

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2-2002**

### **City of Burlington 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 Swinomish 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 Swinomish 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, expensive and unfocused environmental study will cause project delay and ultimately bankrupt project funding, resulting in zero additional flood protection for the Skagit River Delta, and

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SKAGIT COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

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 while simultaneously achieving salmon habitat restoration, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners support a focused study on the Swinomish Diversion Channel to ensure that this decision will protect and enhance environmental values and natural resources for future generations, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognize the value of the preservation of the agricultural lands of the Skagit Valley Delta and anticipate the Swinomish Diversion Channel will protect and enhance this valuable resource. Further, with the construction of the Swinomish Diversion Channel the County Commissioners acknowledge the importance of protection of these agricultural lands from development and will continue their commitment to preserve these lands from future development through controlled zoning and protective measures:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council recognizes:

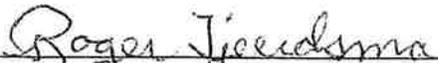
- the tremendous flood risk associated with the Skagit River,
- the real potential for loss of life,
- the catastrophic consequences should a large flood event occur,
- that limited fund sources that exist should be focused on the Swinomish Diversion Channel to ensure adequate environmental evaluation and design, and
- that a unique opportunity exists to provide both 100-year flood protection for Burlington 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, and
- the Swinomish Diversion Channel will provide the City of Burlington and Skagit County with a significant alternative to flood control and flood protection of the community and surrounding lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Burlington 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 City to move this project to a timely and successful completion.

RESOLVED this 22nd day of January 2002 the Burlington City Council approves the recommendation of the Skagit River Working Group and the action of the Skagit County Commissioners by directing Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma, Mayor of Burlington to sign this Resolution on behalf of the City of Burlington.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED at a regular meeting of the City Council this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2002.

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

  
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Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Richard Patrick, Finance Director