From:	DON MOE
To:	NWS-Skagit-River-GI
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Letter in response to GI study
Date:	Friday, July 18, 2014 2:43:43 PM

June 19, 2014

To the members of the ACOE:

RE: The GI Study and the Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement Alternative

First of all I would like to thank you for your work and your willingness to involve the citizens of Skagit County in this process. As a former commissioner of DD#1 and property owner in DD#1, I still have an interest in adequate flood protection, specifically through the use of interlocking sheet pile. For the record I am in no way writing on behalf of the commissioners of DD#1. Commissioners have as their mandate the protection of "all" citizens and property owners of the district and I would not want to be in the unenviable position of protecting one segment of our population [urban] at the expense of the other [rural].

After the floods in 1990 and 1995, our district decided to install over 300 ft. of interlocking sheet pile in an area with seepage problems, just to the north of Edgewater Park in West Mount Vernon. Previously installed clay keyways did not stem the flow of water under the levee in this area during those extreme floods. The sheet pile was installed approx. 4 to 5 feet above the inside bench and went to a depth of approx. 50 feet. A " ballpark" figure for the project was around $600.00 per lineal foot. No succeeding flood has penetrated this area since this project. I will submit, the 1990 and 1995 floods were large floods and long in duration.

In this process of looking for the best flood control for the money, without unfairly jeopardizing the rural areas, I would like to see the ACOE at least consider the use of interlocking sheet pile installed at the riverward top of the levee and brace the backside with rock at what will be considered overflow areas. As I understand it, the two causes of the failures of the sheet pile during Hurricane Katrina were: Not having the sheet pile deep enough to withstand the surge and not having material on the backside that could withstand the overtopping by the surge. Defending against a large flood on the Skagit River is not totally unlike the situation in New Orleans.

If we are going to spend this kind of money on the project, one way or another lets make sure we can keep our dikes intact during a catastrophic flood. The Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement Alternative may well be the best alternative. Rural property owners are being asked to "bear the burden" of 100yr.+ floods. If our rural dikes are built to withstand a 175,000 cfs flow and we get a 200,000 cfs flow, let's make sure 175,000 cfs stays in side the levee. If we get a 250,000 cfs flow, again, let's make sure we have done as much as possible to keep 175,000cfs inside the levee.

Elevating and strengthening of urban area levees makes sense. Armoring of expected overtopping in rural areas also makes sense and then the obvious need for proper drainage so rural areas, and the entire community affected can return to normal with as little damage as possible .

No project will satisfy everyone, but I like the direction this project is going and look forward to its eventual completion.

Respectfully,

Donald Moe

[redacted]

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