What is the city doing to protect our water supply from flooding?

- Trained, experienced staff at the Water Treatment Plant are on duty 24 hours a day.
- Flood Protection Project 1985-1986 (including pumps, reinforced dike toe, and ring dike).
- Recent improvements to electrical supply system.
- Installed an emergency 750kV generator in 1996.
- Three reservoirs storing seven million gallons for the City of Anacortes.
- On-site storage of flood fighting supplies including a sandbagging machine.
- Cooperation and communication with Skagit County, Dike Districts and the U.S. Navy.
- PC-based Emergency Response Plan.
- Community education and awareness.

City of Anacortes Water Treatment Plant Present:

Water Treatment Plant
14489 Riverbend Rd
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-428-1598
November 30, 1995, peak elevation 35 feet. November saw a cold front move into Skagit causing a moderate amount of snow accumulation. By December 1, a new front moved in which caused warmer air and raised the freezing level higher and rainfall to occur at lower elevations. Melting snow and rain combined to raise river levels quickly above flood stage. Prior to this event, minor flooding between 1972 and 1974 had occurred and the highest event was 27.5 feet, which is 3.5 feet above flood stage on our gauge.

December 19, 1979, Peak elevation 32 feet. The month of December served up a constant diet of snow, warm temperatures and wind. All of which led to major flooding. At Mount Vernon, Skagit County engineers were concerned that a huge log jam on the Burlington Northern bridge between Mount Vernon and Burlington would destroy that bridge.

December 27, 1980, Peak elevation 31.6 feet. Early on the morning of December 26, the river began rising because of unseasonably warm temperatures and steady, moderate rainfalls. Air temperatures for December 25 saw a high of 61°F and a low of 50°F!

December 5, 1989, peak elevation 30.0 feet. Warm winds and rain caused the Skagit River to start flooding by December 3, reaching its peak elevation on December 5. High water caused the revetment in Mount Vernon to be closed and heavy rains caused mudslides on Chuckanut Drive.

November 11, 1990, peak elevation 34.8 feet. Heavy rains and a high tide helped push the Skagit River well above the highest flood levels experienced at the plant. Fir Island experienced a 250 foot section of dike failure, flooding most of the 8,000 acre delta with up to eight feet of water. This was the worst flooding to hit Skagit County in 40 years.

November 24-25, 1990, peak elevation 35 feet. Heavy rains again, coupled with melting snow pushed the river back up. Hundreds of county residents remained homeless from the flooding on November 11, now about 1,600 more people are evacuated countrywide, including a number of people from the Riverbend Road (water treatment plant) area! All but a skeleton crew were kept at the plant because the road conditions were deteriorating quickly - all vehicle traffic was prohibited! All staff and other essential personnel were required to walk in and out 1.5 miles from Blade Chevrolet!

Levees along Riverbend Road and elsewhere along the river, were saturated. North of the plant about one-half mile the toe of the dike was failing and a major effort was made to preserve it. Just south of the plant, a large crack approximately six feet appeared in the dike. City and military resources were expended in a successful attempt to prevent a failure.