SKAGIT RIVER IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATING PARTNER November 17, 2006

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON BUD NORRIS, MAYOR

David I. Maurstad

Director of Mitigation and Federal Insurance Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

500 C Street S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20472

CITY OF BURLINGTON ROGER "GUS" TJEERDSMA MAYOR

SKAGIT COUNTY

KEN A. DAHLSTEDT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

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.)

CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY SHARON DILLON, MAYOR

Dear Director Maurstad,

TOWN OF LACONNER

WAYNE EVERTON, MAYOR

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.

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

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

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" Tjeerdsma

Mayor, City of Burlington

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Charles Bennett

Dike District 12 Commissioner

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.)

Dave Olson

Dike District 3 Commissioner

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

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Sharon Dillon

Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley

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Don Moe

Dike District 1 Commissioner