

November 16, 1922.

Mr. Frank Gilkey,  
County Engineer of Skagit County,  
Mount Vernon, Washington.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November 14, advising me that the Board of County Commissioners had passed a resolution authorizing a survey of Skagit River flood conditions:

At the instance of Judge Brawley a committee of citizens, of which Mr. H. L. Willis was chairman, visited this office October 26 and asked what could be done in determining the volume of flow in Skagit River during the December 1921 flood and the magnitude of that flood when compared to past floods. The committee was told that a recent curtailment of funds used in cooperative water resources investigations carried on by this office made it impossible for us to bear any part of the expense of this survey, inasmuch as this office has considerable information regarding past floods. However, an offer was made to the committee to detail one of our engineers to the work provided the county would pay his salary, expense, and other cost incident to the work. I explained that it was not possible for more than one man to be spared from our organization but suggested that either your office or local engineers and surveyors could be utilized in furnishing assistance to the man detailed from this office. Even with one man taken from our organization, it will be necessary to employ temporary help here in the office to offset the loss of the man's services.

Fortunately Mr. James E. Stewart, an engineer from this office, is exceptionally well qualified for flood studies. In fact he has collected considerable information regarding early floods in the Skagit Basin. He was formerly employed here, then transferred to Hawaii where he had charge of water resources investigation and has just recently returned.