

SKAGIT RIVER IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATING PARTNER November 9, 2006

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
BUD NORRIS, MAYOR

SKAGIT COUNTY
KEN A. DAHLSTEDT
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CITY OF BURLINGTON
ROGER "GUS" TJEERDSMA
MAYOR

CITY OF SEDRO-
WOOLLEY
SHARON DILLON, MAYOR

TOWN OF LACONNER
WAYNE EVERTON, MAYOR

SKAGIT COUNTY
DIKE DISTRICT NO. 3
DAVID OLSON
COMMISSIONER

SKAGIT COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED DIKE
DISTRICT NO. 22
CURTIS WYLIE
COMMISSIONER

SKAGIT COUNTY
DIKE DISTRICT NO. 17
DARYL HAMBURG
COMMISSIONER

SKAGIT COUNTY
DIKE, DRAINAGE,
AND IRRIGATION
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT NO. 12
CHARLES H. BENNETT
COMMISSIONER

SKAGIT COUNTY
DIKE DISTRICT NO. 1
DON MOE, COMMISSIONER

SKAGIT COUNTY
DRAINAGE AND
IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HERB WALTNER
COMMISSIONER

Carl L. Cook, Jr.
Director Mitigation Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Region X
FEMA
130 228th Street, SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Re: Response to Wilbert O. Thomas' February 9, 2006, "Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington"

Dear Mr. Cook

In November 2005, FEMA asked Skagit County to prepare and submit a report to FEMA summarizing the hydrologic and hydraulic work that the County had performed as part of its in-kind services for the USACE General Investigation Study on the Skagit River. The hydrologic and hydraulic work was performed under contract to the County by Pacific International Engineering. The County submitted the requested report to FEMA on December 13, 2005. On February 10, 2006, FEMA Region X transmitted a report entitled "An Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River", to the Skagit County Commissioners. This report documented review comments by Wilbert O. Thomas (Thomas Report) of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. on behalf of FEMA.

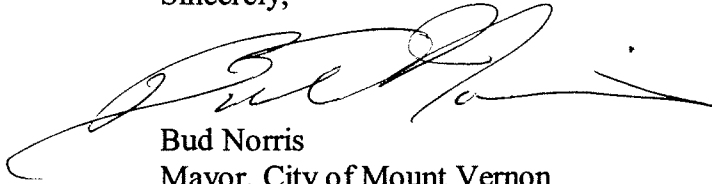
On January 3, 2006 the County Commissioners sent a letter to FEMA (copy attached) identifying the County's serious concerns with the hydrology developed by the Corps "...because our staff could not agree with the method the Corps was required to use in its statistical treatment of the unrecorded historic flood events – a method our staff continues to believe will lead to inaccurate results". The letter further states, "...the hydrology and hydraulic models developed by our technical consultant are accurate and merit your full consideration". The County Commissioners requested that "...FEMA submit the County's analysis to a qualified independent technical consultant so that the County's information can be considered on its merits". The Thomas Evaluation is FEMA's response to the County Commissioners' request. Due to funding limitations at the time the Skagit County Commissioners did not authorize a written response to the Thomas Evaluation.

The Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) was formed to provide an organization to identify and represent issues of common impact to the Communities and Diking and Drainage Districts of the Skagit Valley. The

SRIP has been funded and designated by its membership to prepare a response to the Thomas Evaluation. The SRIP appreciates the effort and hard work by FEMA and Will Thomas in preparing the evaluation. However, we believe that the conclusions of the Thomas Report are not substantiated. The attached Memorandum, prepared by our consultant, Pacific International Engineering, addresses the inaccuracies and unsupported conclusions of the Thomas Report.

The SRIP is committed to performing technically accurate, fully supported and detailed analysis of the hydrology and hydraulics of the Skagit River system. We believe our work should and will withstand the scrutiny of qualified independent technical review. We believe that the work performed by our consultant is of the highest quality and represents an accurate evaluation of the hydrology and hydraulics of the Skagit River watershed. Without identifying any specific technical flaws, the Corps, USGS and FEMA, have inferred the work of our consultant is deficient, and these agencies continue to support the Corps-developed hydrology and hydraulic model. However, at this time we do not believe that reviews performed by the Corps, USGS or FEMA or their consultants represent an "independent technical review". We therefore request to meet with FEMA to ascertain the process for FEMA to adopt the hydrology and hydraulic model developed by our consultant.

Sincerely,



Bud Norris
Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
Skagit River Impact Partnership

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Col. Mike McCormick, District Engineer, Seattle District, USACE
Charles L. Steele, Department of Ecology
Skagit River Impact Partnership
Skagit County Council of Governments

November 9, 2006

Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) Letter to Carl L. Cook, Jr.

Re: Response to Wilbert O. Thomas' February 9, 2006, "Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington"

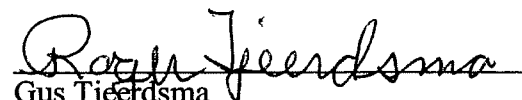
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Dillon".

Sharon Dillon
Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley

November 9, 2006

Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) Letter to Carl L. Cook, Jr.

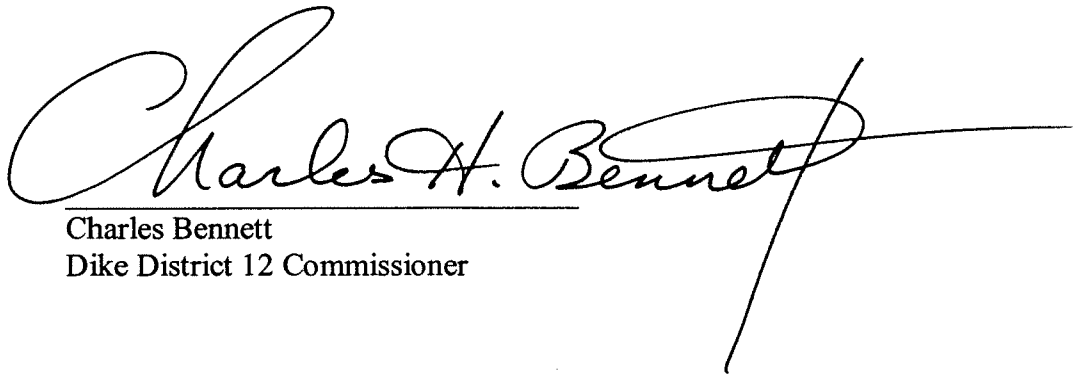
Re: Response to Wilbert O. Thomas' February 9, 2006, "Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington"


Gus Tjeerdsma
Mayor, City of Burlington

November 9, 2006

Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) Letter to Carl L. Cook, Jr.

Re: Response to Wilbert O. Thomas' February 9, 2006, "Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington"

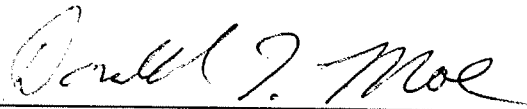
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles H. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles Bennett
Dike District 12 Commissioner

November 9, 2006

Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) Letter to Carl L. Cook, Jr.

Re: Response to Wilbert O. Thomas' February 9, 2006, "Evaluation of Flood Frequency Analyses for the Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington"

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Moe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Don Moe
Dike District 1 Commissioner