

7 November 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement - Meeting with Local Intests

1. On 1 November 1978 Messrs Vern Cook and Forest Brooks traveled to Mount Vernon to meet with the Skagit County Commissioners and with the Skagit Flood Control Council.
2. In the first meeting, Skagit County Commissioners Howard Miller and Bud Norris were present along with members of their staff and Ron Lamb from the Skagit Valley Herald. Mr. Cook and I presented an update on the present status of our studies. We reviewed the alternatives that had been presented at the public workshop last spring and explained that we had divided alternative 3 (authorized project plus urban levees) into 5 separate alternatives to evaluate different amounts of urban flood protection. We discussed the effects of each of these alternatives. Mr. Cook told them that the total cost of 3e would be about \$40-50 million. We have determined that there are sufficient benefits for this project to support a project costing \$70-150 million (depending on the interest rate used). Therefore, we know that a project is possible, and we are looking to the county to direct us toward the most desirable project based on the data we are preparing. We also discussed and showed them concepts for landscaping, beautification of levees and floodwalls and recreational development (bike trails). The commissioners were very interested and discussed with us their responsibilities on the project.
3. In the evening, we attended a meeting of the Skagit Flood Control Council which is a coordinating group composed of all the diking and drainage districts. The meeting consisted of several reports and our presentation. An attendance list is attached (inclosure 1).
  - a. Mr. Gene Sampley, Skagit County Engineer, gave a report on the status of the county's effort on this project. In the Engineers' office, he has set up a flood control section to coordinate county work on this project and he has appointed Don Nelson as section manager. They will also be using as advisor to the county, Mr. Ray Skrinde and Mr. Lloyd Johnson, the former County Engineer. Mr. Sampley considers the Skagit project the county's number one priority and will be coordinating the county's work, primarily the acquisition of necessary land, easements, and right-of-way.
  - b. Mr. George Dynes gave a report on the recent annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association. He is the head of their flood control committee and they have placed the Skagit project at the top of their priority list. He also mentioned that at a luncheon meeting that day, Senator Jackson had expressed his support for the Skagit Project.

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SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement - Meeting with Local Interests

c. Don Nelson reported on the status of the County's effort on the Project. They were presently compiling a map showing the present dike right-of-way and will add the additional right-of-way required for the project as soon as it is received from the Corps. They plan to have the mapping for the first phase done by 1 April 1979 and hope to complete all negotiations on the land in the first phase by 1 April 1980. The second phase would overlap with the first phase and be completed during the spring of 1981. Mr. Nelson said the county would obtain the right-of-way and the districts would not have to.

d. Mr. Cook and I then gave a presentation similar to the one earlier in the day for the county commissioners. This involved a slide presentation (inclosure 2) and a question and answer period. In general, the audience was very interested in the project and asked questions about the scope of the project, the local responsibilities, and the impacts that the alternatives would have. We told them that we were planning to have a public workshop in November or December to provide more details on the alternatives and present the costs and benefits of each.

*Brooks*  
BROOKS

2 Incl  
As

cc w/incl:  
Farrar/RP file  
~~Brooks~~ *TCB file LOCAL*  
Cook  
Ch, Des Br  
Ch, Plng Br