



FEMMA

September 29, 2006

Certified Mail

Honorable Bud Norris
Mayor of Mount Vernon
PO Box 809
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mayor Norris:


On August 17, 2006 the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received a copy of the Mount Vernon City Attorney's letter regarding concerns over the consultation process required under 44 CFR. In that letter, the city requests that FEMA formally reject the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study due to a perceived violation of due process.

FEMA takes the city's concerns very seriously; however, my records show we have met all our statutory requirements with respect to consultation during this study. On January 4, 2001 my staff hosted an initial consultation and coordination meeting to scope the restudy of the Lower Skagit River. Mr. Joe Natola, City Building Official attended that meeting as did representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Skagit County, and other impacted communities. Subsequent to that meeting, the city was notified, in writing, to provide any additional information relevant to the study on September 10, 2003 (during a Community Assistance Visit), and again on March 3, 2005 by FEMA's National Service Provider. On July 5, 2006 (via the Skagit County Council of Governments) and again on August 14, 2006 (in a letter directly to the City of Mount Vernon), City Officials were formally invited to meet with FEMA to discuss the work maps. There was no response regarding our invitation to discuss the mapping process.

To date, the only additional data submitted to FEMA came from Pacific International Engineers by way of Skagit County. That hydrologic information was reviewed by FEMA's engineers. Although the official appeals period has not yet begun, if the city has additional technical information, it can be submitted to my office at any time.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ryan Ike of my staff. He can be reached at the above address, or by calling (425) 487-4767.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Cook, Jr., Director
Mitigation Division

CC: Kevin Rogerson, City Attorney, 910 Cleveland Ave, PO Box 809, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
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