Public Involvement Report for FCAAP Grant Agreement between the State of Washington
Department of Ecology and SKAGIT COUNTY

Project: Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan – Phase 3

Public Involvement Summary:

Skagit County has established a contract with EnviroIssues, a public relations firm located in Seattle, Washington to assist in the Public Involvement portion of this project. To date, EnviroIssues has completed task assignments including the production of “The Skagit Risk” video, and a Public Participation Plan. Two task assignments are in the works for a series of community interviews and a public relations public involvement comments and contacts database. Listed below are the components of our Public Participation Plan on this project.

Skagit County Public Works staff and Skagit County Commissioners have conducted 47 presentations to date to community groups, city councils, public forums, and other organizations in the community.

The video, “Skagit Risk” since it’s completion in February 2002, has been shown at 25 presentations and aired on public access television in Anacortes, Burlington, La Conner and Sedro-Woolley.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN – With the assistance of EnviroIssues, we have designed a public participation plan for community outreach and involvement.

2. OUTREACH EFFORTS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS – To date we have made 47 presentations to community groups. The presentations are conducted by Skagit County Public Works staff and elected officials. The program describes the program and the alternatives, features a 9-minute video, and handouts. Presentation summaries are completed and filed after each presentation.

   • Mount Vernon City Council
   • Affiliated Health Services
   • Mount Vernon Planning Commission
   • La Conner Town Council
   • Open Public Forum
   • Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

   September 20, 2000
   September 25, 2000
   October 3, 2000
   October 10, 2000
   November 2, 2000
   November 15, 2000
3. INFORMATION FOR WORKSHOPS, PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES, NEWS RELEASES, & PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURES – Media packets were delivered to all local newspapers and radio stations. News releases on project progress have been sent to local media. Letters were mailed to notify property owners in footprint of proposed project for Property Owners meeting. (News articles, news releases and public information brochures included as a deliverable)
4. VIDEO – A 9-minute video has been produced with the assistance EnviroIssues that promotes the understanding of the flood risk and explains possible solutions. To date, the video has been shown at 25 presentations and is featured regularly on public access television in Anacortes, Burlington, LaConner, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley. Copies are available to the public at the Skagit County Public Works Department. (2 copies included as a deliverable)

Deliverables:

1. Public Involvement Summary Reports
2. News Releases
3. News Article Clippings
4. Public Information Brochures
5. Video Tape
6. Task Assignments with EnviroIssues