April 5, 2002

Commissioner Ted Anderson
Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt
Commissioner Don Munks
Administration Bldg.
700 South Second, Rm. 202
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

SUBJECT: Support for Skagit County Flood protection Project

Commissioners:

In accordance with your recent request, the Mount Vernon City Council recently voiced its support for Skagit County’s efforts to address flooding problems within the County, through the adoption of Resolution No. 596. I have enclosed herewith a copy of that Resolution.

On behalf of the City, please allow me to extend our appreciation for addressing this most serious threat to public health and safety. We look forward to working with you and County staff in the future on this matter.

Sincerely,

SCOTT G. THOMAS
City Attorney
enclosure
cc: Chal Martin
    Mayor Richendrfer

City Attorney: (360) 336-6203
City Prosecutor: (360) 336-6230
RESOLUTION NO. 596

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON
AUTHORIZING 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, 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

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon 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 exist to ensure adequate environmental evaluation and design, and
• that a unique opportunity exists to provide both 100-year flood protection for Mount Vernon while simultaneously providing new salmon habitat for 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 City of Mount Vernon 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.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon at a regular meeting held on the 6th day of March, 2002.

SKYE K. RICHENDRER, Mayor

Attest:

MARK S. KNOWLES, Finance Director

Approved as to form:

Scot G. Thomas, City Attorney

Published