

Town of La Conner



RESOLUTION NO. 297

A Resolution Expressing Support for the Skagit County Flood Protection & Salmon Restoration Project

WHEREAS, in response to the significant flood events of 1990 and 1995 Skagit County initiated a study with the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the alternatives to provide flood protection to the lower Skagit River Delta, and

WHEREAS, a major component of the first phase of this study was the development of a sophisticated riverine hydraulic and floodplain model to determine the level of protection provided by the existing levee system and magnitude of damages that would occur in the event of a 100-year flood, and

WHEREAS, the result of this model confirmed the existing levee system is inadequate to handle a large flood event, leaving the urban and rural areas of the Skagit River Delta exposed to the greatest flood disaster potential on the entire west coast of the United States, and

WHEREAS, a stakeholder group of Federal and State Resource agencies, Local Diking Districts, City Representatives and property owners formed as the Skagit River Working Group and recommended flood control alternatives to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, the Skagit River Working Group utilized information from the study effort to evaluate the various alternatives and reached consensus that two alternatives known as the Diversion Channel and Setback Levees should be studied for possible construction, being in the best interests of the people of Skagit County, and

WHEREAS, Federal and State Resource Agencies have opposed the Diversion Channel option, focusing on the more expensive levee setback option and levee overtopping, and have requested numerous studies on the environmental effects of a wider range of alternatives than recommended by the Skagit River Working Group, and

WHEREAS, the Town of La Conner is currently working to complete a flood plan which will provide the road map to protect its citizens from the devastating impacts of a flood, including a possible ring dike to provide an additional level of protection, and

WHEREAS, Town residents are concerned that flood protection be provided for the least overall cost in an environmentally friendly way, and

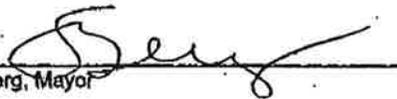
WHEREAS, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners officially adopted the Diversion Channel as the preferred alternative in order to focus the limited resources of the County toward achieving 100-year flood protection for the people of Skagit County and La Conner while simultaneously achieving salmon habitat restoration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of La Conner recognizes:

- the tremendous flood risk associated with the Skagit River,
- the real potential for loss of life,
- the catastrophic consequences should a large flood event occur,
- that limited fund sources exist to ensure adequate environmental evaluation and design, and
- that a unique opportunity exists to provide both 100-year flood protection for the Town of La Conner while simultaneously providing new salmon habitat for the benefit of all citizens, and
- that project environmental studies are essential but must be focused on realistic construction options to conserve limited taxpayer resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of La Conner supports the efforts of Skagit County and the Army Corps of Engineers and further requests the help and support of all elected Federal and State officials representing the Town to move this project to a timely and successful completion.

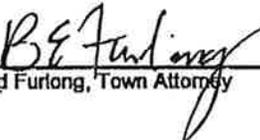
Adopted, at the regular meeting of the Town Council, this 22nd day of January, 2002, by a majority of the members.


Eron Berg, Mayor

ATTEST:


Debby Malarchick, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Brad Furlong, Town Attorney