



**FEMA**

October 16, 2006

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

Skagit River Impact Partnership  
Attn: Honorable Bud Norris  
Mayor of Mount Vernon  
P.O. Box 809  
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mayor Norris:

This letter is intended for the Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP) organization. I have addressed it to you as the spokesperson. Please share it with other members of the organization at your convenience.

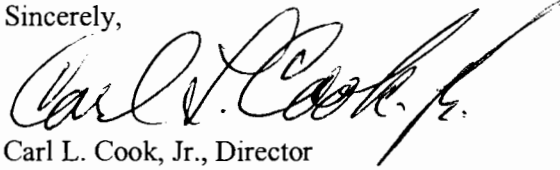
During our last meeting on September 14, 2006, Pacific International Engineers (PIE) provided a brief overview of a new hydrologic proposal whereby all four controversial floods of record would be removed from calculations of the one percent flood. While I support SRIP's ongoing efforts to reduce flooding in Skagit County, I strongly encourage the organization to work with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) on potential flood control solutions.

After further consideration, it is my decision that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will not provide additional analysis on the possible outcomes that Mr. Hosey's scenario could yield. It is this agency's responsibility to accurately map the flood risk and provide maps for insurance rating purposes. The PIE proposal encourages FEMA to ignore historic information documented by the US Geological Survey, used by the USACOE in their ongoing general investigation and corroborated in other basin flood insurance studies. I cannot support a proposal that prioritizes affordable flood control structures over potential citizen safety.

This is FEMA's position for the purposes of our ongoing study. As I have mentioned in several letters and at our meeting, this position does not preclude any community or citizen from performing their own technical analysis and submitting it to FEMA during the statutory appeal period or as a Letter of Map Revision at any time.

If you have any questions about my position, please contact me at (425) 487-4687, or Ryan Ike of my staff. He can be reached at the above address, or by calling (425) 487-4767.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl L. Cook, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Carl L. Cook, Jr., Director  
Mitigation Division

cc: Colonel Michael McCormick, Seattle District US Army Corp of Engineers  
Office of Senator Murray, Attn: Ardis Dumett, Seattle  
Office of Senator Cantwell, Attn: Jay Pearson, Seattle  
Office of Congressman Rick Larsen, Attn: Jill McKinney, Everett  
Chuck Steele, Department of Ecology, Bellevue