



**SKAGIT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RON WESEN, First District
KENNETH A. DAHLSTEDT, Second District
SHARON D. DILLON, Third District

January 14, 2011

Colonel Anthony Wright, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
4735 E. Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98124-2255

Dear Colonel Wright:

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners (Board) would like to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its assistance during the recent flood event. The Corps has proven time and time again to be a valuable partner in our continued struggle to protect the citizens of Skagit County from the serious flooding issues in the Skagit and Samish River basins. We also reiterate to the Corps that Skagit County considers the Skagit River General Investigation Study (Skagit GI) to be a critical piece of the regional solution for these serious flooding issues.

In order to facilitate moving the Skagit GI forward in an efficient and fiscally prudent manner, the Board confirms that we support the Corps' technical and scientific work as the basis for the Skagit GI project analysis and design. We also agree that due to the extensive time, money, and effort required to repeatedly update the hydrology and hydraulics for the Skagit River, it is in the best interest of the project and the residents of Skagit County to use the current (January, 2010) data published by the USGS. If during the study, new data indicates a significant change to the 100-year peak flows at Concrete, we understand that the Corps will determine whether a change in hydrology is warranted. Otherwise, we support the use of the current hydrology throughout the GI effort and into implementation.

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Skagit County supports and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Skagit "Reset" process with Corps Headquarters, Northwestern Division, and Seattle District. The County is optimistic that establishing an accelerated schedule and committing adequate staffing resources to the Seattle District will have a positive impact on study progress. To this end, Skagit County is committed to working with the USACE and our other Skagit River Basin stakeholders utilizing the Skagit GI to develop a system-wide flood damage reduction/ecosystem restoration plan to accomplish reduction in the potential for flood damages and enhancement of important environmental qualities.

Please contact Dan Berentson, Natural Resources Division Manager, Skagit County Public Works, 360-336-9400, danb@co.skagit.wa.us and/or Tim DeVries, Skagit County Building Official/Flood Plain Manager, 360-419-3489, timd@co.skagit.wa.us.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Ron Wesen, Chairman



Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner



Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

BCC/le

cc: Senator Murray
Senator Cantwell
Representative Larsen
Chuck Steele, Washington State Department of Ecology
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee