Skagit River Impact Partnership

November 17, 2006

David I. Maurstad
Director of Mitigation and Federal Insurance Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Re: Introductory letter and invitation to meet with the Skagit River Impact Partnership Group (a group of Cities, Towns, Diking Districts, and the County of the Skagit River Valley.)

Dear Director Maurstad,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) to introduce the partnership and respectfully invite you to meet with our members to discuss significant local concerns regarding FEMA’s ongoing flood insurance study involving the Skagit River Valley.

The Skagit River Impact Partnership is an entity established by interlocal agreement which members consist of local political subdivisions (i.e. cities, towns, county, special purpose districts) in and around the Skagit River Valley. I have attached the original organizational agreement. One central goal (identified in the document) of the SRIP is for its members to work together to become engaged and well informed in order to diligently address and implement measures to systematically reduce the risks from flooding until all affected communities are safe. To that end, the SRIP is to function as the entity “to coordinate responses to emerging flood project related issues that may adversely affect members individually and/or collectively.”

Consistent with its mission and organizational structure, the SRIP was introduced to FEMA’s Region X as an entity requesting to be consulted with during FEMA’s local consultation duties during the study. Quite recently, members individually and collectively through the SRIP have expressed significant concerns over Region X’s procedures and disavowal of the local communities concerns as to the hydrologic data currently being used by FEMA’s contractor, the Corps of Engineers. Repeated attempts seeking a substantive rationale behind Region X’s use of questionable data and to commit to a procedure resulting in meaningful consultation with local communities has lead to Region X’s refusal to further engage the local communities in addressing our concerns.
The SRIP has sincere hopes that a meaningful and substantive discussion over the local communities concerns still may take place before any premature FEMA determination of a base flood elevation were to occur that we would be compelled to appeal. To that end, I would like to invite you to meet with the SRIP group to discuss our concerns so that a collaborative, meaningful process can be realized resulting in the use of reliable data into the flood maps thereby avoiding any damaging effect to the participating stakeholders including the local communities represented by the SRIP.

I would invite you to call me at your convenience at 360-336-6211 so that we may schedule a meeting sometime in the foreseeable future.

Respectfully,

Bud Norris
Mayor of Mount Vernon, WA
Chairman of Skagit River Impact Partnership
November 17, 2006

Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) Letter to David I. Maurstad

Re: Introductory letter and invitation to meet with the Skagit River Impact Partnership Group (a group of Cities, Towns, Diking Districts, and the County of the Skagit River Valley.)

Roger “Gus” Tjeerdema
Mayor, City of Burlington
November 17, 2006

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Charles Bennett
Dike District 12 Commissioner
November 17, 2006

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[Signature]

Dave Olson
Dike District 3 Commissioner
November 17, 2006

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Re: Introductory letter and invitation to meet with the Skagit River Impact Partnership Group (a group of Cities, Towns, Diking Districts, and the County of the Skagit River Valley.)

Sharon Dillon
Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley
November 17, 2006

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Re: Introductory letter and invitation to meet with the Skagit River Impact Partnership Group (a group of Cities, Towns, Diking Districts, and the County of the Skagit River Valley.)

[Signature]

Don Moe
Dike District 1 Commissioner