

Planning Branch

Dear Reviewer:

The Seattle District Corps of Engineers has been requested by Skagit County, Washington to examine alternatives for reducing flood damage in the Skagit River basin. The primary study area is between the city of Sedro Woolley and the mouth of the Skagit River. As part of the initial reconnaissance study, a Reconnaissance Report Addendum (enclosure 1) was prepared on March 29, 1997 which recommended that the study advance to the feasibility phase. On July 28, 1997, Skagit County and the Corps of Engineers signed a feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for an approximately \$4,000,000, four year Feasibility Study. As part of this study, Seattle District staff has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

Enclosed (enclosure 2) you will find a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Skagit Flood Damage Reduction Study. The publication of this NOI starts the official scoping period. The objective of this scoping period is to determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS. We would appreciate receiving any information or comments you may have concerning the environmental aspects of this study by December 30, 1997. Please note that project scoping is an ongoing process. Comments on the project will be accepted at any time during the study. However, we are asking for your initial comments at this time to help determine the extent of studies necessary to determine environmental impacts.

To facilitate collection of scoping comments, a combination open house/public meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 1997 from 4 to 9 P.M. to discuss the proposed project study. The meeting will take place at the Skagit County Administration Building, Meeting Rooms B and C. Corps staff will be on hand to answer questions between 4 P.M. and 6 P.M. At 6 P.M. a short presentation will be made describing the current study plan and potential project. Following the study presentation and a question and answer period, Corps staff will be available again to answer questions on an individual basis.

Scoping comments should be addressed to Mr. Michael Scuderi, the project environmental coordinator, at the address listed on the letterhead. Questions regarding other aspects of the study can also be addressed to Mr. Scuderi at the address listed on the letterhead, by phone (206)764-3479, or email [Michael.R.Scuderi@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.R.Scuderi@usace.army.mil), or to Mr. Forest Brooks, the project manager by phone, (206)764-3456, or email [Forest.C.Brooks@usace.army.mil](mailto:Forest.C.Brooks@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

J. Steven Foster  
Acting Chief, Planning Branch

Enclosures (2)

cc:

(CP Sec.) Brooks  
(ERS) Scuderi  
(PIng Br) Foster  
(PAO) Harris

MFR: Self Explanatory(SCUDERI)

EN-PL-ER/SCUDERI

EN-PL-CP/BROOKS

EN-PL-ER/McNEELY

EN-PL/FOSTER/s/