

17 April 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvements - Field Trip and Meeting with Local Officials

1. On 5 April 1978, Mr. Forest Brooks, Mr. Bill McKinley, and Mr. Frank Weidenbener traveled to Mount Vernon to look at a possible alignment for a floodwall at Mount Vernon and to meet with local officials. Mr. Jack Pittis, Mount Vernon City Engineer, was not in that day and we met with Mr. Harold Christenson, the assistant engineer for the city of Mount Vernon. We discussed our plans and the data on utilities which we would be needing from the city to further our studies. Mr. Christenson said that the city would provide us with whatever maps and data was necessary for our studies. However, the city only has control of the storm and sanitary sewer systems. We would also have to obtain data from other utilities. Telephone service is provided by Continental and General Telephone Companies. Power is provided by Puget Sound Power and Light. Gas is provided by Cascade Natural Gas. Mr. Christenson said that they would collect all the data concerning the storm and sanitary sewer systems and call us in a couple of weeks for us to come and pick it up.

What about water?
James?
Will
Skagit Co
PUD

2. Following the meeting with Mr. Christenson, we walked along the alignment of the floodwall through the city of Mount Vernon. Pictures were taken of the alignment and problem areas noted, particularly in regards to the Stokely-Van Camp Plant, the city's parking area, and the old Carnation building just upstream of the state highway bridge. Carnation has ceased using the building and it is currently for sale. There was a notice on the building that the new owner had taken over and gave us a number to call for information (336-5771).

3. We also investigated the urban levee for the city of Mount Vernon. We drove along Britt Slough Road and investigated the possible levee locations. It appears the only feasible levee alignments along the road would be to either raise the road or construct a levee west of the houses which are west of Britt Slough. The road itself has two ten foot traffic lanes with three foot shoulders on either side. There appears to be a water main on the east side of the road and telephone and power lines are on both sides of the road. The telephone lines provide about 16 feet of clearance over the ground surface. If the existing road is raised, a large number of access ramps across the slough and to the houses along the road will be required. Mr. Christenson had indicated that we should evaluate a levee alignment that would take in all the freeway orientation business to the east of the Britt

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Slough which Mount Vernon is considering annexing. It also appears feasible that we should look at a levee alignment which would go through the nursery which is located just south of the present city limits.

4. We then drove to the Burlington-Sedro-Woolley area and investigated several possible alternative alignments for a levee in this area. It appears that upstream of the present levee several options are available to us. These include: a tie-off levee to Sterling Hill, a levee that would run along the break in grade near the river from Burlington to Sedro Woolley (One problem with this alignment will be houses that are located immediately adjacent to the old river bend about half way between the two towns) and an alignment next to the railroad grade or between the railroad grade and the highway from Burlington to into Sedro Woolley.

5. We stopped to talk to Arnold Hansen, the Burlington City Supervisor, but he was not in. On 7 April 1978 I called Mr. Hansen (755-0531) and discussed our levee study. The only city utility near the levee is the sewer treatment plant. There are several outfall lines and an outlet structure. He suggested that we try to coordinate our study with any plans the State Transportation Department had for the SR 20 freeway along the river. I told him we would coordinate with the State and that I would try to get up to meet him in the next couple of weeks.

BROOKS

cc:
Brooks
Nettling
McKinley
Cook
RP file