12/12/02 Proposal: Refocus for Flood Project

Concept:
1) Phase the project
2) Phase 1:
   - provide 100 year flow through the 3-bridge corridor
   - protect major population centers
   - overtop in riverbend area
3) Phase 2:
   - provide additional incremental flood protection as financially and environmentally feasible. Potential to dovetail with FEMA Floodway and environmental studies being completed by COE’s Puget Sound Near Shore Project.

Financial Expense Components, Phase 1:
- Upstream Improvements $10M
  Sterling Levee
- 3-Bridge Corridor $15M
  -- Levee Setback (Includes real estate?)
  -- Bridges
    --- I-5 $17M
    --- Skagit $ 5M
    --- Burlington Northern RR $ 8M
- Downstream / Overtopping Improvements $  5M
  -- Various Infrastructure
  -- Flood Easements $10M
  -- FHM Flood proofing residences
  -- Development restrictions $70M

Financial Revenue Possibilities, Phase 1:
- Federal 65% (Source and Strings?) $45M
- Credit for DD12 levee setback $15M
- Balance to pay $10M
  (PWTF $611k/year @ 2%) $70M

Discussion
- we have learned over the last 2 years that community wants ag land left in flood plain to protect flood plain from development and therefore retain critical mass needed to protect ag industry and Skagit Valley heritage
- flood bypass element causing project focus on least important part
- focus on 3-bridge corridor in phase 1, with recognition that phase w may never happen, would help simplify concept to public
- public vote probably unnecessary
- Potential to tap next federal 6-year transportation bill would further reduce appropriation needed in WRDA
- This concept would help our federal legislators (save money), and could likely garner support from all elected officials in the County
- Impact to on going EIS studies-- complete Geomorphology and Sediment Transport ($160K), Fish Loss ($100K), Wetland Inventory, Tide gate Inventory, Land Use Impacts, Saltwater Intrusion and partner with MV on Existing Baseline Habitat ($50K). Review Battelle’s Assessment of Existing Information on Estuary Physical and Environmental data.