



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

RECEIVED
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SKAGIT COUNTY
PDS
30 April 2013

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Emergency Management Branch

Planning

Wick Dufford, Skagit County Hearing Examiner
Skagit County Office of Land Use Hearings
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273


PL12-0191

Dear Mr. Dufford:

I am writing to provide comments in support of the **Dike District #12 Shoreline Substantial Development Permit.**

Large Skagit River floods can occur in any given year and it is important for Dike District #12 to conduct operation and maintenance activities on their levee system in order to provide the most reliable flood protection practical. The proposed levee work will increase the reliability of the Dike District #12 levee system and reduce the risk of flooding to the communities behind the levee.

Developing long term solutions that reduce flood risk along the Skagit River is very important, but it is also important for levee sponsors to continue operation and **maintenance of their existing facilities.**

In the last several years, the Army Corps of Engineers has invested significant resources in assisting the Skagit River Diking Districts with levee repairs, inspections, and technical evaluations in order to help maintain reliable flood control systems while the General Investigation study develops a long term solution that will reduce the flood risk. The Army Corps of Engineers spent approximately \$2 Million to conduct repairs on the Dike District #12 levee in the summer of 2011. **It is important to conduct levee repairs and maintenance immediately.**  Waiting for the development of the long term solution increases the flood risk to the community.

The Corps of Engineer's Continuing Eligibility Inspections provide recommendations to the levee sponsors on ways to correct deficiencies and improve levee reliability. We encourage sponsors to implement these recommendations prior to the next flood season to assure their levees are in good condition for potential floods.

Sincerely,

Douglas T. Weber, P.E.
Chief, Emergency Management Branch