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FLOOD CONTROL STUDY IS READY FOR CONGRESS

Recommendation of flood control and other improvements in the lower portion of the Skagit Valley by the Federal Government is being reviewed by the Army's Chief of Engineers for transmittal to the Congress. The plan of improvement for the 68,000 acre delta flood plain downstream from Sedro-Woolley was developed by Seattle District of the Corps of Engineers.

Studies indicate that a high level of flood control is needed if that area is to progress. The project plan going to the Congress is a modification of the present Avon Bypass authorization to permit Federal participation in the construction of recreation facilities.

The value of lands and improvements in the Skagit delta area was estimated at more than \$113,000,000 in 1962. This land is susceptible to flood damage which averages more than \$2 million dollars under present levels of development. The estimated first cost of the construction project which has been recommended, and for which an appropriation of funds by the Congress would be required, is \$5,770,000 for the levee and channel improvement and \$34,500 for the recreation facilities.

The improvements would increase flood protection in the delta from present three-year minimum flood frequency protection to an eight-year minimum protection.

Funds are included in the President's budget to begin planning studies of the Avon Bypass project in fiscal year 1966. This project would increase protection of the delta

from the present minimum three-year flood protection to a possible 14-year frequency protection. The Avon Bypass, with the proposed levee and channel improvements, would provide 35-year flood frequency protection. The planning studies in 1965-66 are intended only to fix project costs and final data for consideration by residents of Skagit County.

They plan to evaluate feasibility of upstream multi-purpose storage in 1966, 1967 and 1968. Storage would be planned to control flow of the main river and tributaries so that with all three elements: levees and channel improvement, the Avon Bypass, and upstream storage, 100-year or higher flood protection could be realized.