BUD NORRIS. Thank you, Colonel. I would like to express the words
12 of appreciation to Colonel Poteat for his continued support for flood
13 control in the Skagit Basin and for the efforts of Vernon Cook and Forest
14 Brooks and the others who have continued to work closely with the county
15 on this project.

16 As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, I speak on behalf
17 of the entire Board in unanimous support of the proposed Skagit River
18 Levee Project as we now understand it. Flood protection for the Skagit
19 Valley is long overdue; the development of the project to this point has
20 been a tedious process and I would be the last to say that the proposed
21 project is a perfect solution to our problem. However, realizing there
22 is no perfect solution, it is the opinion of the Board of County
23 Commissioners, that the Skagit River Levee Project here tonight, is the
24 best alternative for flood protection available to Skagit County at this
25 point.

1 It is important to emphasize that although this hearing is being
2 conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, it is a Skagit County Project
3 and we as your County Commissioners will be carefully considering your
4 comments here tonight.

5 There are many concerns which have been expressed, many of these
6 have been resolved while others will be considered in the detailed
7 project design phase and through continued study on the part of the Corps
8 in cooperation with the county. The proposed project includes flood
9 damage reduction measures for areas affected by the higher levees. These
10 measures will be discussed in the Corps' presentation tonight also.

11 The Board is continuing its efforts to gain congressional approval
12 for the project. Congressman Swift and Senators Magnuson and Jackson have
13 given their support and we expect through their efforts to have
14 authorization in the near future.

15 You have heard the presentation of the project tonight, including
16 new information and developments since the last public meeting, you will
17 be given the opportunity to comment on the proposal and express your
18 support and concerns. Your comments are important and we encourage you
19 to either share them with us verbally or use the sheet, I think it's
20 page 21, of the brochure or, if you wish, you may write the Corps of
21 Engineers, or telephone them, or write the Skagit County Department of
22 Public Works, or the Board of County Commissioners and we sure welcome
23 your input and we really appreciate the great turnout we have tonight.

24 Thanks again, I submit this for the record. (Statement attached
25 as Exhibit 1)

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Mr. Ray
2 C. Henery, the Mayor of Burlington to be followed by Mayor Donald Walley
3 of Sedro Woolley. Mr. Henery.

4 RAY C. HENERY. Thank you. I am Ray Henery, city of Burlington
5 Mayor and our City Council has been on record as supporting the Corps of
6 Engineers in this levee project and at the present time we are in favor
7 of Alternative 3E, and will support the Engineers in this project. One
8 question if I am not out of order - what effect does this program have
9 on our present dike districts? Is this a question that is in order at
10 this time?

11 COLONEL POTEAT. Gene, can you help us on that?

12 GENE SAMPLY. My name is Gene Samply, Director of Public Works,
13 Skagit County. The county has been working closely with the Dike
14 District Commissioners through the Flood Coordinating Council, as well
15 as all of the Commissioners of the Dike Districts and there would be no
16 immediate effect. The county is responsible for maintenance of the
17 project, at its completion, once its turned over to the county we have
18 full responsibility for that maintenance, but we do intend to facilitate
19 that through our Diking Districts and we do appreciate their support and
20 efforts in this regard and I hope that answers the question - I think
21 that's the best I can do tonight, off the cuff, thank you.

22 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, Gene. Mr Mayor anything else.

23 MAYOR HENERY. Shook his head "no."

24 COLONEL POTEAT. The Mayor of Sedro Woolley.

25 IAN MUNCE for MAYOR WOOLLEY. I am not Mayor Woolley but I have a

1 brief statement to make in his behalf. I am speaking this evening as
2 Chairman of the Regional Planning Council which is a local concept of
3 government made up of representatives from each of the eight cities in
4 the county and the County Commissioners. The Council is responsible for
5 long-range planning objectives for both the unincorporated and the
6 incorporated areas. Through our ongoing planning program, the Council
7 has established a fairly comprehensive program of capital improvements
8 directed to local needs. The project is number one priority in this
9 capital improvement program is the lower levee flood control project. It
10 is the position of the Council that this project is urgently needed to
11 protect both our urban areas and our farms. We strongly support this
12 project for early construction as a minimum measure for providing flood
13 protection for the lower valley and the urban areas up to the city of
14 Sedro Woolley. Thank you. (Statement attached as Exhibit 2)

15 COLONEL POTEAT: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is Mr. Jim Wylie
16 of Diking District #18 and Mr. Wylie will be followed by Sophie Neble of
17 Sedro Woolley. Mr. Wylie.

18 JIM WYLIE. I would like to say that Dike District 18 is in favor
19 of 50-year protection on our levee and we have no objections to the
20 alternative plan of 3E. Our District has no dikes on the river but we do
21 have saltwater and when the river breaks it has to go some place and it
22 wipes out our saltwater dikes. At the present time it is my estimation
23 that we have maybe 8-year protection on Fir Island and that's enough to
24 make anybody move off the island. So you can see what 50-year protection
25 would do to Fir Island.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. The next speaker is Sophie Neble, Mr. Harry
2 Anderson to follow.

3 SOPHIE NEBLE. I am Sophie Neble and I live five miles east of
4 Sedro Woolley right on the Skagit River and what puzzles me is this - if
5 you building those levees, the dikes or whichever you call them and I
6 can't see how much good they will do up in my area. In the last 33 years
7 that I have lived up there we have lost at least between 50 and 75 acres
8 of the prime farmland that the river takes it and moves it right back
9 out where you are putting your levees so it is going to fill it right back
10 up just as it's been doing for years and years and it is still doing it.
11 So, I can't see where those levees is going to do much good down there
12 if it takes the soil from above and so on and so on and moves it down and
13 fills your dikes and so the way I look at it, I think if the river was
14 riprapped above your dikes would last a lot longer down below. I remember
15 about 30 years ago a lady by the name of Mrs. Armstrong from LaConner and
16 she preached the same thing. She's said we've been raising and raising
17 and raising those dikes, she says and every time we raise them a foot she
18 says they could fill two feet so she figured there was not much sense of
19 raising the dikes unless you riprapped the river so that the silt
20 doesn't come down because I understand that there are ten million tons
21 of silt does down the Skagit River and dumps it into the bay annually.
22 So I think that some of the riprapping should go up there to slow down
23 the silt that is washed down between the dikes and fills the riverbed up
24 and raises the river and you can only go so high with those dikes - I
25 thank you.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. I think what we will do is
2 try to go on through the comments and then when we get into the more
3 informal question and answer period we might double back and comment on
4 some of the questions that have been raised in the formal comment period.
5 Thank you very much. Our next speaker Mr. Harry Anderson. Mr. Anderson
6 to be followed by Mr. Alfred M. Tellesbo. Let's take Mr. Anderson and
7 then I will work on the pronunciation. Mr. Anderson.

8 HARRY ANDERSON. Did not show.

9 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Tellesbo - do we have anyone from Diking
10 District #2? Card says a farmer from Diking District #2.

11 ALFRED M. TELLESBO. Well, I am from Diking District #2 on Fir
12 Island and I am tired of fighting floods and I would like to see this
13 project go through and I am for it.

14 COLONEL POTEAT. Next is Mr. Bruce A. Stoker. Mr. Stoker to be
15 followed by Mr. Gus Cecotti.

16 BRUCE A. STOKER. Hello - I feel that by proper zoning and proper
17 building code that a 100 or so years from now the levees wouldn't be
18 needed anymore which would eliminate the need for our grandchildren to
19 be sitting in this room here trying to decide what they are going to do
20 about the flooding here in the Skagit Valley. People have always lived
21 along rivers and you would think by now that some of the people would
22 learn that rivers flood and you would think according to that - some
23 people have learned that floods come through here and they built their
24 houses up higher, they've built mounds for their farms, they designed their
25 farms around the fact that it does flood. However, in the past 100 years

1 folks have built with no regard to flooding in a lot of the areas here.
2 To me, to live in a flood plain and act shocked when the floods come is
3 ridiculous. To live in a flood plain without raising the buildings is
4 ridiculous and to expect taxpayers all over the country to pay the bills
5 because some folks in Skagit Valley just didn't build their town right
6 is absurd. If you are going to spend \$55 million plus \$88,000.00 a year
7 on management costs we had better get a solution to the problem and the
8 most recent June 1979 brochure which you got today there is a list of
9 alternatives, only four lines in this brochure are used to gloss over the
10 only alternative that I feel that would bring a long-term solution to
11 this flood damage problem. That would be rezoning, floodproofing and
12 raising the structures. The reason it's not considered is the estimated
13 value of present flood plain structures, in other words, you are saying
14 that we are already too far developed in the flood plain to get back
15 to the sensible path, but ask the question "How many of these urban
16 buildings will be replaced in say 50 years and for sure 100 years a lot
17 of them will be replaced. As old buildings are replaced they can be built
18 up to flood code - for example, this building here won't be really wiped
19 out by a 100-year flood if you look at that stripe back there, it was
20 designed up to the present code. In urban areas, this would mean
21 building up, creating parking space below for example. This would also
22 be a more efficient use of limited urban space. We can continue with the
23 levees and in 50 years will still have the problem. Actually the problem
24 will be worse and the bigger the levee gets the higher the flood gets -
25 take a look at what levees really are in relation to a river. The Skagit

1 River collects water from about 3,000 square miles and during normal
2 flows sends it down the main channel. During a flood a river receives
3 more runoff than a normal channel will hold, but flood waters spread out
4 into the low lying flood plain which means the energy of the flowing
5 waters spreads out and the potential energy for doing damage is spread out.
6 There is a shallow backwater called bank storage over the entire area.
7 Okay, the Army Corps method of dealing with this is to concentrate the
8 floodwater into one narrow channel. This concentrates the flood energy
9 and therefore the potential energy for doing damage into one narrow zone.
10 It also puts the region into a cycle of always needing new and improved
11 levee projects. Look at the Mount Vernon flood levels before and after
12 the proposed 3E project if you will look on page 25 in your brochure
13 you will see that a 100-year flood for example, the water levels are
14 higher and this is from concentrating the water into one zone. Okay,
15 this works the other way, the levees are removed and the flood waters
16 are spread out so the flood levels are lowered. If there were no levees
17 how high would the 10, 15 and 100-year floods be or as another option,
18 move some of the levees back to define a less constricted floodway. This
19 would spread the waters out enough that farmers and urban folks could
20 easily live with the floods that come through there. An example of this
21 is to - for example on the south of Mount Vernon here move the levee
22 over towards the east, towards Burlington Railroad that would give you a
23 bigger floodway, less damaging energy in the flood. Those levee removals
24 and levee setbacks would lessen dangerous flood levels because we would
25 have a lot of the bank storage back. This requires floodplain residents

1 to start slowly getting together sensible flood plain buildings which
2 means we would be moving towards a solution to the flood damage problem.
3 Levee removal or setback would also enhance the fisheries and the shoreline
4 of the river. We can take the \$4 million estimated annual costs of
5 Alternative 3E and build bigger levees and have the endless cycle of
6 new and improved river projects or we could take that \$4 million a year
7 and build this region into the farming, fishing and lumber area it is
8 suited for. And, I could summarize all this by a statement by a
9 professor down in Portland - river management that regulates land-use to
10 sustain the minimum disruption of the river will preserve the maximum
11 natural values and require the least maintenance cost. Thank you and I
12 forgot to say I am Bruce Stoker from the Big Lake area and is there any-
13 thing else I am supposed to say? I am sorry I took so long from somebody
14 else, maybe. (Statement attached as Exhibit 3)

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Our next speaker Mr. Gus
16 Cecotti and he will be followed by Mr. Dick Verdoes.

17 GUS CECOTTI. I don't think the people of Snohomish a few years
18 ago that had that flood and lost all their cattle would find too much
19 comfort in the comment he just made about unrestrained riverflow. My name
20 is Gus Cecotti. I am a lifelong resident of Skagit County and the Mount
21 Vernon area. We are in the construction business and we do work on dikes.
22 For this reason I happen to know that most of our dike system is sub-
23 standard. We just finished completing and upgrading the dike across from
24 the Lions Park area in town and the December 1975 flood that dike very
25 nearly blew, another half a day of rain or a day at the most would have

1 made western Mount Vernon look a lot different that it is today. So, I
2 support the dike system as proposed by this alternative then.

3 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Mr Dick Verdoes and he will be
4 followed by Mr. Peter R. Walker.

5 DICK VERDOES. I am kind of interested in the flood in Snohomish
6 when those cattle were killed when the dike failed, not because the
7 dike protected it, it was because of the fault of the diking pumping
8 station - the wall of water came down and washed them all up in the barns
9 and trees in five seconds and five minutes later the water was back to
10 knee level. I am against the Skagit River project. I believe that it is
11 mismanagement of the river that help can be established or instituted for
12 the entire valley including the upper river towns by a flood containment
13 structure on the Sauk River not a dam, but a flood dam where flow would
14 naturally go until the river started to flood. Also, this plan is at the
15 expense of people in the Nookachamp and we're going to be subjected to
16 increased water, increased flow - it's going to change the bounds of
17 what we know in the Nookachamp. We have, among other species, we have
18 the trumpeter swans who live there during the winter. When the water
19 comes its going to force the dairy farmers out of the area increasingly
20 subjecting the land to crop farming. Most of the land in the Nookachamp
21 is now in sod. With the removal of the animals, because I don't believe
22 that mounds will sufficiently take care of the animals. The pesticides
23 used on the crops over five or six thousand acres in that area will
24 directly adversely affect the wildlife in that area. Thank you.

25 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. The next speaker is Mr.

1 Peter R. Walker to be followed by Althea Jewett.

2 PETER R. WALKER. My name is Pete Walker. I am a member of the
3 Board of Commissioners of Diking District #12. Besides the city of
4 Burlington Diking District #12 has in its confines about 19,000 acres
5 of fine agricultural land. I am not here to speak on behalf of the
6 Board, I am going to let the Chairman of the Board do that. I am here
7 to present a statement for the Skagit County Flood Control Council. I am
8 presently serving as its Chairman. The statement is addressed to the
9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning the Skagit River levee project,
10 Colonel John A. Poteat. The Skagit County Flood Control Council comprised
11 of all the Dikes and Drainage District Commissioners of Skagit County,
12 the Commissioners of Conservation District of Skagit County and
13 representatives of the Skagit County Engineers Office have long recognized
14 the vital need for additional flood protection for the Skagit Valley.
15 Realizing that levee improvements is the last viable option to obtain
16 this flood protection, enthusiastically support the flood control project
17 presented by the Army Corps of Engineers. The members of the Skagit
18 County Flood Control Council believe that the modified flood control
19 project plan know as Alternate Plan 3E will provide the most flood
20 protection obtainable by a levee system, at the least cost and adversely
21 impact fewer persons than any other thus far presented. The Council feels
22 that Alternate Plan 3E closely meets the request of the majority of the
23 Skagit County citizens testifying at the Army Corps of Engineers preliminary
24 hearing on this project held on March 22nd, 1978. Thus, the Skagit County
25 Flood Control Council supports the Army Corps of Engineers Skagit River

1 Levee Project Alternate Plan 3E and request the Army Corps of Engineers
2 to continue and pursue this fully to early construction and completion.
3 Signed the Officers and Directors of Skagit County Flood Control
4 Council. I submit this for your record. (Statement attached as Exhibit 4)

5 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Our next speaker Althea
6 Jewett to be followed by Gerald D. Mapes.

7 ALTHEA JEWETT: Well, I don't have too much to say but I am against
8 the flood control. I live on the south Skagit Highway and I know what
9 it was like the last time and also, I would like to know which area is
10 going to be affected by this overflow that we are going to have by raising
11 the levees. It seems to me that its all concentrated on Fir Island and
12 Mount Vernon, it doesn't have too much to say about Sedro Woolley,
13 Hamilton, Lyman and further up the river and I think we people are just
14 as important as the ones that living down below and I thank you.

15 (Clapping)

16 COLONEL POTEAT. Fine, thank you very much. We will come back to
17 that question later. Mr. Gerald D. Mapes. Mr. Mapes to be followed by
18 Kornelis D. Dykstra.

19 GERALD D. MAPES. Yes, I am speaking for Dike District #12 that
20 Mr. Walker just mentioned and we go on record, the Commissioners of Dike
21 #12 in supporting the measures proposed. In our opinion it gives the
22 most benefit to the most people and land for the least cost to the tax-
23 payers. Thank you.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Kornelis D. Dykstra. Mr.
25 Dykstra to be followed by Thomas R. Skinner.

1 KORNELIS D. DYKSTRA, JR. I feel and I believe that a good many
2 people do feel that the real solution the water is always rising why not
3 dig it out, I mean to lower the water down, sure you can build your dikes
4 up but if you dredged the river out from Mount Vernon or Burlington on
5 to the bay I think it would be a lot better than building the dikes up.
6 Thank you. (Clapping)

7 COLONEL POTEAT. That's certainly one we want to address in a
8 few minutes. Mr. Thomas R. Skinner to be followed by Tunis R. Dykstra.

9 THOMAS R. SKINNER. I am a resident of Fir Island and have a smaller
10 home there and I would like to thank the Corps for calling the meeting
11 so I might have a chance to speak tonight and the Engineering Department
12 of Skagit County that's been real helpful of informing me of how the
13 dike project was going to affect my house and some of the other people
14 that live out there. Janet Huston has prepared a statement to present
15 to the Corps and a petition that we hope they will consider and she
16 arrived late and if she would like to speak now I would like to turn
17 over my time to her. She's in the back here. It's kind of a cop out I am
18 nervous and I am sure she is more nervous than I am but all she has to do
19 is read it you know.

20 COLONEL POTEAT. Real fine, please state your name.

21 JANET HUSTON. My name is Janet Huston and I live on Skagit City
22 Road on Fir Island and I don't think I will read this. I think I will just
23 talk. We have a group of small little houses over on Skagit City Road
24 that are there because it was originally Skagit City. Some of the houses
25 sit on one-half acre, some more than that and what the plan is to build a

1 new county road all the way down Skagit City Road. We feel that it would
2 be a great hardship to us in this little non-agricultural resident lots
3 to have the county appropriate up to 30 feet of our front yard and we feel
4 that there is an alternative plan where they could build on the land away
5 from the road towards the river. Some of the land goes out 1,000 feet to
6 the river so there would be no impact on the river in a great many places
7 and we would like to have the Corps consider us as human beings, people
8 that care about our property and we don't want to lose the front yard.
9 Thank you. (Statements attached as Exhibits 5 & 6)

10 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Mr. Tunis R. Dykstra to be
11 followed by Charles E. Waltner.

12 KORNELIS D. DYKSTRA. I am speaking for my brother Tunis. The fact,
13 another problem if you raise the dike you are going to get more and more
14 sub-irrigation under the land, if the water is high, the land and the
15 valley gets wet from the high water in the river so you raise the dike, it
16 is just making more soggy out in the planting fields in the valley so this
17 is where my statement before to dig it out would be to keep the problem
18 from the river flooding. Thank you.

19 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Charles E. Waltner to be followed
20 by Neil S. Ondahl.

21 CHARLES E. WALTNER. I am Charles Waltner. I am with Drainage #17
22 its the District that drains the land south of Mount Vernon down past
23 Conway and a dike break south of Mount Vernon the east side of the river
24 would be a real catastrophe to the drainage district and we are vitally
25 interested in improved dikes all through the area.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Mr. Ondahl to be followed
2 by Michael D. Walker.

3 NEIL S. ONDAHL. Hello there, my name is Neil Ondahl. I am a farmer
4 next to the Samish River and I have a couple of things to say. Number one
5 at the meeting at the Midway after we got done the newspaper there the next
6 day, the Skagit Valley Herald said that we wanted more protection which
7 wasn't true, but you know what comes out of the paper sometimes. The thing
8 that really kind of bothers me is a couple of things - Number one - this
9 weir or this other pilings that you tried to put in there. When we talked
10 to the Corps out at Allan that night they kept on talking about gallons
11 of water that was going to go over this, and being farmers it was kind of
12 hard to understand so we finally asked them this question "How much water
13 would come over there?" They said well if you go to the Skagit River and
14 look there will be three times that amount of water right now if you go
15 down and look at it that's what would be coming over there. The Samish
16 area will have flooding before then. This water will totally take care
17 of the Samish River and the area around it. Thank you. (Clapping)

18 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you. Mr. Michael D. Walker to be followed
19 by Larry G. Gadbois.

20 MICHAEL D. WALKER. My name is Michael Walker and I am an attorney,
21 I represent the Nookachamps Valley Flood Defense Organization and basically
22 I am here to point out on behalf of the members of that organization that
23 we don't feel that the Corps has adequately considered the induced flood
24 damage that will occur in the Nookachamps Valley area. On December 20th
25 the Skagit County Commissioners requested the Corps to study in more detail

1 the flooding problems of the Nookachamps area. In response to this the
2 Skagit County Commissioners request we would like to know what further
3 studies did the Corps undertake with respect to the Nookachamps area and
4 what did those studies reveal? We would further like to know is it feasible
5 for the Corps to include flood damage protection for the Nookachamps area
6 and we would like to know very specifically, what are the non-structural
7 and structural measures planned for the Nookachamps Valley under
8 Alternative 3. Further, we would like the Corps to specifically point out
9 the amount of increased water that will come to the Nookachamps Valley
10 as a result of Alternative 3E and we would like to point out, we would
11 like to ask whether Alternative 3E provides funding for damage to
12 improvements in the Nookachamps Valley such as raising barns, roads,
13 electricity and what the Corps' position is in detail with respect to the
14 livestock in the event induced flood damage occurs. Thank you.

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you. I believe its Mr. Larry Gadbois to be
16 followed by Mr. Jack Straathof.

17 LARRY G. GADBOIS. Gadbois is correct. My name is Larry Gadbois
18 I live at 2046 Mudlake Road in the Nookachamps area. At present I and
19 my business are above flood level. I have lived in the Nookachamps area
20 all my life. I have been faced with high water periodically over the
21 years. The community has raised levees in the area to protect farmland
22 and communities. During this period we have experienced greater amounts
23 of water at lower river levels. This then becomes a manmade problem. I
24 have recently purchased a bench mark to determine the degree of impact
25 upon me and my property. My one question is "What are you going to do for

1 me?" As far as I can see there are no preventions for my business. For
2 the type of construction, my shop employs, it is virtually impossible
3 to raise or move. Considering the time of year - November, December,
4 January, the winter months, the busiest time of the season for us, should
5 we not be able to move our meat products the amount of damages are all
6 based on the first day with lesser damages on days following. In addition,
7 we would have clean up costs the installation of refrigeration and moving
8 cost of equipment. I am sure these damages will far exceed the Corps
9 or county's expectations. Considering the problems presented to us we
10 have anticipated abundance of little factors that we cannot foresee at
11 this time. Again, our type of construction eliminates being able to
12 raise the building. Federal and State inspection make the laws I live
13 by therefore, unless the Corps can assure me that I will have the same
14 protection that I do now I will have to remain opposed to the project. I
15 will support the Sauk River Containment Project or Alternative 1. Thank
16 you. (Clapping)

17 COLONEL PÓTEAT. Thank you. Mr. Jack Straathof to be followed by
18 Mr. Ken F. Johnson.

19 JACK STRAATHOF. I would like to go on record as being against it
20 because it does not do enough for the people in the outlying areas and
21 especially the Nookachamps farmers of which I am one. Thank you. (Clapping)

22 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Ken Johnson to be followed by Ruthie O.
23 Hanson.

24 KEN F. JOHNSON. My name is Ken Johnson and I do live right in the
25 middle of the Nookachamps area. I have lived there since I was born,

1 basically on the place. We hear different comments at different
2 times, will you guys in the Nookachamps you always flood. Well, we have
3 learned to live around the water that man has now tried to add a little
4 bit to and we don't feel that it should be our expense to have to go to
5 raising our buildings and that so that we can live with this increased
6 flow. I am pleased that the Corps has come on record this evening as
7 taking a look and trying to alleviate the building and livestock situation.
8 Our biggest concern is for our businesses, our livestock, we have always
9 some alternate system when the water comes - Where are you going to go
10 with your cows? How are you going to milk your cows? Up till today
11 why we felt reasonably secure that only a certain flow of water could
12 come and anything greater than that why we wouldn't be impacted because
13 it would go to the west and so we feel that the responsibility to flood-
14 proof us above this impact lies with the Corps rather than having to
15 fall upon our own position. There is one question that has been really
16 haunting us and when we met here in December 1978 the Nookachamps area
17 was considered as consequential damages in your project and through our
18 requests you folks have come in there and taken a good hard look at what
19 was there and considered the fact that "Hey there is more there than
20 we thought" and you have made some amendments. We are asking that when
21 construction starts in the upper project that construction on our area
22 starts simultaneously as that is the part of the project that adversely
23 impacts us. Since we were left out in the beginning we feel there is a
24 possibility that we might get left out in the end and when the project
25 gets to a point where it affects us directly we feel we should be receiving

1 our protection at that time rather than as being the very last ones
2 done. I do not support the project in its proposal as a whole although
3 I feel the cons are going to be conditions that have been offered from
4 the Corps would make the project much more acceptable to us. I do think
5 that upper river containment is a much better way that can solve a
6 lot problems for a lot more folks. Thank you. (Clapping)

7 COLONEL POTEAT. Ruthie O. Hanson to be followed by Larry J.
8 Kunzler.

9 RUTHIE O. HANSON. Thank you. My name is Ruthie Hanson. I live
10 in Dike District #1. I am also a representative of Teamsters Local 411.
11 As a private citizen I would like to go on record as being in support of
12 Alternative #3E. I would also like to submit for the record the
13 signatures of 115 Skagit County residents that also support Alternative 3E.
14 Thank you. (Signatures attached as Exhibit 7)

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you. By the way be sure that we get a copy
16 of what you are going to submit and there's a lady in the back that her
17 good friend put the bite on her so to speak and I think you had something
18 to submit to the record too so be sure to turn that in to us. Larry
19 Kunzler next to be followed by Charlie M. Boon.

20 LARRY J. KUNZLER. Colonel, for the changes that you have made in
21 the Nookachamps as they affect me as an individual you have done exactly
22 what I asked for of our County Commissioners on the 19th of December
23 when I appeared before them, but as part of the Nookachamps farming
24 community, I still have strong reservations about the residents in the
25 farms along Mud Lake Road, especially the meat cutting plant and the

1 dairy farms and the dairy farm on Babcock Road. The issuance of
2 flowage easements seems to fall way short of what is necessary. Now, as
3 a Skagit County resident I cannot sell my principals for profits. I
4 could never support this project for three reasons - the build up of
5 silt in river floor which will eventually raise the bottom of the
6 river above the surrounding land levels; two prime farmland, our greatest
7 natural resource, will be subject to development. I feel that if we
8 are going to leave a legacy for the young, for the yet unborn, then let
9 it be one that we left them the land in the condition that we found it.
10 This project does not do that. My third reason is that we have another
11 alternative that provides flood protection for Hamilton, it keeps the
12 water out of the Samish River basin, it limits the flooding to a minimum
13 in the Nookachamps without nonstructural compensation and it would limit
14 additional construction to existing levees to a minimum. In my opinion,
15 there has been, there is now and will continue to be only one sensible
16 solution to solve the severity of the flooding in the Skagit and that is
17 the Sauk River Flood Containment structure. Now, Colonel, with your
18 indulgence sir, I would like to show you something - I hope I am going to
19 show you something. The Corps held a meeting with the Samish River
20 basin farmers earlier this year. At that meeting one of the farmers
21 asked the Project Manager, Vernon Cook "Was the Sauk River Flood
22 Containment structure completely ruled out?" Mr. Cook's reply was "no"
23 however, he did not see any great, I like his words, ground search of
24 public opinion for the Sauk River facility. If it would be possible,
25 which I fully believe it is, and the Corps was here tonight with this

1 project in one hand, the Sauk River Flood Containment facility in the
2 other, taking into consideration that this project is temporary and in
3 the future will have to be completely redone, but the Sauk River
4 facility would contain 94,000 c.f.s. during a 100-year flood which is
5 over half of the 100-year flood which goes through the city of Mount
6 Vernon, all of those in favor of the Sauk River Flood Containment
7 facility would you please stand up? (several people stood up) (Clapping)
8 Mr. Cook viva the ground search and finally, I hope that out of all of
9 this out of the last 16 months one thing has been made perfectly clear
10 the day has come and gone forever when any entity of government, be it
11 the County Engineers, the State Transportation Agency, the Diking
12 Districts, the Burlington City Planning Commission or the County Planning
13 Commission will construct anything on the river that will adversely
14 affect their neighbors, realizing that fact of live, and since the
15 Draft Environmental Statement addresses itself to the proposed Highway 20
16 extension off the George Hopper exchange, that road will never be built
17 as proposed as it would add 5 feet of water in the Nookachamps and I
18 don't need anymore water. Thank you. (Clapping)

19 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Mr. Charlie M. Boon to be
20 followed by Wilhelm E. Treibel.

21 CHARLIE M. BOON. Charlie M. Boon and I live at 2080 Mud Lake
22 Road, representing Nookachamp Dairy. I said to the board myself I
23 don't know if Sid is going to say something later on or not but I would
24 like to thank the Corps and the County and all for the availability to
25 talk to them and to discuss these problems that we have had in the light

1 of new information which has come about, but the problem is that we
2 are only moderately affected on the 100-year flood and I say moderately
3 we are affected, but moderately. With the improvement we would be
4 severely impacted. Now, its one thing to have a mound of dirt to run
5 your cows on as you are protection and it is one thing to have your barns
6 as your protection, you know. We want to make sure that we get equal
7 protection as to what we have got now. We've only been there for about
8 a year and a half, two years, on the place and we didn't go in debt to
9 buy cows and to buy land and everything to have somebody run water all
10 through the barns and have us put our cows on a pile of dirt. We've got
11 to have the operations go on as it was before. Now, we would like to
12 have these questions really addressed and we would like to have, we would
13 to know who really is responsible for these damages? Who do we talk to?
14 Do we talk to the County? Do we talk to the Corps? We don't want to
15 go to the Corps and say well the county is responsible for part of it
16 and we don't want to go to the county and have the county say well I
17 tell you the Corps is going to be responsible for part of it. I know
18 these are things which have to be worked out but we want to know exactly
19 who it is we go to and how we address the problem and we would appreciate
20 more facts being made available to us. It wasn't until the meeting we
21 had in Clear Lake a while back that I finally looked on the big deal
22 they had on the wall to find out where our barns were at and all of a
23 sudden we had water in the barns see. Now nobody came to us, well
24 Mr. Nelson popped by one day, Don Nelson, the engineer and he said with
25 his little eye level he said well there should be no reason it is going

1 to be in the barn but according to your flood maps there it's going to
2 be in the barn so all of a sudden we are excited "Hey what's going on
3 here?" So, we don't like surprises we kinda like to know what we are
4 dealing with and we want to know how we are going to deal with it because
5 like I said a guy doesn't go in debt to have somebody take it away from
6 him or to demolish that debt or to devalue his problem. There is so
7 much value of property to be increased on this side of the river and the
8 areas protected. Now, the thing is we have to plan as long a range as
9 possible. Like Mr. Norris said, the County Commissioners are for it
10 realizing that it is not the perfect plan. Well, if its not the perfect
11 plan, then lets find the perfect plan, lets not throw something together
12 because maybe we can quick get the money. I know that things have to
13 be protected down here we've got a lot of development and all, but at the
14 same time, the Sauk River Dam would help a lot, it would - sorry, I am
15 not supposed to say dam - dams scares people - supposed to say Sauk River
16 Containment structure. Now, the people up river would get benefit from
17 it, the people from Concrete down to Sedro Woolley all the way down
18 river, instead right now the people up river have no protection under this
19 here plan - they are spending \$55 million over \$10 million of the county's
20 money and the people up river are just helping to pay the bill. Now
21 it would be one thing if it was just the areas affected had to pay the
22 bill but when everybody in Skagit County has to pay then everybody should
23 have benefits. Although I realize they can quick drive down to the mall
24 where as before they would have to drive through water, but these are
25 things we've got to address and like I say I would just like to put my

1 two cents in and say that we favor the Sauk River Containment structure.
2 Thank you. (Clapping)

3 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Treibel to be followed by Mr. or Mrs.
4 or both, Ship Munson.

5 WILHELM E. TREIBEL. I am Wilhelm Treibel and I am throwing my
6 chip in with Nookachamps Valley - looking over all of your proposals
7 I have not seen any proposal that will provide any levees on the east
8 side of the river. Neither have I seen, do I see anything that proposes
9 to take the big kinks out of the river which would increase the
10 hydraulic head by a considerable amount and increase the waterflow.
11 In the Nookachamps Valley, I would like to know what the 1949 or 1950
12 flood relates in to your 100-year plan as far as floods? Thank you.

13 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you. Mr. and/or Mrs. Skip Munson to be
14 followed by Gene L. Olson.

15 SKIP MUNSON. My name is Skip Munson and we have a residence at
16 1824 Skagit City Road it is in a category as Janet Huston described
17 as a small piece of property and in fact it is one of the only remaining
18 buildings of Skagit City. Now, I know that strips on columns kinda
19 scare people, this high water that we had in December of 1975 was kind of
20 a joy. There was a lot of effort put out and I think traditionally
21 people that live along the river have learned to deal with the problems
22 that might come from it, but we live, this house in Skagit City is very
23 old we have, I don't have it with me, but we have a picture that was
24 taken in 1882 and it was an old house in the picture and you people are
25 talking about 100-year floods, that house could maybe tell us something

1 it is 1,000 feet from the house to the riverbed and when we had the high
2 water in 1975 I claim that it was the safest place on Fir Island because
3 the level of the water just over the dike was very low and your plan
4 at this point widens the road on the west side of the dike and we are
5 on the South Fork of the Skagit River and it widens the dike on the road-
6 side and takes part of our house and I think that house has been around
7 long enough that it should stay around a little longer and that's about
8 all I have to say. (Clapping)

9 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Gene L. Olson to be followed
10 by Mr. Lawrence R. Hoffman.

11 GENE L. OLSON. Thank you. I am Gene Olson and I have retired from
12 the County Assessors office and I think I know the county pretty well.
13 We have been down in the flats, in our family since 1800 and we have
14 lived through many floods and every flood seems to get worse and the
15 whole valley down there is a very very rich valley and I favor 3E and
16 I have talked to a lot of people and they do favor the 3E. Thank you.

17 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much, sir. Mr. Lawrence Hoffman
18 to be followed by Owen T. Tronsdal.

19 LAWRENCE R. HOFFMAN. Lawrence Hoffman, Diking District 15. We
20 support the 3E levee. We had a little controversy in our District
21 over dredging and we are at the very mouth of the mouth of the river and we
22 attended quite a few of these meetings and we understand why and we
23 accept 3E as the project.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Mr. Tronsdal to be followed
25 by Geoffrey L. Baillie.

26 OWEN TONY TRONSDAL. My name is Tony Tronsdal from District 3 and

1 it is our responsibility to keep the water within that red strip there
2 and our district has a valuation of about \$40 million and thats a lot
3 of valuation and I want to go on record, together with my colleagues,
4 we favor this plan that the Army has proposed. I would like to make
5 a comment here about dredging the river. I happen to be one of the
6 only living sternwheeler captains around and I have skippered on the
7 river quite a bit and I watched the river for the last 45 years and I
8 want somebody to prove to me that that river bottom is coming up. Now
9 at Phil's Boathouse I dropped my anchor there one time and it was minus
10 tide and I put out 22 feet of chain and I asked Phil Summers how come
11 its so deep here - that's the way its always been he says, hasn't changed
12 a bit and he was 65 years old, born and raised there. Now in regards to
13 the people in Nookachamps why don't they do like we did down there in
14 the lower part of the valley put some dikes up and that would be their
15 answer. Thank you. (Clapping)

16 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Mr. Geoffrey L. Baillie to be
17 followed by Gerald C. Stamos.

18 GEOFFREY L. BAILLIE. Basically the only two questions I have were
19 one is I see some pretty some substantial revisions to your Alternate 3E
20 and I believe these revisions were only made available to the public at
21 large just a week or so ago and I really feel that, that combined with
22 the number of the questions that have been raised tonight there is
23 really insufficient time to consider the number of things you are speaking
24 about. As well as I have some questions regarding the manner in which
25 the local funding would be made and I received some answers and I want to

1 thank both the county and the Corps for the responses they have made
2 but at the same time I feel this time I really don't have enough informa-
3 tion available to me to be able to decide one way or the other on any
4 of the alternatives you have presented. Thank you.

5 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Stamos to be followed by Theodore A. Kosbab.

6 GERALD C. STAMOS. My name is Gerald Stamos. I really don't have any-
7 thing to much to say one way or another because I live in Anacortes and
8 I don't think the water is going to bother me too much although I am in
9 favor of this for the people that need it for their protection and I
10 think just the fact that I have been able to sit here and listen to all
11 the comments, pro and con, I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

12 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Theodore Kosbab to be followed by Patricia M.
13 Howell.

14 THEODORE A. KOSBAB. Glad by name isn't Avon because it would be
15 Avon I believe (laughter) I have a lot of people from some other
16 country coming in here and telling us what to do a little bit, but I am
17 with the Skagit River Guide Association and we do a lot of work. We help
18 the Boy Scouts clean up the river; we're always up there when the people
19 have their lands being flooded we like to be in there with our boats and
20 help them out; and we probably spent quite a few more hours along the
21 Skagit River than the Army Corps of Engineers have and we have lived here
22 all of our lives and as far as helping if you get here and have pros
23 and cons and fighting all night and maybe that would be fun but we do
24 have something to suggest. Here a while back in the paper they have a
25 highway coming from the George Hopper Road and going up and there's road

1 they would like to have, I don't know if the Corps or whether its
2 businessmen in Duncan or Mount Vernon or Sedro Woolley or wherever going
3 along the north side into Sedro Woolley and cutting across some good farm
4 land. It seems to me like that, and you can look, you travelled the
5 airways I don't know if you have Colonel or your civilian population
6 that's running this helicopter that took pictures for years since the
7 helicopter come out of every inch of it you can go across that George
8 Hopper Road, you could take one bridge putting in right there going across
9 the Skagit River and it would help the Nookachamps area, Clear Lake area,
10 and we are putting money into the project, the Highway Department is
11 putting money into this north side that they have in mind but I would
12 think that if they would take into consideration the Nookachamps area,
13 the Clear Lake area, its going to cost those people a lot of money, us
14 a lot of money and a lot of your time but it could be brought in say we
15 have the Nookachamps area, you think the creek is what is flooding every
16 year. In 1975 the water backed up, it backs up every year, backed up
17 from the Skagit River into the Nookachamps area and in 1975 it backed
18 up four times in there and on December 5th of 1975, what they called
19 the flood was actually caused, if they remember right, they closed Baker
20 Lake there was a, the Corps was afraid of a mudslide on Baker Lake and
21 they had to keep a low level of Lake Shannon and Baker Lake and when the
22 water did come what happened the Corps says you gotta maintain this so
23 it was a manmade flood what went in there and backed into Hamilton, which
24 there hasn't been any levees put in there of any kind which they really
25 need because its on a flood plain, we've got the Nookachamps area that

1 could be very well developed - I am only going to be another minute -
2 if they would run across there with their highway, all they would have
3 to do you want to cut down on costs and everything, well I think a
4 bridge would solve a lot and it would blend in with the road that's
5 already there and build it up above your flood plain and when you come
6 across the Nookachamps Creek you can have a floodgate there so you can
7 close off, if the river is going to back up, that's what the people
8 really want, some people really want the water in there, it helps some
9 of the farm land. You could give them a certain amount shut it off and
10 if too much comes down there could be a pumping station there and of
11 course like I say that could be Highway 20 coming up the south side and
12 the business men in Sedro Woolley would like to have their business
13 brought into Sedro Woolley, they can have their signs right there at the
14 Sedro Woolley bridge which way to go with their food, gas and lodging
15 and the same way at Concrete, Rock Fork clear up to Marble Mountain and
16 it would blend in, it could blend in again with north cross-state highway
17 and I would just like to see it taken into consideration and as far as
18 a lot of things that the Corps has done with the river, with the Game
19 Department, the Department of Fisheries, I don't think its gonna hurt too
20 much in that swan area out there if the highway went in because they are
21 only there about two or three months out of the year, there is no
22 nesting in that area at all and I would like to mention too about the
23 sloughs that have already been blocked off up above, they should not
24 have ever been blocked off, there's been an awful lot of ^{powerful} mismanagement
25 there and our Guide Association would like to have us all get together

1 and have a little more talk about this and maybe us sending our complaints
2 or pros and cons in to you it might help in a way. I thank you.

3 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. Patricia M. Howell to be
4 followed by Jess A. Knutzen.

5 PATRICIA M. HOWELL. My name is Patricia Howell and I live in the
6 Nookachamps area. When I came in tonight I told them I didn't
7 want to make a speech but at this point I would like to ask a couple of
8 questions but I since my name was called I will say that I am against
9 this dike, levee whatever you want to call it, I will always be against
10 it, I don't trust it. I would support the Sauk River Containment and I
11 would like to know, somehow I would like to know and I would like to
12 know how I could find out how the Skagit River got to be a wild and
13 scenic river so quickly and without any publicity to speak of at all.
14 I would like to know who pushed that through so quickly and what their
15 motivation was.

16 COLONEL POTEAT. Next is Jess A. Knutzen to be Carl VanderSar.

17 JESS A. KNUTZEN. I would like to defer my comments to our chairman
18 of the Conservation District of which I am vice-chairman and he's here
19 tonight and I will let Bob speak for our group, Bob Hulbert.

20 COLONEL POTEAT. Okay - its good to see you this evening.

21 ROBERT J. HULBERT. Good evening, my name is Bob Hulbert, I am a Fir
22 Island farmer and speak as the Chairman of the Board of Skagit Conservation
23 District. I know Jess and I were a couple of the fellows that stood up
24 when they said they liked the idea of the Sauk River flood control
25 structure. I think probably Howard Miller might have stood up too, I

1 know he's at the front of the room. I might say we were with a group
2 who went to see the Governor of the State of Washington when we expressed
3 our reservations on behalf of the Conservation District in the county
4 when the river was classified as a wild and scenic river system. You
5 people must realize that any flood control and the Corps certainly
6 realizes, I am sure, that any flood containment structure on the Sauk
7 River is now against the law of the land because such a structure,
8 because the river is classified. Now, if you people want to fight the
9 Congress - there were three hearings held I rememeber them very
10 distinctly on the wild and scenic river - one was held in Bellingham,
11 one was held in the LaVenture School in Mount Vernon and one was held
12 in Bellevue. The river, of course, a lot of people don't think belongs
13 to the people of Skagit County it belongs to the people of the United
14 States. Addressing the proposal tonight, it has long been the
15 position of the Skagit Conservation District that increased flood
16 protection for the Skagit for all of the Skagit, is a vital necessity
17 for the community. We are primarily a farm oriented group - 50 or 40
18 years ago we raised the oats to feed the horses in Seattle that pulled
19 the streetcars, we simply cannot have a viable agriculture anymore
20 in Skagit County with reoccurring flooding. Sure we can build our houses
21 up where I live on Fir Island most of us do. We would compliment the
22 Corps on your proposal 3E, there is a lot of things we haven't cared
23 about, we would compliment your making the changes in it, you are
24 listening to the people in the community we feel. I have neighbors on
25 Fir Island who have expressed their views tonight and they've got a good

1 point to make. The river does not flood, flows a long way from their
2 houses why can't you move a little bit towards the river rather than
3 come into the farmland. I would hope that this project, we would hope
4 that this project would be a continuing interaction between the Corps,
5 the people in the Skagit County and the county officials with the
6 Engineering Department. I think we are making, the weir proposal I
7 don't understand now where the weir proposal and the Samish how you have
8 changed that but this I think is again in response to expressions and
9 views from the people and farmers in the Samish basin. We would hope
10 for continuous interaction between the people in Skagit County and the
11 Corps and the county officials who must be the prime sponsor of the
12 project. We earnestly entrust that out of such things, such interaction
13 will come a workable plan which will give us the increased flood
14 protection which we most assuredly must have. Thank you. (Clapping)

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you sir. Mr. Carl VanderSar to be followed
16 by Lloyd Johnson.

17 CARL VANDER SAR. Yeah, I am also in favor of the flood containment
18 dam on the Sauk. In reference to what Mr. Hulbert said I don't believe
19 that it's impossible laws are made by people it can be changed by people,
20 enough people from the Skagit County telling them they don't think that's
21 cool and it would be nice to put a dam up there would be feasible. I
22 do have a question its in regards to the changes made in the Nookachamps
23 area it was with a 100-year flood protection to their Clear Lake area
24 into the town in general. As far as I know Clear Lake is a town, although
25 unincorporated, my question pretty much is "Is it possible for the project

1 through if Clear Lake does not have the 100-year protection. As it
2 stood in the beginning the Corps didn't even realize there was a town
3 there but now that there is they are giving them 100-year flood
4 protection so that is my question - is it possible that without that
5 100-year flood protection to Clear Lake would the project be "go"? You
6 do have a ruling, I believe, that states that the Corps cannot go
7 through with a project unless 100-year protection is given to your
8 urban areas. Thank you.

9 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Lloyd Johnson to be followed by Lipsey B. Ed.

10 LLOYD H. JOHNSON. Colonel, I would like to tell a true story for
11 the people here that comment that we ought to take down the dikes or
12 go back to nature. I know a young couple about 30 years old who
13 started out with two children in the Skagit River basin and in the
14 period of 35 years were completely flooded six times, wiped out. The
15 only thing that kept them going and alive, that one flood was the
16 friendship of a large farmer who loaned them a barrel of flour. There
17 was no food stamps, no help that exists today and of course, this was
18 90 years ago, but what I am saying is the people don't realize when they
19 say wipe out the dikes, the suffering and the ugly things that would
20 occur. I want to congratulate the Corps on their proposal 3E, I know
21 its imperfect, I congratulate you on trying to better it and I think
22 it can stand some other improvements such as being suggested tonight but
23 I think its the best proposal we ever had.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Mr. Lipsey B. Ed to be followed
25 by Mr. Zel Young.

1 LIPSEY B. ED. I am Ed Lipsey and I live between Lyman and Hamilton.
2 I live right on the bend of the river and I don't think anybody knows
3 what a flood is, other than I am sure we all do but I felt the impact
4 after the last one. It came across in about two different places and
5 thanks to the Corps of Engineers they were there to help to support my
6 place along with the neighbors. Levees I think are really fine and
7 we really gotta have these but we've always depended in our area on these
8 levees but the thing of it is the Skagit River is starting to fill up
9 and I can sure prove that point by my place by the pictures that have
10 been taken on it and I feel that the only way to control a river is like
11 a garden hose if you start on the lower end of it, its going to be pretty
12 hard to control, that's about what we are thinking about a lot of these
13 lower levees I think we've got to get up to the source of where it's all
14 happening at. This would be on the Sauk River and I feel that we have
15 an engineer here that I have talked to that said a dam is pretty hard
16 to put across a river such as the Sauk River because of environmentalist
17 and ecology and he told me that he seen a dam that was a big culvert
18 that would handle only so much water and no more, this would back up the
19 water in the Sauk River and turn as much loose so it didn't come to a
20 flood stage so I think we ought to be thinking about this I know the
21 wild and scenic river has taken over 200 or 300 feet of my place in which
22 I could do nothing to stop it, most of this was voted on back east which
23 they didn't care so they put us in a heck of a spot up there in that area
24 so the levees down here I feel that are going to help you people I feel
25 that if we are going to pay for them by golly we should have some support

1 up there too. Thank you. (Clapping)

2 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. Mr. Zel Young to be followed by
3 Vernon D. Dahl.

4 ZEL YOUNG. Thank you, Colonel. I would like to reserve the right to
5 ask Mr. Brooks some questions later on if I could. My name is Zel Young.
6 I live in west Mount Vernon right against the dike, as a matter of fact
7 the dike in front of my place I think is around 12 feet tall, it varies
8 a little bit because there is a little slant. I have looked at this
9 thing and have seen the water up where it can lap over the top of that
10 dike over through there, it looked like it, 1975. By the way the '75
11 flood was considerably less if I understand it right than the one in
12 '49 or '50 along there sometime. Cubic feet-wise it was a great deal
13 less but it was a great deal higher in Moose Hall than the other was.
14 To me this is an indication the bottom of the river is coming up and one
15 of the questions I was going to ask Mr. Brooks later on was - the amount
16 of the sedimentation at the end of this 100-year project you speak about
17 how much higher is the bottom of the river going to be? Is it going to
18 be higher than the land outside the river? And, if so since the river
19 will still be flowing over the sediment on the bottom of the river that
20 means even when you hold water that the river will be considerably
21 higher than the land outside. Now as someone here proposed what happens
22 to that water, doesn't it seep into the ground and doesn't the ground
23 level come up and don't we have swamps down on each side of the
24 river? I've live all my life on the Skagit River, same location, except
25 for about five or six years in World War II you really couldn't say, I

1 mean that was still my residence, even then. I boated on the river,
2 swam in it when I was a kid, I've drifted from way up the river down
3 several times and seined. Anybody drifting in that river, even at low
4 water, can see the awesome evidence of the power of this river, the
5 sweeps, in places that have been cut and so on. I am quite intrigued
6 with this Alternate 3E that you proposed, mechanically I consider it
7 quite/^{an}ingenious thing. However, I have a feeling that if we build it
8 you would be in the position of the guy with the leaky intertube you
9 keep on putting a patch here and a patch there then maybe it won't let
10 you down but you get an extra load in that intertube and the leak
11 spots are going to give and its going to go well these people down on
12 Fir Island are say that we need this protection, you are only going to
13 get 50-year protection. The Army Engineers stood up here and told us
14 that a 100-year flood they expect those levees down there to give way
15 this will protect the upper part because otherwise even this 100-year
16 flood protection we have here from the urban areas wouldn't be good
17 enough. Now despite what Lloyd Johnson said about the hazards of having
18 no dikes this is one alternate that they never considered all the way
19 from one to six and alternates 3A, B, C, D and E, they have never con-
20 sidered whatsoever the possibility of moving the dikes we have. Now,
21 if we retain the dikes we have we're always up against the hazards like
22 in 1975. If we had had one more day of this warm weather and so on
23 we would have had a catastrophe that would have broken through. We just
24 didn't have any reserve left in those dikes as I understand it, so as long
25 as we maintain the dikes we are maintaining that wall of water inside

1 and every year, remember the bottom of the river is coming higher so
2 the water is going to be higher even with the same amount of water. I
3 don't deny they can build the dikes they say in the front of my place
4 another eight feet, lets see its 10 feet tall, add another eight feet
5 and that makes 18 feet I am going to be looking up at in front of my
6 place there that's quite a mound. They have done this in Mississippi
7 but they keep on having floods and I understand their bottom of the river
8 is considerable than the lands surrounding it and they have the seepage
9 problem never having driven through Mississippi I can't speak from any
10 personal experience. I see our friends in the Nookachamps who have
11 lived ever since pioneer days with no dikes, if we had not built our
12 dikes they wouldn't even have a flooding problem (clapping). Now,
13 people speak about what would happen if we had floods if there were no
14 dikes the water would flow over everywhere. As it is if it breaks
15 in front of a guys place he's lost out, the land is covered sand, logs
16 and so on, he's wiped out, true but the rest of the county is protected
17 because the dike broke at that point. My vote will still be remove the
18 dikes and terrace this land in such a fashion the water can drain away
19 gently over the whole valley. This Skagit Valley was built by the river
20 all this silt as Mrs. Neble spoke about coming down what was it 400
21 million tons or whatever figure she had I don't know I haven't read the
22 figures but that silt is still going down there one of these days
23 Deception Pass is going to be the lawful river by the way things are
24 going. Water flows downhill and it seeks the easiest way out. Given
25 its choice and I think even the engineers will agree with me, given its

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1 choice it would no longer be going the South Fork as it used to be over
2 channels, it wouldn't even be going the North Fork, it would be flowing
3 out here by Padilla into Padilla Bay either on the north or south of
4 Bayview Ridge, probably maybe even down the Samish River I don't know.
5 The people in Samish River area are always going to catch this water
6 just like the people in the Nookachamps and I am not talking about
7 regulation, but they are not talking about stopping it as I understand
8 you can correct me on that, but I have taken enough of your time this
9 I will leave with you - I am still in favor of working with Mother
10 Nature rather than being opposed and one factor that has not been
11 brought up by anyone here is this is an expensive and heavy project
12 and its going to require a great deal of earth movement and equipment
13 which runs on diesel of which we seem to have a shortage here in
14 the country of this land. Now, we are going to get it, the Government
15 always gets their's and there's going to be that much less fuel given t
16 these people, even the farmers and the tractors are going to start
17 suffering I am afraid. I realize that its kind of a drop in the bucket
18 in the United States but these projects are going on all over the Unite
19 States too and I don't feel that we have need of it. (Clapping)

20 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. We've come a little over two
21 hours, why don't we take about a ten minute break and we will resume
22 in just a few minutes. (Meeting adjourned at 2100 hours and reconvene
23 at 2110 hours) Our next speaker will be Mr. Vernon D. Dahl to be follo
24 by William H. Murdock. Is Mr. Dahl still with us? Maybe he is just
25 coming back in let's try Mr. William H. Murdock and then we will try Mr
26 Dahl. Mr. Murdock. How about Mr. Dennis a Moeller.

1 DENNIS A. MOELLER. I think you answered my question during the
break.

2 COLONEL POTEAT. Let's try again and see if Mr. Dahl has come
3 back in, Mr. Vernon Dahl, has Mr. Murdock come back in. Mr. Hulbert,
4 anything else - then we will come back to them in just a minute.

5 EINER C. KNUTZEN. I am all in favor of the up river dam, of
6 course, like most everybody else, but being realistic if maybe we can't
7 have that I think it's going to take an Act of Congress to get the
8 dollars to do this, it's going to take an Act of Congress to let us use
9 that dam up there so either way it's maybe hard to get but one thing that
10 I haven't heard anything about that I would like to ask about - we are
11 talking about the big floods running a pretty good amount of water up in
12 the Edison area into the Samish and so forth - we've got saltwater dikes
13 down there now that are much higher, that are rock and the water is going
14 to get awful deep before it goes over the top of those and I am wondering
15 if any provision at all is being made to take care of where its gonna
16 be let go, they say well we always dynamite it, but I don't think I have
17 anything right next to the dike, I am back a ways but I could see this
18 channel put there if there is very much water and it seems like there
19 should be some control outlet to run it back into the Samish River or
20 into the bay whichever but it seems like some thought ought to go into
21 that. I don't know the real answer but I could see after its all over
22 with we should have done something and I think its well enough to bring
23 this into consideration. Thank you.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. Lets see if Mr. Dahl has come back, Mr. Vernon
25 Dahl, Mr. Murdock and Bob Hurlet, he hadn't finished. We will catch them

1 later maybe. Florine Z. Hanson to be followed by Neil M. Huber.

2 FLORINE Z. HANSON. I didn't have anything especially to say, I
3 just thought I might want to ask a question or two. I am on the north side
4 of the river at Sedro Woolley. Now, this dike is not going to extend
5 up that far, it isn't going to go up beyond the river road there.

6 MR. COOK. Where specifically are you?

7 MRS. HANSON. Well, the little strip of river road before it makes
8 the job that goes up, its between Third Street and Township Street.

9 MR. COOK. I will have you come up and point that out on the map.

10 COLONEL POTEAT. We will take a photograph map in the question
11 period in just a little bit - okay?

12 MRS. HANSON. Alright.

13 COLONEL POTEAT. Now Mr. Huber.

14 NEIL M. HUBER. I had a question as a matter of fact - do you want
15 me to hold off?

16 COLONEL POTEAT. If you have a question, let's just hold them off
17 I have just three or four more people who have prepared remarks and then
18 we will go into a more informal answer and question period. Let's just
19 double check and see if Mr. Dahl, Mr. Murdock or Mr. Hulbert are with us
20 again. Mr. Hulbert we will get you during the questions.

21 COLONEL POTEAT. Mr. Buckley. Robert R. Buckley.

22 ROBERT R. BUCKLEY. I have some questions.

23 COLONEL POTEAT. Okay, we will get that in just a few moments.

24 Donald S. Sibley.

25 DONALD S. SIBLEY. Nothing at this time.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Sidney DeBoor.
2 MAN IN AUDIENCE. He's outside the door.
3 COLONEL POTEAT. We will come back to him in just a minute then.
4 The last card Mr. Richard H. Smith.
5 RICHARD H. SMITH. I am Richard Smith. I happen to be one of the
6 farmers south of town and I really don't care for the idea of removing
7 our dikes. I don't think it's a practical solution. I would like to
8 commend the Corps for the work they have put into the project and I fully
9 support this 3e. I would also like to commend the Corps on their
10 receptiveness to input from the areas like Nookachamps where they have
11 had problems to try and alleviate the problems that they would encounter.
12 The same thing in the Edisor area. You know there is a lot of comments
13 tonight about the flood containment project on the Sauk River and there's
14 been a lot of work by individuals in the crowd here tonight to back that
15 project, but realistically we don't think its feasible and we don't think
16 its possible anyway with the Legislature being what it is, certainly
17 we all know that that's a practical alternative but at this time this
18 seems like the most practical alternative. Thank you.
19 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you, sir. I have run out of cards for the
20 people that wanted to make prepared statements. Now let me just double
21 check is there anyone else now - one man here and another gentleman in
22 the back..
23 JOHN F. ROOZEN. My name is John Roosen from the Washington Bulb
24 Company River Marsh Road and we raise flower bulbs and basically they love
25 water but they are like all of us they don't like it over their heads.

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1 And, I originally was a very staunch supporter of the dredging in the
2 river but after considerable schooling from the Engineers of the Corps
3 reluctantly they convinced me that it was not feasible and I think that
4 I do agree with them - it's something that maybe sometime from now would
5 be, but 3E the cost benefits from 3E would probably give us more at this
6 time. I also believe strongly on the Sauk River Dam, but that's a whole
7 other story that's also been spoken of tonight so I shouldn't containment
8 dam, I should say that, I shouldn't elaborate on that. I also want to
9 say in regards to some of the people who are talking about removing the
10 dikes that agriculture can no way at all stay alive in this valley with
11 continued flooding which would occur on that basis. It is also very un-
12 realistic to believe that agriculture could survive in this valley
13 without cohabitation with industry as a tax providing base. Industry and
14 urban growth need 100-year flood development. We, in agriculture, need
15 a minimum of 50-year. Proposal 3E gives these things to us and I think
16 that at this time the Coprs has come a long ways in helping some of the
17 people that have problems and if the same amount of progress is made
18 after this meeting is made in relation to the last meeting I think that
19 this problem is going to get solved. And lastly, it's too bad that the
20 old saying goes "that you can please some of the people some of the time
21 all of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the
22 time"and it's only too bad that it has to be that way, but I think we
23 are on the right step and we should proceed this way and we support
24 proposal 3E. Thank you.

25 COLONEL POTEAT, Thank you very much. Yes sir, please promise to
26 tell us a little story now... a joke.

1 LAWRENCE G. BOETTCHER. My name is Lawrence Boettcher. I live
2 at 2010 E. Rio Vista, Burlington. I am a farmer. I am from the old
3 school that was taught to begin a speech with a story - its about
4 Momma fly - "Now Momma fly lived under the sink; Poppa fly was just a
5 think; three baby flies were hungry too - all Momma heard was shoo shoo
6 shoo; Momma went to look for food-she went to the butcher where the food
7 was good; a big baloney on the rack did lie; Momma became a satisfied
8 fly. Her happy tummy made her sing; the butcherman got mad at any old
9 thing; he hit Momma with a resounding splat; Momma sol ended right there
10 with that. Now the moral of the story is t his - if you are full of
11 baloney, keep your mouth shut. (Laughter - Clapping) Skagit's mysterious
12 poet.

13 Now, being full of baloney I should keep my mouth shut but here
14 goes. I approve of Alternative 3E for levee improvement in Skagit County
15 with one exception "Property values could increase in accordance with
16 the degree of flood protection provided in each area;" that's probably
17 one of my human frailties, landowners with greater protection should
18 expect to pay the larger share of the cost. I wish to offer a rebuttal
19 to Burlington Northern dikes cause greater disaster when they break
20 and give people a false sense of security. If levees are raised and
21 then washed out heavy loss will be sustained by property adjacent to the
22 levees increasing levee heights raises water surface and so when flooding
23 occurs floating debris damages bridges. The key words are "floating
24 debris." I believe that accounts of flooding between Mount Vernon and
25 Sedro Woolley will show that inadequate channel capacity plus debris

1 collected by these multiple pier bridges increased flooding in that
2 area. Dike District #12 removed the fill between an additional set of
3 piers. Burlington Northern threatened lawsuit. My neighbor, now
4 passed away, told the folly to the Dike Commissioner at that time,
5 Carl Johnson of 2011 E. Rio Vista was a lifelong resident of Skagit
6 County "The Great Northern, the Burlington Northern, applied to the U.S.
7 Army Corps of Engineers for a charter to build a bridge across the Skagit
8 River at Mount Vernon. The charter was granted for a bridge to be
9 built 500 feet downstream from the river curve so as not to hinder
10 navigation. This location was not desirable for the railroad so the
11 bridge was constructed at its present location. When log tows and river-
12 boats were damaged because of navigation problems caused by the improper
13 location of the bridge, the Great Northern Railway was obliged to pay
14 damages. The lawsuit by the railroad was never pursued. I brought with
15 me, I have it in my pick-up a momento of bank erosion control supervised
16 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I asked my old neighbor, Carl
17 Johnson, what was that slab of concrete 16" x 16" and 5" thick with a
18 wire bail in the center used for? Carl replied "Well, I'll tell you
19 that was from the time the U.S. Army Engineers riprapped the Skagit
20 River. It was all WPA labor - yeah, you see they cut all this willow
21 brush and they sloped the banks, then they tied it all together with wire
22 and put these concrete blocks on to hold it down." "Did it work, I
23 asked?" Old Carl snorted, "The first high water we had washed it all out
24 the Army never came back." (Laughter) I have the latest - you won't
25 know which side I am on pretty quick (more laughter). I have related

1 this incident so hopefully we do not become complacent concerning
2 floods in the Skagit Valley. We should gather all information available
3 concerning previous floods. We should contact local residents with
4 past flood experience. I think it would be wise to study rock revetment
5 damage in our land flooding the summer of 1972. Many of us are aware
6 that we had a very unstable subsoil - heavy equipment causes a ripple
7 effect ahead of the machine. We only need remember the near disaster
8 suffered by Thorburn (?) and LaGossa (?) installing Burlington sewer
9 system or J. P. Anderson & Sons' financial loss when they extended the
10 dike for District 12. I thank you. (Clapping) I gave you a story.
(Statement attached as Exhibit 8)

11 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much. After that story I am
12 afraid to say anything. Is there anybody else now that wants to make
13 a prepared remark? We have a poet and now a historian.

14 SOPHIE NEBLE. The original dike that was built, the dike was I
15 don't remember like about two or three miles long and I think the only
16 part of that dike is left is the cement blocks on it and I got lots of
17 them I have been using them - is on my place the rest of the dike is
18 all washed out. It was a shame they had those cement blocks in there
19 and I could never figure out what they were supposed to hold, but
20 they were laying on the surface of the dike about every four or five
21 feet, maybe it was about three feet, I don't know but they were all tied
22 together and they had the little ole' wire in the center of the block
23 and it was flat on one side and rounded on the other. I thank you.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. That would be interesting to go out and see that.

25 VOICE IN AUDIENCE. Wrong - very wrong.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Now, I guess we ought to go into the question and
2 answer period. If you will bear with me, I would like to preface that
3 with just a little bit of a detail of where we stand on this thing.
4 What we did we started out with a basic 1966 levee and channel improvement
5 authorization which was limited from roughly I-5 of the Burlington
6 Northern Railway Bridge down to the mouth. It did not address the
7 upstream area. One of the reasons perhaps was that there was and still is
8 an earlier authorized project, flood protection project, the Avon
9 Bypass, which had the Bypass itself and it had upstream levees. Now,
10 the Bypass channel doesn't, frankly, if I am listening to you up here,
11 in reading the tea leaves right, that just isn't in the cards, probably
12 the high cost of relocating bridges, environmentally unacceptable and
13 so forth so that doesn't appear to be in the cards. That old 1936 thing.
14 The levee portion of that project is so we took the 1966 authorization
15 and then we said, well, what we had better do is look at plucking out
16 of the 1936 authorization and tacking on to the 1966 authorization those
17 upstream levees and so now we've got a project from roughly the vicinity
18 of Sedro Woolley down to the mouth. The next thing that we said was
19 again if you are looking clearly into the crystal ball it appears that
20 some kind of a levee scheme is perhaps the only thing in the cards.
21 Earlier on, it had appeared that an added increment in flood protection
22 up here would be some kind of a storage scheme. The Sauk being the
23 likely site in that has, that contributes more of the water into the
24 Skagit than the Skagit itself. That frankly doesn't appear to be in
25 the cards either. The wild and scenic river is one factor, another

1 factor is that any kind of a retention storage scheme up there would
2 be a single purpose. It would just store flood water, there wouldn't
3 be any other kind of benefit, municipal water supply or power, there
4 wouldn't be anything like that to help give benefits to is so a single
5 purpose structure probably would not be economically feasible. So, for
6 several reasons that didn't appear to be in the cards. So, the next
7 question, the next thing that came up, was if we are going to look at
8 the scheme, the expanded scheme, Sedro Woolley down to the mouth, and if
9 upstream storage just isn't in the cards for some reason, it appears that
10 this is about the last shot some kind of a levee thing so that's why
11 we started looking at a somewhat higher degree of protection for the
12 rural levees below Mount Vernon. The 1966 authorization talked about a
13 15-year protection, level of protection, it appears that values,
14 benefits, having changed the way they have it is quite economical to
15 go to a 50-year level of protection and it might be also prudent to do
16 that because this is the last solution in the sequence, you see, if
17 upstream storage is out, so we looked at that. The next thing is
18 coming up with a level of protection for the urban areas where you have
19 a higher concentration of property values, its a higher chance of loss,
20 you also have a higher chance of life loss in the concentrated urban
21 areas. 100-year is the minimum there - you wanted the advantages of
22 flood protection is that you don't have to pay the flood insurance
23 premium, well if you have less than 100-year protection you see, you still
24 have to pay the flood insurance premium so you want to get at least
25 100-years. Now, our policy, the Corps of Engineers' policy is somewhat

1 conservative we strive, mightly, in urban protection or at least we
2 recommend strongly that you go for standard project flood protection and
3 back off from that to a lessor degree of protection only because —
4 I have talked now about the expansion upstream and I have talked about
5 a higher level of protection - there are two other little bits in
6 modified authorization, one is to allow the consideration of recreation
7 as part of this project, say trails on levees that may or may not work
8 I don't know and the other thing is because of the expanded project,
9 size, protection and the added cost is the possibility of a local pay
10 back of the local share, not immediately, but over a period of 50 years.
11 So, those four things are in legislation that your congressional
12 representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate has
13 asked for, that has been provided and that is tentative legislation to
14 modify the authorization of this 1966 project, that could be considered
15 in the Public Works Authorization Bill by the Congress. It's now under
16 study and that conceivably could be passed late this summer or early
17 fall, that's the authorization part. Meanwhile, what we have been doing
18 is working on a General Design, what we call a General Design Memorandum
19 validating let's say, the nature of the problem, validating the
20 conceivable alternatives, looking at them once again up to a certain
21 level of detail environmentally, socially, engineering wise, the
22 economics and all those factors. We have kicked off perhaps six
23 alternatives, we narrowed that down to 1, 2 and 3 and 5 versions of
24 3 to look at in a little more detail. That's what we call Phase I, this
25 is kind of technical jargon, it doesn't mean anything particularly but it's

1 to a certain level of detail, a Phase I level of detail. Now, in
2 addition to that we have gone to an even greater level of detail in
3 the downstream portion what we call a Phase II level of detail. We would
4 go to that higher level of detail in the upstream portion after this
5 authorization modification that I am talking about. Now, following that
6 comes the detailed plans and specifications before going into construction.
7 Its at that time that we get very, very precise on the levee alignments.
8 I would charge my staff that in this detail design, some very good points
9 have come up tonight, working very closely on a one on one basis with
10 individual property owners to see where this levee is. For example,
11 its no use to put it right through a persons house or through his front
12 yard if you can move it across the street or something, so we will do
13 this on a one on one basis, talk with individual property owners on a
14 precise place to put that levee and I am certainly sympathetic to the
15 concept that you have pointed out here tonight to try to minimize the
16 adverse impact. So, those details will come later on. On the
17 Nookachamps, I want to tell you what my understanding is and based on
18 that understanding what I have charged my staff to do. By providing
19 protection let's say on the Burlington side, that keeps water out of
20 Burlington, that water stays in the river, there is a tendency for that
21 water that now stays in the river to be pushed to the other side as you
22 have heard the people from the Nookachamps articulate so well this after-
23 noon, this evening. The Nookachamps gets some water now, what I have
24 just described would tend to put more water on the Nookachamps. So, what
25 I have told my staff - look, it is not right to do adverse things to the

1 people in the Nookachamps in order that benefits can be obtained on the
2 other side of the river. That's what we call the induced damage. So
3 what we need to do is look at a way to one offset the adverse impact over
4 in the Nookachamps and at the same time, if at all possible, reduce the
5 flood impact that's occurring over there now. So then we said - what
6 tools can we come up with to help over there in the Nookachamps. Well
7 we have concentration of some development in the Clear Lake area. There
8 are enough benefits there by preventing not only the additional damage
9 but damage that could occur now by putting some fragments of levees there
10 now, tying it into the higher ground to keep the water out of Clear
11 Lake, not only the added water, the induced water, but the water that
12 would go there now. That's the concept we seem to think would be the
13 best for Clear Lake. Now, there are some other more sparsely developed
14 areas in the Nookachamps that we are looking at and conceptually what we
15 should do is talk to the people, one on one, to explore which alternative
16 is best; one would be to floodproof, raise, another would be to
17 relocate now we give me that sheet -- we have come up with a half sheet
18 of paper here a lot of this stuff is feedback that you have given us -
19 how you perceive the problem and some of the ideas we ought to approach
20 on how to do it so we have talked about floodproofing residences or
21 relocating residences. Farmers with livestock that have mounds we
22 ought to consider raising and extending those mounds to bring them
23 up so that they are certainly no worse off with or without this project.
24 Where its just land, not structures, some kind of an easement thing
25 could be looked at. Other improvements, other than residences, should

1 be considered on a case by case basis. Now, this is kind of a long
2 winded way of saying as we get into the details on this we must and
3 again I must charge my staff, the real estate people as well as the
4 technical people to work with people and with the county on a one on
5 one basis to see what is best suited for this individual person's
6 situation in the combination of relocating, floodproofing, easements
7 and that sort of stuff. Now, if, the purpose for that is to offset
8 damage caused by flood protection on the other side of the river then
9 the project ought to bear that cost and there is precedent for that in
10 the 1974 Public Works Act that says these nonstructural measures would
11 be carried on 80%-20% basis - 80% Federal and 20% local coming out of
12 the local share of the project. Now, I talk about the Nookachamps
13 because that's the type of problem of induced flood damage but there
14 are other areas that have been mentioned here tonight too where this
15 conceptual approach should be applied. I appreciate your patience in
16 bearing with me because I wanted to go over my understanding and my
17 instructions to my staff again here with you tonight so they can hear
18 once again what I am saying to you and they can hear it and then of
19 course what the county has to say. Maybe in the question period we
20 ought to rather than just random maybe we ought to take topics since I
21 kind of ended up here talking on the Nookachamps - are there any other
22 things that ought to come out on the Nookachamps right now from members
23 of my staff or members in the audience. Now, let me tell you my
24 perception, it's my understanding that for various reasons diking off
25 the Nookachamps that valley, is not an acceptable solution, is that right

1 or wrong? Obvious wrong - okay, let's talk that out a little bit. Who
2 would like to - let me get Vern up on his feet - get him up here a little
3 bit - come on Vern.

4 VERN COOK. I am Vernon Cook. I have seen some of you before,
5 some of you repeatedly (laughter). One of the things that was looked at
6 in the early 60's was that very fact leveeing not only the 1966 project
7 ended but the Burlington Northern but on upstream too that was looked
8 into and one of the things that we did as we started this was again to
9 look at that very self-same problem. Now, one of the facts of life is
10 that the regulations we work under is we must end up with some kind of
11 a favorable benefit-cost-ratio on projects. Anytime you have a large
12 area that is sparsely populated and not have a large development or
13 expensive things that would get damaged during flood waters it is
14 difficult to spend great deal of amounts of money when that won't be
15 offset by great amounts of benefits. On the Nookachamps side specifically,
16 that failed to pass the test of favorable benefits versus costs. It
17 also had another adverse effect that if you levee off the Nookachamps
18 and the Burlington side and the Sedro Woolley side the water has not
19 place to go, obviously but downstream and when you do that you raise the
20 levels further on downstream and we find that about the 100-year event
21 or less that would require raising most of the bridges, the Burlington
22 Northern bridge, the Highway 99 bridge and most likely the bridge at
23 Mount Vernon, probably not the I-5 bridge, those bridge relocations
24 costs are substantial and would probably one bridge, at least, maybe two
25 would have to be borne by the local sponsors what that did was drive the

1 cost of the project should you levee off the Nookachamps up so high
2 that the entire project would fail because of economic feasibility. We
3 did look at it, individually, and in combination with the rest and
4 its economics that broke down.

5 COLONEL POTEAT. Another topic that came up tonight is the Samish
6 and maybe we ought to take just a minute to go over the history of
7 the weir, the dropping of the weir and the going to the erosion control
8 structures and the impact on the Samish with and without the project.
9 In other words, there comes a level of flood in about the 20-25 year
10 where the water is going to go over to the Samish anyway and that's
11 about the same insignificance difference with or without the project
12 that we are talking about. Maybe you want to come up again Vern and go
13 over why - what the weir was designed to do, why it was dropped and
14 why the erosion structure was substituted.

15 VERN COOK. The overflow into the Samish really parallels quite
16 closely the story regarding the leveeing off of the Nookachamps. If
17 you seal off the side on the right bank, or the Burlington side, the
18 Sedro Woolley side, the waer that would have went down through the Samish
19 during the higher flows then would not be permitted to go down through
20 the additional water then must stay in the channel, some additional water
21 would go into the Nookachamps area or go downstream. The alternatives
22 that we looked at if you block off the Samish, still did nothing to the
23 Nookachamps side you simply can't get enough water down through the
24 Burlington Northern, the Highway 99 and the Mount Vernon bridge without
25 having to relocate them or else you have substantial less protection for

1 Burlington-Sedro Woolley in other words less than 100-years. The
2 original meeting that we had up here we talked about the weir that would
3 be out in front of the railroad. The primary purpose of the weir was
4 to assure that there was not a channel shift during high flows over
5 into the Samish. It's possible, maybe Mr. Regan a little bit later
6 will chat about the hydraulics of the stream and sediment as well as
7 some channel shifts that could occur so what we attempted to do was to
8 permit the natural overflow that occurs there now to not to be altered
9 as small a measure as possible with the plan. So what happens is the
10 existing condition out there about 20-25 year even or about a 1951
11 event the water goes overbank out of the Skagit those flats and reaches
12 about the railroad track some water then goes into the Gages Slough
13 and if you watch it it would slowly go down to the Burlington area and
14 start flooding, back flood in behind the hospital there, it would go
15 across the road on over into the farmland and there's a valley storage
16 that occurs in that immediate area. About a half a mile to the
17 I guess north and a little bit west there's that Sterling Hill we call
18 it, a large protrusion sticks up out of the valley. About in that
19 area there is a natural rise in the ground that is at the elevation of
20 about the existing 50-year water surface down through that reach, the
21 existing condition of it, if you have about a 50-year event it will
22 start to tip over into the Samish and drain from the Skagit watershed
23 into the Samish. With this project, you have some raise in the backwater
24 or water surface out in front of the railroad area so by putting the
25 piling, driving those down in the subsurface area, berming up about
26 a foot out in the field or a foot and a half on the one area, you maintain

1 the with project condition when the water reaches the 50-year elevation
2 it won't tip over, would be the same condition that you would have now
3 in a 50-year event. Now, the sole purpose for the piling that will
4 be driven across there with some riprap protection on the top is to
5 prevent those high flows the 100-year beyond from eroding the ground
6 surface and permitting a larger hole or larger channel to go down into
7 the Samish. Now that's a real threat for a large flow it could occur
8 and that's what the weir was about and that's what the piling is about.
9 We feel the piling will be just as effective a job about the same cost
10 with less disruption to the farmland in the area generally. Any
11 questions on this?

12 MR. BOETTCHER. How deep are you going with the pilings?

13 MR. COOK. The tops of the piling would be about 38.5 to 39 which
14 would be about three to four to five feet in that range beneath the
15 existing ground surface out there or what would be left, the elevation
16 of the ground range is from 41 to 43 feet now.

17 MR. BOETTCHER. How deep in the ground? How deep is the foundation?
18 How long do they protrude in the ground?

19 MR. COOK. Oh, how long do they protrude down in the ground - we
20 based our estimate on about 35 feet. When we get into the more
21 details of that particular reach we will be doing some subsurface
22 investigation and that could vary. The idea being to go deep enough so
23 that they are strong enough and won't be eroded or washed out. On the
24 same subject on the weirs -

25 ZEL YOUNG. What you're saying is the 100-year flood the river might

1 try to make itself ---

2 MR. COOK. Its possible, that's correct.

3 JACK L. POWER. The Samish River storage won't occur until _____
4 at the same time you talk about elevation this 38 to 41 feet.

5 MR. COOK. Yes, I will try to clarify that. The existing conditions
6 that occurs right now, if the waters were to occur at about a 20-25 year
7 event it would start to go into the Gages Slough and over the railroad
8 and but it would not go on over into the Samish because there is a
9 natural raise in the ground that would preclude that, there would be
10 some ponding over there. At about a 50-year event today that's when
11 it would start to spill on over into the Samish, you know the first
12 drops start to go over there and because of the project the with project
13 condition there is a natural raise under the water just upstream of
14 Burlington. Now, to offset that where the pilings are driven the
15 ground would be raised about that much a foot, foot and a quarter in
16 some places and there would be broad slopes, one on four or five slopes
17 so it could be farmed and seeded so it would back to back condition.

18 MR. POWER. The only problem we have then is the existing line on
19 the dike road.

20 MR. COOK. That's correct.

21 MR. POWER. Okay, if you get a 100-year flood then we are making
22 a flow for the water to run in the district at Sterling Hill - is that
23 correct?

24 MR. COOK. That's correct.

25 MR. POWER. I am assuming you are talking 60,000 feet per second.

1 MR. COOK. For the 100-year event the design would be such
2 that 60,000 c.f.s. would be permitted to pass through that area, that's
3 correct and that would cause some erosion but not to exceed that, the
4 pile top.

5 MR. POWER. But you are still going to force the floods further west
6 than would be natural.

7 MR. COOK. Actually not --

8 MR. POWER. I disagree with you.

9 MR. COOK. Okay, let me finish, the existing condition that occurs
10 we have some maps and I will be happy to show you the topography as
11 the water rises the first water goes into Gages Slough and goes under the
12 railroad and the road there. But if that were blocked right in that
13 slough area would be the first area where the water would go over - now
14 as the water got higher it would go further up the railroad tracks
15 toward Sedro Woolley and you would have a broader and broader weir but
16 as the water tumbles over there just behind the houses that are right
17 along that area there's a natural raise in the ground so the water goes
18 across the tracks and the road and would migrate back down towards
19 Burlington up to about the 50-year event. It would still float down
20 in about that area. Because of the levee construction that will be along
21 that stretch as the water rises you won't have as broad a crest at the
22 weir and the water won't go across the railroad and then channel down
23 toward Gages Slough it will be there and go across that area. We are the
24 first to confess that the water from the 25 to the 50-year event will
25 be more concentrated through there from the 50 to the 100-year event less

1 water will be going through that throat than would have went through
2 there before simply because it is a constricted opening there will be
3 less water getting into that area and less water getting down into the
4 Samish because it just can't get through there as fast as it did before.

5 MR. POWER. I think your statement in your public brochure should
6 be more specific on this - there's a lot of confusion and a lot of people
7 want to know what the hell you are talking about and we don't know and
8 I hope you are right.

9 MR. BOETTCHER. You are concerned about that 15 - 10 - 20 year floods
10 but what are the engineers going to do about getting it channelized in
11 the event of a spring runoff so it can go down there.

12 ROBERT G. THOMPSON. So we will not be flooded every time you have
13 a runoff - I don't care about the floods I am talking about the runoff.

14 COLONEL POTEAT. That's a very good question that I think is probably
15 in order at this point for us to discuss channelization. Now, there are
16 three things that I think are very very significant must be considered
17 when you talk about channelizing the river, digging it out or something
18 like that - number one, when you dig it out, how much additional carrying
19 capacity are you going to get and Dick I want to ask you in just a minute
20 to address that. You have some alternatives because you can dig out a
21 little bit within side the existing channel and that will give you so
22 much additional carrying capacity and maybe that would be the carrying
23 capacity you are talking about on the other hand you wanted to carry a
24 50-year or even a 25-year flood you couldn't get it within reason within
25 the existing channel you would have to consider setting the levees back and

1 excavating all that material between the new levees and the old river
2 bank so Dick can talk about that as to just what kind of opportunities
3 exist for getting additional water carrying capacity from a channel. It
4 is not very promising, you are not going to get much additional
5 carrying capacity for your buck without for your buck. To get additional
6 channel capacity you will have to go to some very expensive stuff which
7 brings us to the second thing that's high cost, not only high cost of the
8 original work but high maintenance cost. This material will fill back
9 in very, very rapidly, it will have to be maintained very frequently at
10 high cost and that's a local responsibility. We couldn't advise you
11 to that's a winner of an idea - now there is another thing that you need
12 to think about conceptually - rivers that appear during slack water to
13 be filled in with silt and gravel and stuff like that dredge themselves
14 out, temporarily during the high flow. There's a hell of a lot of
15 material during a high flow that goes out and that river is much, much
16 deeper you don't realize that because when the water drops it fills
17 back in again, that's new material so during a high flow you do get
18 additional carrying capacity that you don't realize but the time that
19 the water drops where you see it its filled back in and you think nothing
20 has happened there. Now the third thing is environmental damage, just call
21 you know a spade a spade my friends you will play hell getting environ-
22 mental approval to dredge out that river, the fisheries being one of the
23 angles. Now Dick, why don't you elaborate on that a little bit on the
24 carrying capacity of the river and if Karen is still back there and
25 awake I am going to get Karen up front to elaborate a little bit on
26 the environmenal aspects of dredging because we did go through that
27 and we did in fact modify this project we are talking about by taking

1 out six proposals to play with individual constrictions in the channel.
2 This is Dick Regan, our Chief Hydraulic Designer.

3 DICK REGAN. I will get up and give my usual dredge them out speech
4 which I gave here about a month ago. You can dredge out the mouth
5 of the Skagit River and we will start at the mouth and go down to China
6 if you want and you are not going to change the water surface, that is
7 governed by the tide and we aren't going to change the tide by dredging.
8 So now you are at the mouth and you haven't changed anything and you've
9 done a lot of dredging. You can start up the river and you can, we did
10 a study, where we dredged out two million cubic yards of material,
11 forgetting about where you are going to put it, we just assumed we could
12 get rid of it and we stopped at the confluence where the North and South
13 Forks come together - did quite a bit for flood control at that point
14 we had lowered the 100-year flood by about 4 feet, sounds great, except
15 now you get up here at Mount Vernon no change, you lose it immediately
16 it comes right back to the existing river very, very rapidly that
17 means if you want to continue, you take out another two million cubic
18 yards to get up above Mount Vernon. Now you are talking about four
19 million cubic yards of material that you are going to take out and you
20 have to put it some place - you have dropped the river somewhat up
21 here now where do you stop? You stop at the Highway 99 bridge or go
22 up a few miles further and you haven't made any betterment you are
23 right back to where the river was and without dredging on further up and
24 where do you stop you just don't you get very little benefit out of
25 dredging. We also found that in our studies that approximately two to four

1 years later on the study we did from the mouth up through the confluence
2 of the North and South Forks two to four years later you start all over
3 again and you dredge it all out again at the same expense to get your
4 same benefits of four feet again and that two to four years it fills
5 right back in, it will fill in at a much faster rate after you have
6 dredged it than it is filling in now because you have dredged a track
7 you have changed the regime of the river to something that it doesn't
8 really want to be and it will fill in much much more rapidly than the
9 way it is filling in now.

10 MR. BOETTCHER. We have been having an argument here - that gentleman
11 and I and I made the statement that the river remains constant and it
12 will have an effect on the #5 Highway that changes the river channel -
13 now would you agree with me that the length of the river remains constant
14 depending on the amount of sediment that flows in there.

15 MR. REGAN. You are coming close to it, the river likes to have
16 a certain length to carry the material that is coming down and it has
17 to do with the soil that's in the valley -there's a number of factors
18 and that's one of them, yes.

19 MR. BOETTCHER. Thank you.

20 MR. THOMPSON. There is a ripple by the railroad track, by 99 part
21 of it being, they cleaned up the ripple and they took it out and made a
22 big dip - when things are nip and tuck that little ripple just made a big
23 difference.

24 MR. REGAN. Yes, some things like that would.

25 MR. THOMPSON. That made a big difference and that wasn't a big deal
26 either.

1 MR. REGAN. Yes, some things like that, some areas will make a
2 difference, yes, some small difference.

3 MR. THOMPSON. Well its a big deal here.

4 MR. REGAN. What is the big difference - are we talking many feet
5 or —

6 MR. THOMPSON. When the water table was at Mount Vernon, it was
7 still — you are talking about a matter of two to three feet in the
8 Nookachamps area which covers a lot of land.

9 MR. REGAN. We did make a study where we opened up under the
10 Burlington Northern bridge on the north side all those vents filled up.

11 MR. THOMPSON. Yes.

12 MR. REGAN. Our study indicated that by doing that we would lower
13 the water from the 100-year flood from what we are talking about now
14 with our proposed project that was that dredging in that small amount
15 of dredging would lower it about a half foot.

16 MR. THOMPSON. We weren't talking about a 100-year flood, we are
17 talking about river runoff - it made a big difference.

18 MR. REGAN. The only study we did was for the 100-year flood - it
19 had made about a half foot.

20 MR. THOMPSON. Thank you.

21 COLONEL POTEAT. Thanks Dick. Karen why don't you come on up you're
22 not going to escape this evening. Karen Northup is the Environmental
23 Coordinator on this project and w-s involved in some of the details
24 environmental assessments that necessitated the removal of the six
25 localized channel clearings bits of work that had originated under this

1 authorization. Now I want Karen to go over some of the considerations
2 that were brought up by a lot of people on why it was very very
3 desirable not to mess with the river.

4 KAREN NORTHUP. The major environmental concern that was raised
5 regarding channelization was the impact of channelization and associated
6 dredging on the fishery resources of the Skagit River and this concern
7 was raised early in the study by various resource agencies and they
8 requested that the channelization part of the levee project be removed
9 from the project. The reason for it was the fishery resource of the
10 Skagit River was vital, not only to the biological system as a whole, but
11 also in particular the salmon resources to people as both a sport and
12 commercial fishery and as you dredge the channel you have associated
13 long-term impacts as well as many of the impacts are temporary and short-
14 term, but as a necessity comes about to increase the frequency of the
15 dredging many of the short-term impacts become long-term and as the
16 frequency increases the long-term may become a permanent impact and when
17 you weigh the tradeoffs that would be involved with these long-term
18 permanent impacts to the fishery resource we have tried to plan a project
19 that we looked at a project where such channelization would not be
20 necessary. So one of our objectives became staying out of the river
21 whenever we could, whenever it was possible.

22 SOPHIE NEBLE. What impact is there on the fish? I know nothing
23 about fish, but when the siltation goes down the river and covers up the
24 little fingerlings, or whatever you call them, I am not that good at
25 fishing - I know nothing about fish, but I would think that there would

1 be some impact on them because I have heard that Wiseman Creek that
2 goes through my place whenever the siltation got so heavy coming
3 down off of that hill on the north side there is no more fish and the
4 silt covers up the eggs and if there are any that hatch out it covers
5 up the little fish so there is just nothing there anymore in fact
6 they cover up the whole creek.

7 MS. NORTHUP. Siltation definitely impacts the fish, in fact
8 in the project reaches of the Skagit River there is no spawning, the
9 spawning is upstream in Sedro Woolley and in some of the tributaries
10 such as the Nookachamps. The siltation is a problem to fish, but our
11 objective was not to take away what is naturally there but not to
12 increase the impacts of such, not go out and intentionally indirectly
13 increase the impact to the fish, which are man caused stupidity, such
14 as dredging and going out and stirring it up so if at all possible
15 could we, this is what we are considering, could we avoid that if at
16 all possible.

17 COLONEL POTEAT. Thank you very much, Karen. Let's see now what
18 I have tried to do is touch on a few topics and go over generally, lump
19 together and go over generally some of the questions that came up. Now
20 let's see who else has an individual question that maybe we haven't
21 covered - back in the back there. Yes sir. I would like if you don't
22 mind if you would come up to the mike and state your name so everybody
23 can hear and we can get it on the record.

24 CARL WIBBELMAN. My name is Carl Wibbelman. I live in the
25 Nookachamps area so this concerns my home rather than a farm. A couple

1 of questions that come to mine - the first meeting that we had it
2 was brought upon us that really the Corps of Engineers was really not
3 interested in the involvement of people affected indirectly by this
4 dike - in other words if you lived upriver that was just kind of a
5 tough ballgame, that seems to have changed and it kind of leaves a hard
6 taste in your mouth, if you are up in the upriver end, you kind of
7 wonder what's happening and looking over your final Alternate 3E in the
8 Nookachamps area I don't even see the added diking that's to block off
9 the Clear Lake area on that map back there which leads me again to
10 believe that its in this chart here that was maybe just a last stop-
11 gap measure and the thing that's bothering me about looking over what you
12 are proposing to do in the Clear Lake area and the hill areas out here
13 it is not all too well marked. I assume that this is what you are
14 diking - looking at the chart.

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Let me send a delegation back there to look at
16 the map with you.

17 MR. COOK went back to look at the chart with Mr. Wibbleman -
18 this chart is a broad scale and lacks a lot of detail, the yellow area
19 on this chart lies behind the town of Beaver Lake area shown to be 100-
20 year protection and the area in front of Clear Lake - it has non-
21 structural measures and this chart does not show ----

22 COLONEL POTEAT. It might be better if you talk a little bit one-
23 on-one on that particular thing and I could go over some more general
24 things.

25 MR. COOK AND MR. WIBBELMAN talked over the charts.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. The gentleman did mention something about the
2 Corps was not interested and reduce damages on the Nookachamps - that
3 certainly hasn't been my position and I am the District Engineer down
4 there. I am very interested in that. If part of the price that you
5 have to pay to protect Burlington is to hose down a little more of the
6 Nookachamps, then I feel that we are obligated to look at a way to offset
7 that adverse impact or what is called induced damage on the Nookachamps
8 and I have so instructed my staff to do that and incorporate that into
9 the plan as a cost of protecting Burlington, let's say. In other words
10 it shares on the same cost basis. I feel I am on a pretty sound
11 structural basis because of Section 73 of Public Law 93-251 which I
12 will read if you will bear with me - it says in the survey, planning or
13 design by any Federal agency of any project involving flood protection,
14 consideration shall be given to nonstructural alternatives to prevent
15 or reduce flood damage including but not limited to floodproofing of
16 structures, floodplain regulation, acquisition of floodplain land for
17 recreation fish and wildlife and other purposes and relocation with a
18 view toward formulating the most economically, socially and environmentally
19 acceptable means of reducing or preventing flood damages. Where a non-
20 structural alternative is recommended non-Federal participation shall
21 be comparable to the value of lands, easements and rights-of-way which
22 would have been required of non-Federal interests under Section 3 and it
23 sites the legal reference here, for structural protection but in no
24 event shall exceed 20% of the project cost. In other words the local
25 share is 20% so I think I am on sound basis with the intent of Congress

1 and just the general principals that this is one of the prices to do
2 something over there to offset the adverse effects its one of the prices
3 that the project has to bear to protect Burlington and that's been my
4 position all along. Okay, who else has a question? Yes mam.

5 ALTHEA JEWETT. By looking at your map here on page 2, again you
6 take the Nookachamps and all the area from Sterling, Sedro Woolley
7 isn't going to be protected at all. It these nonstructural measures as
8 you call it. I see no levees or anything here along the Skagit River
9 which I live on the South Skagit and Mrs. Hanson lives just across the
10 river from me and it got pretty wet there in 1975 and a little eery too.
11 So, is that, am I correct then that we have no protection whatsoever?

12 MR. BROOKS. The Alternative 3E as presently outlined does not
13 have a levee around Sedro Woolley and the primary reason for that is
14 the majority of Sedro Woolley sits up on a bench, its off the river.
15 Part of it is down over the bench and next to the river, do you know
16 what I am talking about, the bench.

17 MS. JEWETT.- Yes, I understand.

18 MR. BROOKS. The bench itself at Sedro Woolley, the majority of it
19 is above the 100-year flood and probably above the 500-year flood.
20 Sedro Woolley is basically outside the floodplain. Now individual, one
21 or two houses, may be in the floodplain and you would have to talk about
22 that on a house-by-house basis, but generally speaking the reason there
23 isn't a levee protecting Sedro Woolley is that it isn't needed. Now, for
24 the people who are off that bench and down on the floodplain near the river
25 and the people who are on the other side of the river, it is not concentrated

1 development and you are into the same type of problem that you have at
2 the Nookachamps, plus the thing that if you were to build a levee there
3 you would be necking down the river much, much more than it is today
4 because now the river in a major flood would use that whole overbank
5 area going through the narrow spot at Sedro Woolley and you would
6 increase the flooding on the people upstream from Sedro Woolley then.
7 So for several reasons the Sedro Woolley people would be, the people
8 at Sedro Woolley and basically from Sedro Woolley downstream would be
9 treated the same as the people in the Nookachamps, in other words ---

10 MS. JEWETT. Perhaps you could answer my question why then when
11 the taxes were \$7,000 and now its run up to \$33,000 and still we have no
12 protection and we are in the flood area and yet we are considered
13 waterfront property and we sure are.

14 MR. BROOKS. I think that's a question for your County Assessor
15 (laughter)

16 COLONEL POTEAT. Howard Miller just jumped out the window.

17 MR. BOETTCHER. Lawrence Boettcher. I'd like to ask for a
18 modification of your specifications for your dike from a two to one
19 slope to a three to one slope for maintenance and if you are going to
20 pasture them why the two to one slope isn't as satisfactory as it should
21 be and you are spending that many millions of dollars why I think I have
22 a logical question - right?

23 MR. BROOKS. Your question is logical I think that when you - several
24 aspects would have to be looked at. We have had some people get up
25 today particularly people of Skagit City and say the levees into my - I have

1 a small property the levees force the road into my property and that's
2 with a two to one slide slope. The three to one side slope obviously
3 requires more land. You have tradeoffs in anything. A three to one slope
4 would require more land and it would also have a longer seepage path
5 but on the project itself rather than go to a three to one side slope
6 and probably take more farmland we used a gravel berm on the back side of
7 the levee to provide allowance for seepage and used two to one side slopes
8 on the levee itself. Now, one of the items of local cooperation is the
9 county has to agree to operate and maintain the project and so agreed
10 today many farmers utilize the levee for their grazing for pastureland
11 and that probably can continue in the future. However, the levee
12 integrity itself would have to be maintained so that if it is trampled
13 that it would have to be rebuilt or kept up to what it was built to
14 originally. I think, it's one of the things we considered in the project
15 design and we figured that considering all the factors that the two to
16 one side slope was the best solution to the problem when everything was
17 considered.

18 COLONEL POTEAT. Who else has a question?

19 DOROTHY B. FOX. Dorothy Fox. I live in the Nookachamps area, or
20 Beaver Lake. I want to know if you are going to guarantee to begin that
21 project when you do the others. I have heard too many political promises
22 that are not carried through. On that last meeting at Clear Lake you
23 said it might run short of funds so we wouldn't get it so I think we
24 want that to be done right when you start the other and finished too.

25 COLONEL POTEAT. I have no problems with that. I understand that,

1 of course, I won't be here but

2 MRS. FOX. That was I was thinking because I saw a piece in the
3 paper --

4 COLONEL POTEAT. I know of nothing, no objection on our part to
5 doing that. I guess I understand and agree with you that if there's
6 going to be an adverse impact over there as the construction work
7 proceeds on the levees that are going to cause that adverse impact
8 what you would like to see is simultaneously work on your side so that
9 you wouldn't get that adverse impact and I am in agreement with that. I
10 don't see any problem with that, you know conceivably something could
11 come out of the sky, but I would be surprised I don't see any problem
12 there.

13 MRS. FOX. Nothing supprises me in these days, not with ----

14 COLONEL POTEAT. What you are asking is much of an assurance as I
15 can give you and I understand what you are saying and I am in agreement
16 with what you are saying and I don't see a problem with that.

17 MRS. FOX. You don't do anything for Hamilton and yet the whole
18 town has been here screeching about their assessment evaluation I can't
19 understand it.

20 COLONEL POTEAT. Okay, that's a good point and I am glad you brought
21 that up.

22 MRS. FOX. Fir Island isn't so densely populated anymore than some
23 of these other areas.

24 COLONEL POTEAT. Go ahead -

25 MR. BROOKS. In regards to upriver problems. This project is an

1 outgrowth of the original study back in the mid 60's and in the mid 60's
2 it was determined that the lower levee project was what was feasible
3 at that time. We are looking at modifications to that project at this
4 time. We are not looking at solving all of the problems in the Skagit
5 River basin. Now mindful of recent problems that have come up, not
6 problems, but mindful of say the Wild and Scenic River legislation
7 and other factors that have entered into it, is that future studies could
8 be done by the Corps of upriver flooding problems at the request of the
9 local officials, either county or city, and that we could look at the
10 problems and see if there are any feasible solutions under our criteria
11 and under present law. I think its accepted that flood problem, its
12 the same flooding but its a separate study problem in the way that we
13 are set up in our agency is that its not, its a separable problem is the
14 word I am trying to find.

15 MRS. FOX. Its the same river affecting ---

16 MR. BROOKS. It's the same river but in the way that the Government
17 we are set up to look at water resource problems, it would be handled
18 under a separate study which we could initiate after the request of local
19 officials.

20 MRS. FOX. Karen was concerned with fish and you say the
21 channelization affects the fish, well certainly those dikes affect the
22 people and lots of things.

23 COLONEL POTEAT. I don't know how the Hamilton thing would come
24 out that's a separate area upstream that should be looked at on its
25 merits and there are several authorities that would allow us to do that
26 if the local public body requested that.

1 MRS. FOX. Hamilton is separate; Burlington is separate there's a
2 picture of 1921 floods flowing through Burlington in the book that you
3 put out and there's a service station right across from that ---

4 COLONEL POTEAT. That's right and we bit off a chunk of the river
5 from in essence from Sedro Woolley to the mouth that's what this is
6 looking at, there could be from the same river, the same type of a
7 problem, a flood problem up at Hamilton and that should be looked at
8 if the locals want it to be looked at under perhaps Section 205 of the
9 Flood Control of 1948 or as a separate congressionally authorized study
10 and we would be glad to work with any of those local officials that
11 wanted advise on how to proceed along those lines.

12 MS. JEWETT. What was the cubic foot per second on the flood of 1975?

13 COLONEL POTEAT. Dick Regan do you have the c.f.s. from 1975?

14 MR. REGAN. Not right off hand.

15 COLONEL POTEAT. Let him check that out and then we will come
16 back to it in a second or so. While we are waiting -

17 MRS. JEWETT. Could you tell me within a few feet of how much the
18 proposed diking, downstream of Sedro Woolley -what would be the increase
19 in the water?

20 COLONEL POTEAT. If I understand what you are saying there would
21 with the proposed diking downstream of Sedro Woolley and so forth, what
22 would be the increase in backwater surface in the vicinity of Sedro
23 Woolley on the lower ridge.

24 MR. REGAN. Right at the upper end of the Nookachamps Valley is about
25 two foot increase but as you go on upstream towards the Sedro Woolley
area this drops off very quickly back to no problem and within a couple of

1 miles after you go past the Nookachamps area where the river is deeper
2 the effects drop off very quickly and within two miles there is no problem.

3 COLONEL POTEAT. If I understood you correctly within two miles
4 upstream of the mouth of the Nookachamps the increase is zero.

5 MR. REGAN. Two miles upstream of the bridges.

6 COLONEL POTEAT. I think what he corrected that to say within two
7 miles upstream of the bridges at Sedro Woolley there is zero increase,
8 definitely by the time you get to the pipeline crossing. How about
9 standing up and giving your name?

10 JOHN ROOZEN. John Roozen. It seems like the bridge there's two
11 bridges there as you go above the Nookachamps to Woolley and I was just
12 thinking about - we were talking about that area - that other bridge isn't
13 being used and I am sure you've been up there its just like a dam behind
14 that bridge if the river is high at all it is just standing on the
15 Highway 90 Bridge I think it is looks like there is about two feet of
16 drop right coming through that dam there - maybe that in itself would
17 help that area where they are at considerably.

18 COLONEL POTEAT. Apparently this bridge does act as a dam, retarding
19 structure and if that were eliminated it would ease the problem upstream
20 is that correct?

21 MR. REGAN. We haven't looked at that bridge in our detailed study
22 but it could. The discharges for the 1975 flood we have three numbers -
23 one is at Concrete it was 122,000 c.f.s.; at Sedro Woolley it was 121,000
24 now that's within the accuracy in other words they are both about the
25 same numbers 120,000 at Sedro Woolley and you get down to Mount Vernon
26 it was 130,000 cfs.

1 COLONEL POTEAT. Who else wants to ask a question, make a comment?
2 Well, I guess that - we've had a move here and maybe we can get a second
3 let me just mention one or two quick things. In all honesty with you
4 after listening to my staff and reading all this stuff and listening
5 to it tonight and talking to your officials it appears to me that 3E is
6 about as close as we can come from a fairly detailed concept right now
7 we have to work out precise levee alinements and the individual problems
8 with people, but I would say that on the balance this is validated, 3E
9 is being about the way we should go.

10 MRS. FOX. Did you explain why it is 121,000 at Sedro Woolley?

11 COLONEL POTEAT. Ask Dick as soon as we break up in just a minute -
12 there is an opportunity for some additional considerations to be provided
13 during the environmental impact statement review which continues for a
14 few more days and in the public brochure comments in the next couple of
15 weeks. Now, in addition to the information and the views we have
16 received here tonight we want to urge, very strongly that if you have
17 any further comments, send them to us by the 30th of June so that they
18 can be included in the record of tonight's meeting. As I explained
19 earlier the last sheet of this brochure is suitable for that or just
20 cut it out, write your comments, fold it so the address is out and stick
21 it in the mail. Again, if you would like to talk to either to me or
22 members of my staff after the meeting we will remain for these
23 individual discussions as long as there are people that want to talk to
24 us. Again, Forest Brooks will be in the area tomorrow in the County
25 Engineer's office up on the second floor from 8 to 11 and from noon until
26 2. So, if anyone has any additional statements they wish to make or

1 questions on the matter I will be glad to have - we have one other
2 gentleman here.

3 LARRY GADBOIS. The only question I would like to know is what
4 time, tomorrow, next month, next week, when will the Corps be out
5 to set up these meetings, to answer our questions on a one-to-one basis
6 as to what you are going to do to us individually?

7 COLONEL POTEAT. Let me put it this way, I don't know what will be
8 in the budget for Fiscal Year 1980 which starts 1 October of this
9 coming year. If there is something in the budget the schedule that we
10 could maintain is working this fall on the detailed plans and
11 specifications fall and early next year, the detailed plans and
12 specifications for the downstream portion say below Mount Vernon,
13 primarily that would be the Fir Island area and at the same time coming
14 to a little higher level of detail next spring in the upstream area,
15 the Burlington, the Nookachamps area so from a general statement more
16 detail in the downstream area this fall and getting into the nitty gritty
17 details in the upstream area of the Burlington and Nookachamps area next
18 spring, if there is money in the FY 80 budget, if not, that could be
19 delayed a year. That's kind of a general statement because as we continue
20 you know its kind of an evolving thing there's been a lot of dialogue
21 with the people in the Nookachamps in the past now and will continue
22 in the future. So, I would think that on through this summer and fall
23 we'll keep in contact with the people in the Nookachamps. But the real
24 detailed levee alinement and scheduling with you guys would come no
25 sooner than probably next spring.

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1 MRS. FOX. Would it go through the hopper and congress with our
2 new representative Mr. or Honorable Al Swift, if the Nookachamps
3 essentially hired a lawyer and he put a kabonze (??) to it.

4 COLONEL POTEAT. Well you know there is always that avenue open
5 to you, if you want to do that.

6 MRS. FOX. They did do it and prevented them from taking a shortcut
7 that's what they did and I think that's why you are transferred too.

8 COLONEL POTEAT. Is there anything else? Okay thank you very much
9 for coming, the meeting stands adjourned. (Clapping)

10 Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. (2325 hours)

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