

**From:** [Mike Anderson](#)  
**To:** [NWS-Skagit-River-GI](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Skagit River GI Study  
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Hannah Hadley

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I'm concerned about the transfer of risk of flooding from Mount Vernon and Burlington to Sedro-Woolley. We are "upriver" because our founders settled on higher and less vulnerable ground for flooding than Burlington. The answer to the big flood that will hit is to get the water out not push it back on others. There are costs to dikes just like a by-pass and pushing water up river impacts communities, schools, and farm land. Are we going to pay the people whose land gets impacted by this Urban Levy Plan just like we were talking about paying people for easement on the by-pass route? Works both ways.

I live and run a business called Sedro-Woolley Mini-Storage and pride ourselves being one of the few mini storages around that is not on flood prone land. People actually ask us about flooding and we've always been able to say we're good here and Burlington and some in Mount Vernon are in precarious locations. Now with this new Urban Levy Plan, Sedro-Woolley will be at more risk and Burlington will be looking good. That's not fair. I also owe mortgage on my property, will I be required by the bank to have to get flood insurance now since water will be pushed up to us? That's not fair, again. Flood insurance costs will affect Sedro-Woolley people's wallet monthly and real estate values. This is not fair to citizens of Sedro-Woolley. Get rid of the water not push it on someone else.

Dike District 12 of Burlington area is trying to raise their dikes right now, a smaller precursor to this Urban Levy Plan. From a Northwest Hydraulic Consultant report dated May 22, 2014, NHC project 200177. Page 5, last paragraph: "In summary, the project would eliminate levee overtopping within the project reach during the 100-year flood. A natural consequence of this type of partial levee improvements is decreased flooding behind the improved levee, and increased flooding elsewhere." – No brainer water backs up more upriver instead of flowing to sea. Get rid of the water, don't push it back on your neighbors.

In closing, I know Sedro-Woolley, Clearlake, upriver communities will fight having water pushed back on us. Why not do a project that gets rid of the water? Fund it with a small sales tax on the businesses that built in the flood prone areas like Mount Vernon and Burlington.

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