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NPDPL (21 Nov 78) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project

DA, North Pacific Division, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 2870,
Portland, Oregon 97208. 12 December 1978

TO: District Engineer, Seattle

1. The subject matter was discussed at length by conference call on 30 November 1978, among General Wells, Colonel Poteat, Larry Kaptur, and Deb Olson. Certain basic agreements were reached at that time, as follows.
2. Specific Congressional authority will be required to extend the Skagit River Levee project upstream to provide urban flood protection to the Burlington and Sedro Woolley areas. Appropriate language was contained in the 1978 Omnibus Public Works Bill that failed to pass in Congress. Congressional authorization to extend the levee project upstream could come about by (a) Omnibus Bill action, possibly in 1979; (b) through the appropriations process for FY 1980; (c) by means of an SPAC; or (d) via special legislation.
3. It is uncertain at this time which authorization route will provide the necessary authority. In any event, it was agreed that a combined Phase I and Phase II GDM will be prepared for the presently authorized levee project. The GDM will contain information and technical data that is common to both the downstream and upstream reaches of the Skagit River, and that must be considered in connection with design and construction of the downstream project. Also, the GDM will describe the close physical relationship of the upstream and downstream areas, and will include consideration of measures such as tie-back levees that would be required if the two projects are not designed and built as one.
4. Pending resolution of the matter of authority for the upstream project, we will for the time being not submit an SPAC. Ideally, the authority issue will be resolved early enough in calendar year 1979 to permit proceeding with the entire project in an orderly manner in FY 1980 and beyond. Also, following receipt of new authority, we believe that the upstream extension could be covered by a supplemental GDM.
5. In the meantime, you should submit funding requests needed to proceed with the authorized levee project.

Richard M. Wells COL, CE
 RICHARD M. WELLS
 Brigadier General, USA
 Division Engineer