



## SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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August 29, 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
Governor of the State of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON DOWNTOWN FLOOD  
PROTECTION AND REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Skagit County strongly supports the City of Mount Vernon's efforts to obtain funding for Phase III of the Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail which will enable the completion of this valuable three-phase project.

Phase I and Phase II will be completed by the end of 2013. These phases will provide:

- Physical flood protection to historic downtown Mount Vernon and the local businesses located there; and
- A vibrant and active public space along the Skagit River to be enjoyed by our residents and visitors alike.

We are also excited about the expanded opportunities for positive economic growth. Local businesses are the backbone of the economy in small communities.

This project is also vital for the infrastructure of the city and county at large, which is concentrated downtown, including the city and county administration buildings, jail, law and justice center, and the Skagit Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center. Mount Vernon is the County Seat. Major flooding of these significant facilities would impact our ability to effectively respond area-wide, making the damage and destruction that much greater.

We appreciate the fact that the City of Mount Vernon received a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA that recognizes the project's effectiveness in removing Mount Vernon's historic downtown from the 100-year floodplain by providing certified flood protection.

With 100-year certified flood protection, downtown Mount Vernon will be able to redevelop into a lively urban center that is connected to the City's historic roots as a waterfront based commercial center. It is anticipated that the flood protection and improved access to the river which is

incorporated into the design of the flood project, new and upgraded amenities, and mixed-use redevelopment will generate jobs and create housing and an improved commercial tax base while preserving the character of downtown Mount Vernon.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Mount Vernon's request. We appreciate all that you do to address flood protection efforts and the local economy of Skagit County and Northwest Washington. We hope that you will lend your support to this critical project.

Respectfully,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
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