

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WATER RESOURCES BRANCH

406 FEDERAL BUILDING  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
October 21, 1936

Mr. Hugo Bauman, Chairman  
Skagit County Commissioners  
County Court House  
Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Dear Mr. Bauman:

It is fortunate that I had an opportunity to discuss with you, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Knapp, the urgency of continuing records of flow at the gaging station on Skagit River at the Dalles near Concrete while you were in Olympia yesterday, because still another letter came from my Washington office this morning asking whether the cooperation had been accepted by the County Commissioners as a basis of releasing Federal appropriations to match the \$200 to be furnished by the County.

As explained to you the use of the Federal appropriation is contingent upon the County matching it. The appropriation act reads in part as follows: "For gaging streams and determining the water supply of the United States - - - Provided, That no part of this appropriation shall be expended in cooperation with States or municipalities except upon the basis of the State or municipality bearing all of the expense incident thereto in excess of such an amount as is necessary for the Geological Survey to perform its share of general water resources investigations, such share of the Geological Survey in no case exceeding 50 per centum of the cost of the investigation."

In the case of State cooperation no question is raised as to the propriety of the Geological Survey furnishing 50 percent of the cost. In the case of municipal cooperation, however, each cooperative program must be presented and an argument advanced to justify a contribution by the Geological Survey of as much as 50 percent. The argument advanced for full 50-50 cooperation in obtaining the Skagit records is based upon the very serious flood menace in Skagit County. Cooperation with the City of Seattle is handled on a ratio of one-third Federal to two-thirds City and that in effect with the City of Tacoma is on a basis of 40 percent Federal and 60 percent City. Some of the gaging stations included in the programs for those cities are not justifiable from the point of Federal interest and general utility so that the ratio had to be fixed accordingly.

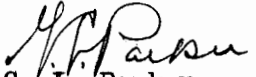
At present flood gaging stations are also being maintained in cooperation with Whatcom County and the Inter County River Improvement Commission, also on a 50-50 basis.

You will recall that Mr. Knapp explained to you that records at the Skagit River gaging station near Concrete were essential in preparing any sort of plan for flood prevention and control. He built the gaging station from Skagit County funds in the fall of 1924 as a consequence of studies made of flood damage and plans for protection undertaken after the disastrous flood of 1921. Since that time no flood of as great magnitude has occurred as in 1921 or is known to have occurred in 1917, 1909, 1906, 1856, and about 1815. For a number of years the gaging station was financed entirely from Skagit County funds because the Federal appropriation did not provide for cooperation.

The gaging station is equipped with a recording instrument which measures the height and indicates the time continuously hour by hour. Hence if a flood peak should occur during the night, its height, time, duration, and discharge in cubic feet per second can be determined accurately. Obviously the records should proceed continuously so that any problem incident to flood control or navigation can be worked out intelligently.

You stated that favorable action would probably be taken in the near future. This letter is to remind you that I must very shortly report to my Washington office as to the status of the cooperation. I hope that the agreement for the year ending June 30, 1937, can be approved, signed, and forwarded to me in duplicate very soon.

Very truly yours,

  
G. L. Parker  
District Engineer

CC: Mr. Sharpe  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Knapp