



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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September 9, 2011

Colonel Bruce A. Estok
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
P. O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Estok:

On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank you and your staff for attending the Skagit River General Investigation NEPA Scoping Meeting on August 10, 2011. The meeting was a great success, and your attendance certainly provided a strong message as to just how important flood damage reduction and public safety is to our community.

Your early arrival was also appreciated, allowing an opportunity to discuss our Study and the opportunity to meet members of our community. Our Skagit County Commissioners have worked hard with our cities, towns, tribes, dike and drainage districts, and the environmental community in an effort to keep our General Investigation on track.

To recap our "reset" meeting held in June of this year with district, regional, and headquarter officials at the Corps' Washington D.C. headquarters, this is what we heard and what we are striving to achieve:

1. Use available Corps funding to complete the Feasibility Scoping Meeting Report for submittal to Corps Headquarters by October 1, 2011.
2. Respond to the Corps' "back check" comments on the debris loading assumptions currently contained in the Hydrology and Hydraulic model so the existing conditions model runs more closely to reflect what is observed in regard to bridges and logjams during high flow events, e.g., back water elevations and conveyance restrictions from debris on the BNSF bridge.
3. Clarify flood damage benefit opportunities in the Baker River system pertaining to FERC License Articles 107c and 107b.
4. Assure by the end of fiscal year 2011 that our Study is in position to move forward in a disciplined manner as funding becomes available.

Committed to operate, maintain, and improve a robust infrastructure in order to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Skagit County

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Letter: Colonel Bruce A. Estok



Thank you once again for your interest in Skagit County. We look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,


Henry Hash
Director of Public Works

HHH/jjj

Cc: Board of Skagit County Commissioners
Dan Berentson, Natural Resources Division Manager