

Corps

NPSEN-PL-ER

30 APR 1979

SUBJECT: Skagit River, Washington - Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Division Engineer, North Pacific

1. Inclosed for your review are five copies of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Skagit River, Washington, project.
2. The EIS describes a plan which departs from the project authorized in 1966 in that it will provide about 50-year protection to the rural areas of the Skagit River Delta and will extend protection upstream of Mount Vernon to Sedro Woolley to provide 100-year or more protection to the urban areas of Mount Vernon and Burlington. Because of these departures from the authorized project, implementation of the recommended plan will require additional congressional authorization.
3. The total estimated cost of the project at 6-7/8 percent interest rate is \$50,270,000; total Federal cost is \$40,720,000. The benefit-cost ratio is 1.4 to 1.
4. The recommended plan includes grass seeding of levee tops, berms, and side slopes and limited planting of selected shrub species on certain riverward riprap slopes as habitat restoration features. In addition, ten acres of offsite tree plantings on the Skagit Wildlife Recreation area, owned and managed by the Washington State Department of Game, and the provision of fish rearing habitat are included in the project for fish and wildlife mitigation.
5. The project, as proposed, has received some opposition from residents of unleveed areas which will receive induced flood damages as a result of the project. To compensate for the induced damages, the local sponsor will be required to agree to purchase flowage easements or to make other provisions for the unprotected areas. In the Clear Lake residential area, specifically, construction of levees is under consideration to mitigate for induced damages. If further studies indicate that a structural alternative is more cost effective, levees at Clear Lake will be added to the recommended plan and a supplement to the EIS will be prepared. The EIS discusses the flowage easement requirement and the

KN 26 April 79

Northup/gm/3624
25 Apr 79

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possibility of levees at Clear Lake, but does not reflect the specifics nor the costs of these features as this information is currently being developed. **There is no organized environmental opposition to the project.**

6. If you have any questions concerning the draft EIS, please contact Ms. **Karen Northup, Environmental Coordinator (FTS 399-3624)**, Mr. **Forest Brooks, Study Manager (FTS 399-3621)**, or Mr. **Vern Cook, Project Manager (FTS 399-3450)**.

JOHN A. POTEAT
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

1 Incl (5 cys)
as

cc w/o incl
Dice
Bush/Northup
Brooks (Reg Plng)
Thompson/Smith (E&SE)
Cook (Des Br)
ERS RP File (Skagit Levees)

BUSH/EN-PL

DICE/EN-PL

Brooks FARRAR/EN-PL

HOGAN/EN-PL

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OFC COUNSEL

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