

30 DEC 1971

Arnold M. Hansen, Chairman  
Board of Skagit County Commissioners  
Skagit County Courthouse  
Mount Vernon, Washington 93273

Dear Mr. Hansen:

The investigation of the flooding problems at Big Lake, requested in your letter of 30 April 1970 and as authorized under Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, has been completed. As our Mr. Blanchette indicated in the meeting at the Big Lake School on 17 March 1971, the initial phase of our Section 205 studies is a reconnaissance effort in which we determine whether a Federal improvement project is economically feasible and whether Federal funds should be expended to make detailed studies.

Our investigations revealed that structural measures to reduce the flooding around Big Lake are not economically feasible and we have recommended in our Reconnaissance Report to our Division Engineer in Portland, Oregon, that the Section 205 study of the Big Lake flood problem be terminated.

To alleviate the flooding around Big Lake, we considered a reinforced-concrete gated structure in the upper end of the lake outlet to control flows up to 3,600 cubic feet per second. This structure would also provide for passage for fish on upstream spawning runs and downstream migration. Average annual flood damage prevention benefits were found to be less than the average annual costs of an outlet control structure and channel widening. An outlet improvement project would increase downstream flood effects. The project would also have to bear the cost of mitigating any fishery losses due to the project. Therefore, such a project is not considered feasible.

Skagit County is participating with the Federal Insurance Administration in providing flood insurance for all unincorporated areas of the County. Participation in this flood insurance program will require the adoption and enforcement of flood plain regulations for floodprone areas. Since the flooding problem in the Big Lake area has not been resolved, residents should be encouraged to secure flood insurance coverage for existing

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Arnold M. Hansen, Chairman

structures. Skagit County should adopt and enforce flood plain regulations for the Big Lake area thereby assuring that all new construction will conform to these regulations and flood damage to these new structures will be minimal. The Corps will assist in furnishing the County with flood plain information data needed for the regulatory measures. Request for this type of assistance should be made as indicated in the attached form letter and addressed to the State coordinating agency, the Department of Ecology.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Roland Blanchette, Study Manager, telephone: 682-2700, extension 670, if you have any questions on our Big Lake study. If you have additional questions regarding the procedure in securing a flood plain information type study, contact Mr. George Lenke, Assistant Chief, Planning Branch, Flood Plain Management Services, telephone: 682-2700, extension 671. They would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the studies should you desire.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl  
Form letter

W. W. MURSON  
Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Acting District Engineer