



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4735 EAST MARGINAL WAY SOUTH
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98134

NPSEN-PL-BP

29 APR 1975

Howard Miller, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Skagit County Courthouse, Room 102
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mr. Miller:

Reference is made to your letter of 1 April 1975 in which you requested that we program to undertake preconstruction engineering studies for the authorized Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project.

As you are aware, the project, which was authorized in 1966, is in a deferred status, pending construction of the Avon Bypass or provision of additional upstream flood control storage. The concern we previously had was over the low level (8 year) protection provided by the levee project alone and, in the absence of effective flood plain management, the false sense of security that might result from its construction. We feel that with the changed operation of Puget Sound Power and Light Company's Upper Baker project, which will make available a total of 74,000 acre-feet of flood control storage, that the requirement for upstream storage will have been met. Together, the additional storage at Upper Baker project and the authorized levee project will only provide protection against a 12 to 15-year flood. Also, flood plain management, as now implemented by both your county and the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, has given us confidence those residing in the flood plain are, and will continue to be aware of the actual flood risk, and that development is regulated, consistent with this risk.

Because of the progress that has been made on the Upper Baker project and your flood plain management program, we plan to seek approval from our higher authority for reclassification of the authorized levee project from a deferred to an active status. This will allow us to program preconstruction planning, subject to the President's budget and congressional funding.

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SKAGIT COUNTY SK 00006531
COMMISSIONERS

NPSEN-PL-BP
Howard Miller, Chairman

In order to support our request for reclassification, we ask that you provide us with a new letter of intent, demonstrating Skagit County's willingness to meet the requirements of local sponsorship. Attached are the items of local cooperation that should be included in your letter. Currently, we estimate the levee and channel improvement project to cost approximately \$12 million, of which Skagit County would have to assume \$500,000 to cover the non-Federal portion of the project costs, which include lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary to permit the project to proceed and modification of utilities and roads.

Upon receipt of your letter, we will formally request our higher authority to reclassify this project.

Sincerely yours,



JOHN J. TERPSTRA, JR.
Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Acting District Engineer

1 Incl
As stated

ITEMS OF LOCAL SPONSORSHIP

a. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way, including suitable borrow areas as determined by the Chief of Engineers to be necessary for the construction of the project;

b. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works, not including damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors;

c. Maintain and operate all the works after completion, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army;

d. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary relocations or modifications of roads and utilities;

f. Prescribe and enforce regulations to prevent obstruction or encroachment on channels and interior ponding areas, including those drainage channels and low areas behind the line of protection which would reduce their flood-carrying capacity or hinder maintenance and operation;

g. Publicize flood plain information in the areas concerned and provide this information to zoning and other regulatory agencies for their guidance and leadership in preventing unwise future development in the flood plain and in adapting such regulations as may be necessary to insure compatibility between future development and protection levels provided by the project; and

h. At least annually, inform affected interests regarding the limitation of the protection afforded by the project.

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