

NPDEN-PL (21 Nov 63)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Reactivation Report, Avon Bypass, Skagit River, Washington

U. S. Army Engr Div, North Pacific, Portland, Oregon, 3 January 1964

TO: Chief of Engineers, ATTN: ENG CW-PD

1. By letter dated 2 October 1962, subject: "Avon Bypass, Skagit River, Washington" the District Engineer presented data on the Avon Bypass and requested reactivation of the project. Your 2d Indorsement dated 16 November stated that consideration would be given to reactivation when studies of Skagit River had progressed to the point of ascertaining the most desirable plan for comprehensive development of the water resources of the basin.

2. The inclosed report discusses findings to date with respect to downstream levee and channel improvements in the interest of flood control, briefly outlines upstream storage possibilities in the basin and arrives at an optimum capacity for the bypass. The report concludes that the Avon Bypass is urgently needed and constitutes the initial element of the comprehensive plan for development of the water resources of the basin.

3. The lower Sauk River is the only location in the Skagit River basin at which major upstream storage is possible. At such time as other multiple purpose uses for storage require development of the Sauk site, sufficient flood control storage could be included to increase the 30-year protection that would be provided by the bypass and improved levee system to more than 100-year protection.

4. It is known that the Sauk River supports a valuable salmon and steelhead trout fishery. Should it be determined that storage cannot be constructed on Sauk River because of interference with the fishery, additional protection to the lower river delta area could be provided by increasing the capacity of the Avon Bypass or by construction of an additional bypass at another location (alternative locations were considered in H.D. 187, 73rd Congress). Also, it may be feasible to provide additional protection to certain urban or other highly developed areas by means of flood walls or other protective structures.

5. The District Engineer has prepared drafts of letters from the Secretary of the Army to the Director, Bureau of the Budget and to the Chairman, Public Works Committee, House of Representatives for possible use in connection with reactivation and funding of the Avon Bypass Project. Copies of these drafts are inclosed.

6. This office concurs in the views of the District Engineer and recommends that the Avon Bypass project be reactivated and every effort be

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made to secure initial planning funds in FY 1965. In this connection, the District Engineer has indicated a FY 1965 capability of \$400,000 for the project.

FOR THE DIVISION ENGINEER:



O. J. PICKARD
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy Division Engineer

3 Incls (USC)

1. nc, 3 cys wd
Added

2. SA to Div BB (in quad)
3. Ltr SA to Chrmn, Comm PW,
H. of Reprs. (in quad)

AIR MAIL