

**AVON BYPASS OR
MOVING THE DIKES
(Levees)**

**Funding, Fish, Farms, and
Folks**

Concepts are not new.

1897 Report, Page 7

“In some places the dikes seemed to be unnecessarily high, in others dangerously low, and in a good many places they are weak and thin and for long distances they are entirely too near the river banks.”

55TH CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, (DOCUMENT
2d Session,) (No. 204.)

SURVEY OF SKAGIT RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH TO SEDRO,
WASH.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

WITH A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, REPORT OF
SURVEY OF SKAGIT RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH TO SEDRO, WASH.

JANUARY 8, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors and ordered
to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., January 7, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a letter from the Chief of Engineers dated January 5, 1898, together with a copy of a report from Capt. Harry Taylor, Corps of Engineers, dated December 11, 1897, of a survey made by him in compliance with the provisions of the river and harbor act of June 3, 1896, of Skagit River.

Very respectfully,

G. D. MEIKLEJOHN,
Acting Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

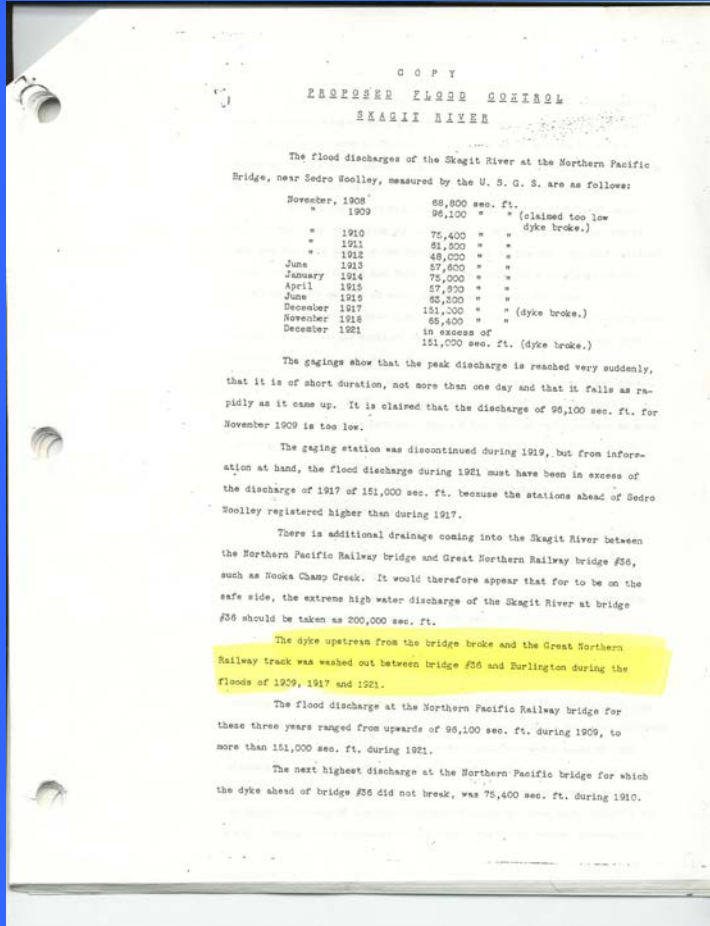
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C., January 5, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the accompanying report of December 11, 1897, with map, by Capt. Harry Taylor, Corps of Engineers, of the results of a survey of Skagit River, from its mouth to the town of Sedro, Wash., made to comply with requirements of the river and harbor act of June 3, 1896.

This river is now being improved by the United States by removing snags, etc., under appropriations for improving Puget Sound and its tributary waters, the chief obstructions to navigation being snags, which accumulate with every freshet.

Captain Taylor states that the improvement of Skagit River, which is of the greatest importance to navigation, is that which has been car-

Concepts are not new.



1922 Herzog Report, Page 5

“A high water relief channel can be built from above Bridge #36 to Padilla Bay. . . .2,000 ft. width with a depth of water 10 feet.” “... waters flow west to Swinomish Slough and Padilla Bay.”

THE FIFTH F FAILURE

➤ Failure to tell the truth

- Burlington Hill – natural asbestos
- Downtown Sedro-Woolley – water 10-12 deep
- Gages Slough – used to be main channel
- FEMA flood elevations – underestimated
- Two volcanoes – G.P. built the land we are on
- Two active earthquake faults under Burlington

FAILURE

➤ FEMA

- Failure to enforce NFIP regulations regarding fill in the floodway.

➤ State Department of Ecology

- Failure to enforce SEPA on FCAAP/County diking proposals.

➤ Corps of Engineers

- PL-99 Projects -- Failure to analyze the impacts of dropping hundreds of tons of rock rip rap into the channel.

FAILURE

- Washington State Dept. of Transportation
 - Failure to allow for adequate openings in Interstate 5 to allow for the passage of floodwaters.
- Puget Sound Energy
 - Failure to provide adequate river flows to support fish runs from the Baker River Dams.
- Skagit County Public Works Dept.
 - Failure to stop Dike Districts from backfilling material from keyways onto riverward side of levees for County sponsored/funded levee improvement projects.

FAILURE

➤ Dike Districts

- Failure by allowing fill in the floodway and address flood control as a river basin instead of individual municipalities.

➤ Cities of Burlington, Mt. Vernon, Sedro-Woolley

- Failure by providing the worst land use planning in the State of Washington.
- Failure to provide adequate surface water treatment before discharging into the Skagit River.

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

**ASK NOT WHAT FLOOD
CONTROL PROJECT YOUR
GOVERNMENT CAN BUILD FOR
YOU, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO TO
BRING ABOUT RESPONSIBLE
FLOOD CONTROL TO SKAGIT
COUNTY!!!**

RESPONSIBLE FLOOD **CONTROL**

➤ MUST MEET THE THREE E'S

➤ ENGINEERINGLY ACCOMPLISHABLE

➤ Must carry adequate amount of flood waters

➤ ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE

➤ Taxes must be fair and equitable

➤ ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

➤ Must restore fish runs to the Skagit River

WHAT WE MUST DO

➤ FUNDING

- Devise method of taxation based on amount of benefit received.
- Utilize the Bypass as a wetlands mitigation banking system.
- Contact corporate America to purchase wetlands and estuary lands within Bypass.
- Seek funding wherever funds are available.

WHAT WE MUST DO

➤ FISH

- **Construct the Bypass and utilize as fish mitigation and propagation.**
- **Ask the Tribes to lower their fish allocations**
- **Ask the sports fishermen to lower their daily limits**
- **Stop polluting the Skagit River with Urban and Agricultural run-off.**

WHAT WE MUST DO

➤ FARMS

- Admit that farming interest over the last 100 years diked, drained and ditched the largest single acreage of estuary and wetlands on the west coast and practice fish friendly farming.
- Realize that the sins of the fathers have come to roost on the shoulders of the sons.
- Negotiate reduced restrictions on farms IF Bypass is constructed and fish friendly farming practices are adopted.

WHAT WE MUST DO

➤ FOLKS

- Educate the people of this valley to the environmental hazards that confront them i.e. start telling the truth.
- Allow the people of Skagit County to vote on this project.