



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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September 7, 1994

Mr. Rich Medved, Director
Skagit County Public Works Department
County Administration Building, Room 203
700 South Second Street
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-3864

Dear Mr. Medved:

Skagit County and the Department of Ecology have been involved in discussions regarding the status of a variety of Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) activities scheduled for the current (FY 93-95) biennium. We have also discussed certain issues related to the County's use of FCAAP funds, including the County's decision to name Ecology as a co-defendant in a legal action pending against the County; and, the need for the County to complete a revised comprehensive flood hazard reduction plan for the Skagit River. In early August, Tim D'Acci of my staff discussed the need for prompt action regarding FCAAP activities on the part of Skagit County with Dave Brookings of your staff.

Tim and Dave agreed that, due to the need to ensure that FCAAP funds were effectively utilized prior to the end of the biennium, some decisions regarding allocated funding would be made by September 1994.

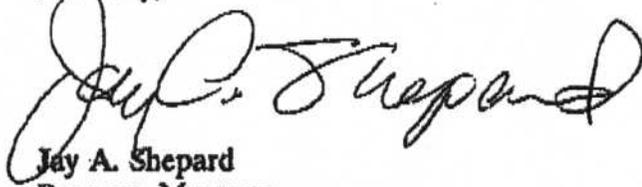
Ecology has recently released full funding for the state share of the Dike District 1 Keyway Project which is scheduled for completion in the immediate future. We have also decided that major adjustments must be made to the level of funding previously allocated for the development of a revised comprehensive flood hazard reduction plan for the Skagit River. The recent decision by the Seattle District Corps of Engineers to postpone any work on the planned feasibility study of the Skagit River due to unforeseen difficulties involving the citizens lawsuit against Skagit County requires Ecology to reallocate FCAAP planning funds. Since Ecology had committed a substantial amount of FCAAP funding as a portion of Skagit County's required local match for the Corps Feasibility Study, this decision by the Corps of Engineers has necessitated that Ecology also reallocate a portion of its previously allocated Skagit River planning funds to other projects and plans. Ecology will reduce by \$150,000 the amount of FY 93-95 FCAAP funds allocated to Skagit County for planning activities. These funds will be re-allocated to other eligible FCAAP grantees, in order to achieve the Legislature's goal of statewide flood hazard reduction.

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Ecology will continue to reserve a total of \$100,000 (state share) in FCAAP funds for planning activities in Skagit County in the 93-95 biennium. It is imperative that Skagit County decide upon a feasible course of action to utilize this funding to initiate a revised comprehensive flood hazard reduction planning process for the Skagit River as soon as possible. Ecology staff are available for consultation and technical assistance to your staff at any time if you feel our assistance is warranted. Due to the short time remaining in the current biennium, I would appreciate receiving a preliminary proposal from your staff by October 1, 1994.

I appreciate the efforts your staff, especially Dave Brookings, have made during the past few months to ensure that good communications between Skagit County and the Department of Ecology are maintained. I look forward to continuing to support the County in its efforts to achieve effective flood hazard reduction in Skagit County. I also want to assure you that a revised comprehensive flood hazard reduction plan for the Skagit River remains one of our top priorities for FCAAP. If you need any additional information, please call me at (206) 407-7280; or Tim D'Acci at (206) 407-6796.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Shepard
Program Manager
Shorelands and Coastal Zone
Management Program

JAS:la
Enclosure

cc: Linda Crerar
Mike Rundlett, NWRO
Ray Hellwig, NWRO

bcc: Brian Lynn
Tim D'Acci
Bev Huether/Diane Dent-White