



CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Wastewater Treatment Plant
325 Metcalf Street
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July 21, 2014

Ms. Hannah Hadley
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CENWS-EN-ER
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124

Ms. Hadley:

As Supervisor of the Sedro-Woolley Wastewater Treatment Plant, I have serious concerns with the Army Corps of Engineers selection of the Comprehensive Urban Levy Improvement plan without first modeling the project. While the plan calls for construction of a ring dike to protect the Sedro-Woolley Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), this measure provides a false sense of security in protecting the City's largest asset.

Skagit County Commissioner Sharon Dillon recently attended a City Council meeting and shared that she would be walking in flood waters around her home on Fidalgo Street during a 100 year event. If flood waters indeed reach this level, the City of Sedro-Woolley will have at least 5 miles of sewer pipe under water. A submerged gravity sewer system with head pressure in essence becomes a pressurized force main which will push water into the WWTP and cause sewage to over top structures. At this point, the ring dike designed to protect the Treatment Plant becomes worthless and provides absolutely no protection, all at the expense of taxpayer dollars.

Homes throughout the City will also experience internal flooding as sewage under pressure begins to spill out floor drains, toilets and bath tubs, thereby creating a potential health risk for those exposed to contaminated water.

I highly recommend the Army Corps of Engineers perform hydraulic modeling and provide this data to the City of Sedro-Woolley before taking further action.

Respectfully,

Debbie Allen
Wastewater Treatment Supervisor