

The Burlington Journal

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\$30,000 For Avon By-Pass Gets Support

Support for appropriation requests for two Skagit County public works projects was given May 19 by Congressman Lloyd Meeds before the House Appropriation Committee.

Meeds testified in favor of a \$30,000 planning allocation for the Avon Bypass and a \$35,000 study of Anacortes Harbor.

Terming the Avon Bypass "essential to the development of the Skagit River Flood Control Project", Meeds pointed out that it could increase significantly flood protection for the area. The Skagit River Valley has a serious flood protection for the area. The Skagit River Valley has a serious flood on the average of every seven years at present. With the Avon Bypass, protection would be increased so that a serious flood would be expected no more frequently than once in every 35 years on the average.

The improvement plan entails the construction of a diversion channel from the Skagit River to Padilla Bay, and the improvement of four miles of levee near the town of Burlington. The diversion channel would be located approximately 19 miles above the mouth of the River, and 6 miles from the City of Mount Vernon. In times of near overflow of the river, this bypass would divert a large portion of the water directly into Padilla Bay.