

19 MAY 1975

Honorable Lloyd Meeds  
~~U.S.~~ House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Meeds:

This is in reply to your recent letter concerning a letter you received from the Skagit County Commissioners, Washington, regarding flood control on the Sauk River.

A multiple-purpose storage project, including flood control, on the Sauk River was considered during the course of the interagency Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Comprehensive Water and Related Land Resources Study, completed in 1971 by the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission, and submitted to Congress in July 1974 by the Water Resources Council. This storage project, which has the potential for providing flood control and hydroelectric power benefits, was included in one of the two alternative plans formulated by the commission for the Skagit River basin. The other alternative plan called for the Sauk to remain undeveloped and be designated as a recreational river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542.

The studies that were undertaken as part of the comprehensive investigation were preliminary in nature and not intended to determine the feasibility of the Sauk project. However, at the time of those studies, a storage project on the Sauk River appeared to merit further investigation. A new study would be required to determine if such a project is currently feasible under recent regulations that affect flood plain development.

A flood control dam on the Sauk River would substantially reduce the potential for major flood damages in the lower Skagit River basin and, together with other elements of Skagit County's comprehensive flood damage reduction plan, provide the level of protection desired by the county. If Congress should desire a feasibility study to be undertaken by the Corps, an investigation could be accomplished under the authority provided in the 1962 Flood Control Act for the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Study. However, because the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission did not recommend a plan for the Skagit basin, a new resolution may be appropriate.

NPSEN-PL-BP  
Honorable Lloyd Meeds

Recently, we received a request similar to yours from Senator Warren G. Magnuson concerning Sauk River flood control. A copy of the draft resolution provided Senator Magnuson, at his request, is inclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
SERINDE  
SELLEVOLD  
WEBER  
EYES  
Mail Rm  
19 May 75  
ED-PL file

RAYMOND J. EINEIGL  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

1 Incl (*dupe*)  
As stated

cc (w/incl):  
DAEN-CWA-D  
NPDPL  
Urabeck  
"Skipper" Ewing, Svcs Br  
BP Sec file

*Incl 1*