



STATE OF
WASHINGTON

Dixy Lee Ray
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Olympia, Washington 98504 206/753 2800

Mail Stop PV-11

July 6, 1979

Mr. Sidney Knutson
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
P. O. Box C-3755
Seattle, Washington 98124

Dear Mr. Knutson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement for the Skagit River flood damage reduction project. We have reviewed the EIS and offer the following comments for your consideration.

On page 19 of the statement you indicate that floodproofing requirements can be eliminated in areas with 100-year flood protection. These floodproofing requirements should be continued to provide protection from possible floods in excess of 100-year levels, or from possible piping or rupture of the dikes.

The final EIS should discuss the possibility of a set-back dike alternative. By placing the new dikes back from the existing dikes, there would be room for the river to meander and work within the dikes. The land within the dikes could be federally owned and leased for agricultural, recreational, or wildlife uses, otherwise more diking will eventually be required east of Sedro Woolley and a Sauk River dam may be needed.

The new 50-year flood protection in rural areas might increase the potential for development which in turn could result in extensive damage from future flooding.

Some consideration should be given to the possibility of compensating those outside the dike where there is an increased potential for flood damage.

In addition to review by the Department of Ecology, copies of the EIS were forwarded to other state agencies for their review. The State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Department of Transportation were the only agencies to respond and their letters are enclosed for your information. The Department of Transportation has expressed a desire to work with your

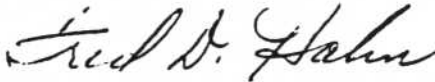
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office on the feasibility of incorporating SR 20 into the levee system.
The Department of Transportation should be contacted directly for input.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS. If you have questions, please contact the Environmental Review Section at 753-6892.

Sincerely,



Fred D. Hahn, Assistant Director
Office of External Affairs

FDH:as

Enclosures

cc: Earl Finn, Department of Fisheries
Gene Dziedzic, Department of Game
Jerry Probst, Department of Natural Resources
Dave Heiser, Parks and Recreation Commission
Bert Baron, Planning and Community Affairs Agency
Mike Mills, Office of Financial Management
Dave Kile, Department of Agriculture
Jeanne Welch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Office
Malcom McPhee, Commerce and Economic Development Dept.
Forrest Wilcox, Department of Emergency Services
Russell Albert, Department of Transportation
Jake Fey, State Energy Office
Gloria Tarver, Dept. of Social and Health Services
Lorinda Anderson, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Walt Bergstrom, Department of Ecology, S.W. Region
Steve West, Department of Ecology, N.W. Region
Barbara Ritchie, Department of Ecology, Environmental Review

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