

27 January 1977

MEMO: FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River, Washington Levee and Channel Improvements

1. On 26 January 1977 Mr. Vernon Cook telephoned Mr. Jerry Mansfield, Commissioner, Skagit County (8-399-0111 ask for (206) 333-3287) to discuss the status of the funding for the Skagit River Washington (levee and channel improvement) project. Mr. Cook advised that General Peel will be testifying before the Appropriations Committees regarding the President's Fiscal Year 78 budget during the latter part of February. We understand that funding is included in the President's budget for this project. However, in order to have a reasonable assurance that the funds remain in the budget that is approved by Congress, local interests should write to their congressmen and senators to show a continuing interest that the studies continue and the construction be completed. Mr. Cook said that separate letters for Senators Magnuson and Jackson and Congressmen Meads would be the most propitious way of expressing interest, and the continued funding of this work. The letters should be signed by all of the commissioners or the chairman of the commissioners. Also letter by other interested groups are affective. Mr. Cook said that if for some reason the total amount of funding for the project was not included in Fiscal Year 78 budget, the possibility always exists that additional funds could be added through the capability hearings which follow.
2. Commissioner Mansfield said that he was going to be meeting with Congressman Meads within the next few days and would take that opportunity to bring this matter to his attention and then follow it up with a letter to the senators and confirm it with Congressman Meads. Commissioner Mansfield said that he had a interest in the Pacific Northwest Water Ways Association but was not too familiar with their activities. Commissioner Mansfield requested how he might learn more of the organization and its effects on the funding for waterways projects. Mr. Cook said he would discuss this with other members of the Seattle District staff and have someone contact him regarding the next meetings and the upcoming trip to Washington D.C. related to this matter. Mr. Mansfield asked when he would have the opportunity to be briefed on the Skagit River project. Mr. Cook said that by April he would be back up to brief the new commissioners that had been elected in November.
3. Mr. Cook advised Commissioner Mansfield that someone would call him back regarding the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association. Following

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the telephone conversation Mr. Cook discussed this with both Messrs. Hogan and Denny, and Mr. Denny agreed to telephone Mr. Mansfield and provide whatever information was sought. Later Mr. Denny advised he had called but Mr. Mansfield would be out of the office until Friday but had left word where he might be contacted and that he would call again Friday 28 January 1977.

COOK

cc:

Plng Br/Denny

~~Plng Br/Bas Plng~~

Prog Dev Br

Blanchette

Cook

WAS - Daniel
Del - file