



January 21, 2010

Mr. Doug Bellomo  
Director, Risk Analysis Division  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Mitigation Directorate  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

RE: Request for Technical Conference to Resolve Skagit River Hydrology

Dear Mr. Bellomo,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Skagit County, the City of Mount Vernon, the City of Sedro-Woolley, the City of Burlington, the Town of La Conner, and Skagit County Dike Districts 1, 3, 12, 17, and 22.

These local governments and special purpose districts, which together are responsible for flood protection and flood emergency planning for their constituents in the highest flood risk areas of the Skagit Valley flood plain, share a common interest in ensuring the underlying hydrologic analysis of the Skagit River basin is as accurate as possible. To that end, we have developed significant new technical information regarding the hydrology. We would like an opportunity for both FEMA's experts and our experts to sit in the same room, dedicate the uninterrupted and focused time necessary to go through the information, explain and discuss the technical arguments, defend technical positions, and then work together through all of the individual components of the analysis, point by point, to reach agreement.

Therefore, we are formally requesting a technical conference be convened March 17-18 in Washington D.C. to consider the Skagit River hydrologic analysis, with a specific emphasis on determining the nature of the historic floods of 1921, 1917, 1909, and 1897.

Our staff contacts for this request are Dan Berentson, Skagit County Surface Water Division Manager, (360) 336-9400; Lorna Ellestad, Skagit County General Investigation Project Manager, (360) 336-9400; and Chal Martin, Burlington's Public Works Director, (360) 755-9715.

Thank you for your consideration. This matter is of the utmost importance to our Community.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Brunz  
Mayor

c: Skagit County Commissioners  
City of Mount Vernon, Mayor and Council  
City of Sedro-Woolley, Mayor and Council  
City of Burlington Council  
Town of La Conner, Mayor and Council  
Commissioners, Dike District 1  
Commissioners, Dike District 3  
Commissioners, Dike District 12  
Commissioners, Dike District 17  
Commissioners, Dike District 22  
Mark Carey, FEMA Region X, Mitigation Division Director  
Ryan Ike, FEMA Region X, Chief, Risk Analysis Branch