



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region X Federal Regional Center Bothell, Washington 98011

MAR 24 1982

Honorable Raymond C. Henery  
Mayor of Burlington  
900 E. Fairhaven  
Burlington, Washington 98233

Dear Mayor Henery:

This will summarize recent discussions between our Agency and local officials from Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Skagit County, as well as discussions with the Seattle District of the Corps of Engineers, concerning floodways in the lower Skagit Delta.

In our meetings we discussed a variety of alternatives that were under consideration and sought local input to these alternatives. We were mindful of the work of the Skagit River Basin Control Committee and of the formal recommendations of the Skagit County Board of Commissioners.

We have concluded that the best approach to assure that future encroachment in the Delta will not unduly harm others is to offer a combination of techniques that are consistent with both Skagit County Resolution 9190 and Alternative D, Section V, of the discussion outline used in our March 16, 1982 meeting (copies of both are enclosed). Essentially, we have ruled out floodways developed either through conventional equal conveyance methods or through unsteady state flow modeling at this time. Instead, we have decided to build on and refine your thoughts regarding density criteria, in conjunction with establishing a minimum floodway that will encompass the channel and overbank areas including levees.

Our discussions revealed that density criteria could be established to refine the admittedly arbitrary 25% reservation for flowage area recommended by the Committee. Objective density criteria can be developed through use of methods recently published by the Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center in an August 1981 report prepared for FEMA. Our early review using the density criteria indicates that the 25% recommendation probably considerably understates the need for reserving areas for overland flow.

We will proceed with the Skagit County study by developing the density criteria and floodway maps described above. Some of the other measures described in Alternative D will also have to be further explored with local officials and incorporated into ordinances of all three jurisdictions. We will contact you shortly in order to further discuss the density criteria, and start discussions on ordinance requirements.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or reactions to our proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. H. Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Wm. H. Mayer  
Regional Director

Enclosures