

From: JacquelineVander Veen <jvanderv@co.skagit.wa.us>
Date: 4/20/2001 9:06:32 PM
To: Pierce, Stephen R NWS; JacquelineVander Veen
CC: DonDixon; DaveBrookings; 'Valerie Lee'
Subject: RE: Overtopping Levees

Stephen,

I understood that you needed some form of documentation from the County on their position with overtopping levees. The reason that overtopping was the alternative of choice for the Recon Study in 1993 was because the economic evaluation at that time was based on very old data - (I know, - thats okay). Overtopping was the only project that would meet the B/C ratio criterion using the old economic data from the 1970s. If the Recon study couldn't produce a plan that didn't make the B/C ratio, the feasibility study wouldn't have been initiated. Just because a solution was proposed in the Recon Study does not justify it as the plan to go forward - even though it is the cheapest. I think that the County is not the only one that would be against overtopping. I think, given the information we now have, that the environmentalists would never allow this project either. Now we have new data that indicates that we can qualify for a much more comprehensive project that will benefit MORE people than overtopping would, not to mention salmon.

I just thought that if we discussed it at the Working Group, that it would carry more importance. I don't want to make it an issue there. It was just a thought. I don't want it to be a "product" of the working group either - I agree. The letter would come from either Chal Martin or the Commissioners.

Are we on the same page?

Later,
Jackie

-----Original Message-----

From: Pierce, Stephen R NWS [mailto:Stephen.R.Pierce@NWS02.usace.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2001 12:11 PM
To: 'JacquelineVander Veen'
Cc: DonDixon; DaveBrookings; 'Valerie Lee'
Subject: RE: Overtopping Levees

I would like to rephrase this. The Corps is going to have a recommended plan at the end of this process. When I look at the Recon study, 1993 and the GDM, 1979, the overtopping alternative was what appeared economically feasible. (fundable and solution to the problem) I keep hearing that overtopping is unacceptable to the locals, but I have nothing in writing from the County that makes that declaration. If the overtopping alternative is unacceptable to the county because it's politically unbuildable, I think I should have that in writing. Otherwise, our outcome may follow our traditional line that overtopping is the cheapest fix. We still need to study the array of alternatives, but we need to qualify the reality of some of these ever being built, for what ever reason.

I'm not sure this should be a product of the Working Group. It's your call.

Stephen Pierce
Project Manager
206-764-3456

-----Original Message-----

From: JacquelineVander Veen [mailto:jvanderv@co.skagit.wa.us]

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2001 4:23 PM

To: DaveBrookings; 'Valerie Lee'

Cc: DonDixon; 'Pierce, Stephen R NWS'

Subject: Overtopping Levees

Hi,

I was looking through some old notes and came upon something that we should not lose sight of. Stephen Pierce requested some kind of statement from the county based on public comment or from the working group that would assist in eliminating overtopping levees from consideration. It would be helpful if we could get the working group to come to consensus and make a statement that could be documented in the meeting minutes that would help eliminate overtopping levee alternatives. Any thoughts?

JVV