

NPSEN-PL

13 Aug 66

MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Avon Bypass Project - Meeting with Local Interests

On 10 August Messrs. Vern Cook and R. H. Gedney met with Skagit County Commissioners in Mt. Vernon at the County Court House to discuss local cooperation for the Avon Bypass Project. Participating in the meeting were:

Skagit County Commissioners:
Claud Wilson, Chairman
Mel Halgren
Jack Wylie

Lloyd Johnson, Skagit Co. Engineer

George Dynes - representing diking districts

Mr. Cook presented details of the proposed and alternate alignments for the Bypass Project as set forth in our current design memo. There was agreement by all that the proposed alignment would be the most acceptable and most desired plan by local interests. The commissioners agreed that the maximum local contribution that Skagit County could make toward the proposed \$6,000,000 local contribution would be \$2,000,000. This would require a 2-mill levy on current property assessments. Over a period of time as the assessments increase, the rate of approximately 3% per year (the 2-mill requirement) would either decrease or provide a surplus for other flood control works.

The county commissioners' position with regard to the Bypass Project was that they would support the project if local interest groups would petition the commissioners to place the bond issue on a general election ballot, and if the electorate were to vote approval of this measure. The commissioners look to the diking districts to sponsor the measure for the county. Mr. Dynes agreed that the diking districts would undertake this sponsorship.

There was considerable discussion as to how local interests' costs should be shared within the county and the larger burden that should be borne by the diking districts most directly benefitting from the project. There was general agreement that the diking district areas benefitting most from the project should pick up a larger portion of the tab than the general assessment over the county.

Action by the County Commissioners to place the Bypass Project on the November election ballot must be taken at least 45 days in advance of the election, or by about 15 September.

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It was interesting to note the sectionalism of the county commissioners in considering the Bypass Project. Mr. Wilson, representing the area above Sedro Woolley, wondered what benefits they would receive from the Bypass Project. Mr. Halgren, representing the Anacortes area, believed that the Bypass Project was essential for the general well-being of the county. Mr. Wylie, representing the diking district area, was a strong supporter of the project. All present recognized the impact that a major flood would have on the overall delta flood plain of the Skagit River Basin. As a consequence of the meeting, Mr. Dynes proposed a meeting of the diking districts on 17 August in which the course of action with respect to county sponsorship will be developed. This meeting will also concern itself with planning for State support of the balance of the local cooperation requirements. Corps representatives will participate in the 17 August meeting.

R. GEDNEY 

cc: TE Sec, PIng Br
District Engineer thru Ch, Engrg Div
PIng Br File