

D R A F T

23 JUL 1975

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

Dear Mr. Meeds:

This is in further reply to your recent letter inclosing a copy of a letter from the Skagit County Board of Commissioners concerning four potential flood control projects in the Skagit River Valley, Washington. The individual status of these projects and potential for activation is discussed in the following paragraphs.

a. Upper Baker Project, Additional Flood Control Storage. As noted by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners, we have completed our studies on this proposal. An authorization report has been submitted by the Seattle District Engineer calling for an additional 58,000 acre-feet of flood control storage at Puget Sound Power and Light Company's Upper Baker Project, located on the Baker River. The report concludes that the trade-off of some hydroelectric power generation capability for flood control is economically feasible and environmentally acceptable. The proposal is endorsed by local interests and supported by the State of Washington and other Federal agencies. The District Engineer's report is currently under review by our North Pacific Division Engineer, with a public notice on the Division Engineer's findings scheduled to be released on 11 August 1975. Following further review by our office, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Federal agencies, the Governor of Washington, and the Office of Management and Budget, the

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report will be submitted to Congress. Authorization is required by Congress ^{for} ~~of~~ Federal compensation of Puget Sound Power and Light Company for power losses associated with the additional flood control storage. Assuming favorable action by Congress, this proposal could be implemented relatively soon after authorization.

b. Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project. This project (authorized in 1966) involves improving existing levees and the channel in the lower Skagit River. Estimated total project cost is \$9,800,000 (1971 prices). The project was placed in a "deferred" status pending construction of the Avon Bypass or further upstream storage development. In light of the District Engineer's report on the Upper Baker project proposal, we expect that action toward reclassification of the project from a "deferred" to an "active" status will be initiated in the near future.

c. Sauk River Flood Control Project. The District Engineer's letter to you of 19 May 1975 (copy inclosed for ready reference) discussed this project and inclosed a copy of a draft resolution furnished Senator Warren G. Magnuson, at his request, which would provide authority for a feasibility study of this project.

d. Avon Bypass. This project involves diverting excess Skagit River flows above the delta into Padilla Bay. In 1971, the project was placed in a "deferred" status because Skagit County was unable to meet the requirements of local cooperation. Pending a change in position by the county, the project will remain in a "deferred" status.

Sincerely yours,

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As stated