

Plan B

"Let's do it ourselves!"



Opening Statement

100 yr. flood

- *One of the best things about me is that I am direct, that I speak bluntly, that I don't sugar coat anything.*
- *Of course, that's probably also one of the worst things about me.*
- *Some people see a problem and then pass it along to the rest of us.*
- *I tend to see a problem and see it as an opportunity in disguise.*

Let's Do It Ourselves

100 yr. flood

That the people of the county should take the burden of providing adequate protection on their own shoulders, was the opinion of H.L. Willis, . . . without any outside assistance. He urged the adoption of organized effort as soon as possible and concluded with, **"Let's do the job ourselves."** (*Permanent Organization To Be Formed "To Improve Skagit River."* [1/5/22 Argus](#))

Plan A

➤ Skagit County Government

100 yr. flood

➤ "Stay the course"

➤ Agree with Corps' & FEMA's hydrology

➤ Raise property taxes

➤ Use Corps "Measures" as basis for raising taxes with "no guarantees" of a pot of gold at end of rainbow.

County Plan A

Stay the course

100 yr. flood

- Corp currently has over 73 billion dollars worth of authorized projects that have not been started.
- With its construction funding limited to roughly \$2 billion a year, it will take the Corps more than 40 years to construct just its current backlog of projects. (Source: News Release, Senator Feingold/McCain May 14, 2007 -- Washington, D.C.)

County Plan A

Raise Property Taxes

100 yr. flood

Skagit County				
Conceptual Flood Control Measures with Conceptual Cost Estimates				
Conceptual Measures	Construction Costs	Assessed Value	Total Project Cost	Local Match 25% of Total
1 Sedro Woolley Water Treatment Plant	\$ 1,278,259	\$ 95,800	\$ 1,374,059	\$ 343,515
2 Clear Lake Levee Alignment	5,979,341	1,709,700	7,689,041	1,922,260
3 SR-9 to BNSF Right Bank Levee Alignment	17,011,871	9,023,500	26,035,371	6,508,843
4 Multi-Bridge Corridor Right Bank Alignment	18,888,198	23,774,500	21,362,698	5,340,675
5 Multi-Bridge Corridor Left Bank Alignment	7,205,415	29,895,500	37,100,915	9,275,229
6 Anacortes Water Treatment Plant	1,480,693	-	1,480,693	370,173
7 Riverbend Cut-off Levee Alignment	8,365,572	8,334,900	16,700,472	4,175,118
8a Diversion segment 1 – Riverbend	5,491,382	5,283,500	10,774,882	2,693,721
8b Diversion segment 2 – Mount Vernon	8,365,572	5,903,300	14,268,872	3,567,218
8c Diversion segment 3 – Fir Island	11,443,241	2,985,700	14,428,941	3,607,235
Diversion Measure sub-total	\$ 25,300,196	\$ 14,172,500	\$ 39,472,696	\$ 9,868,174
8 Mount Vernon Right Bank Levee Alignment	1,904,844	15,597,500	17,502,344	4,375,586
10 Mount Vernon Left Bank Levee Alignment	3,401,682	10,766,700	14,168,382	3,542,095
11 Lower Right Bank Levee Alignment	6,416,406	9,040,400	15,456,806	3,864,202
12 Lower Left Bank Levee Alignment	12,351,256	9,259,300	21,610,556	5,402,639
13 Emergency Control Structure (no land)	13,197,868	29,504,400	42,702,268	10,675,567
14 LaConner Ring Dike	1,000,000		1,000,000	250,000
Totals	\$ 122,781,598	\$ 161,174,700	\$ 263,656,298	\$ 65,914,075
15 years - 25% of Total Project	\$ 4,394,272			
15 years - Land Acquisition	\$ 10,744,980			

Plan A

➤ Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP)

100 yr. flood

➤ Get the hydrology right

➤ Prepare for appeal of BFE figures

➤ Obtain storage behind Ross and Baker Dams

Plan A

Skagit County Government versus SRIP

100 yr. flood



Results in lose-lose situation for the people of Skagit County

Plan B

➤ A New Beginning In A Spirit of Cooperation

100 yr. flood

➤ Financing

➤ Property Taxes vs. Sales Tax

➤ Agreement / Power-sharing

➤ Formation of a Lower Skagit River Area Flood Control Agency

➤ Construction of genuine flood protection, *not* studies or lawsuits

Plan B -- Financing

➤ Property Taxes

100 yr. flood

- Creates unfair contribution with respect to benefits received
- Unjustly enriches and subsidizes 34% of taxpayers in the form of
 - Higher Property Values
 - Lower Flood Insurance Rates
- Penalizes 66% of the people in the valley who didn't build in the floodplain while rewarding the 34% who have made bad land use decisions

Plan B -- Financing

➤ Sales Excise Taxes

100 yr. flood

- Establishes a criteria that those who play – pay.
- By increasing the sales tax by .005 cents we would be raising revenue from the economic base of our county that the flood projects are going to protect.
- The .005 cents would be a dedicated fund that could only be spent on flood control projects.

Plan B -- Financing

- Would a sales tax discourage people from **100 yr. flood** shopping in Skagit County?
- Lets go shopping
 - \$10.00 worth of fishing gear = 5 cents
 - \$100.00 shirts, pants & tie = 50 cents
 - \$1,000 Sears lawnmower = \$5.00
 - \$30,000 pickup truck = \$150.00

Plan B -- Financing

➤ Sales Excise Taxes (Con't)

100 yr. flood

Year	Mt. Vernon	Burlington
2006	\$702,657,412.00	\$867,656,353.00
2005	\$560,043,176.00	\$792,370,588.00
2004	\$541,366,824.00	\$720,037,059.00
2003	\$521,248,588.00	\$666,629,412.00
2002	\$502,703,412.00	\$614,093,059.00
Average	\$565,603,882.40	\$732,157,294.20
Average Yearly Sum of 2 Cities		\$1,297,761,176.60
Average .005 Sales Tax Increase Revenue		\$6,488,805.88

Plan B -- Agreement

- Three Part Process – How do we get the excise tax money?
 - Through a Written Agreement – Form a Lower Valley Flood Control Agency (*Modified after Sacramento Flood Control Agency*)
 - Reach Agreement and Submit Draft legislation to Local Legislators Sen. Mary Margret Haugen, Sen. Harriet Spaniel, Sen. Val Stevens, Rep. Dave Quall, Rep. Dan Kristiansen and Rep. Kirk Pearson
 - Amend Flood Control and Excise Tax Statutes to allow for the creation of the Flood Control Agency and the collection of the Excise Tax

100 yr. flood

Plan B -- Agreement

➤ The Agreement

100 yr. flood

- Forms a Lower Valley Flood Control Agency
 - Agency does not consolidate the Dike Districts
 - Rather it puts the Dike Districts on equal footing with the Cities and Towns and Skagit County
 - No one entity holds more or less power than any other entity
 - Only the entity owning/controlling the property can VETO a project.

Plan B -- Agreement

➤ The Agreement

100 yr. flood

- All Parties to the Agreement maintain complete autonomy.
- f. To acquire, construct, manage, maintain, operate and replace any Projects, Facilities, or Works; provided, however, that the Agency **shall not construct**, maintain or operate any Water Control Works or Facilities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Parties or Special District **without the prior written agreement of the governing body** of the affected Special District or Party. (Draft Agreement Page 5)

Plan B -- Agreement

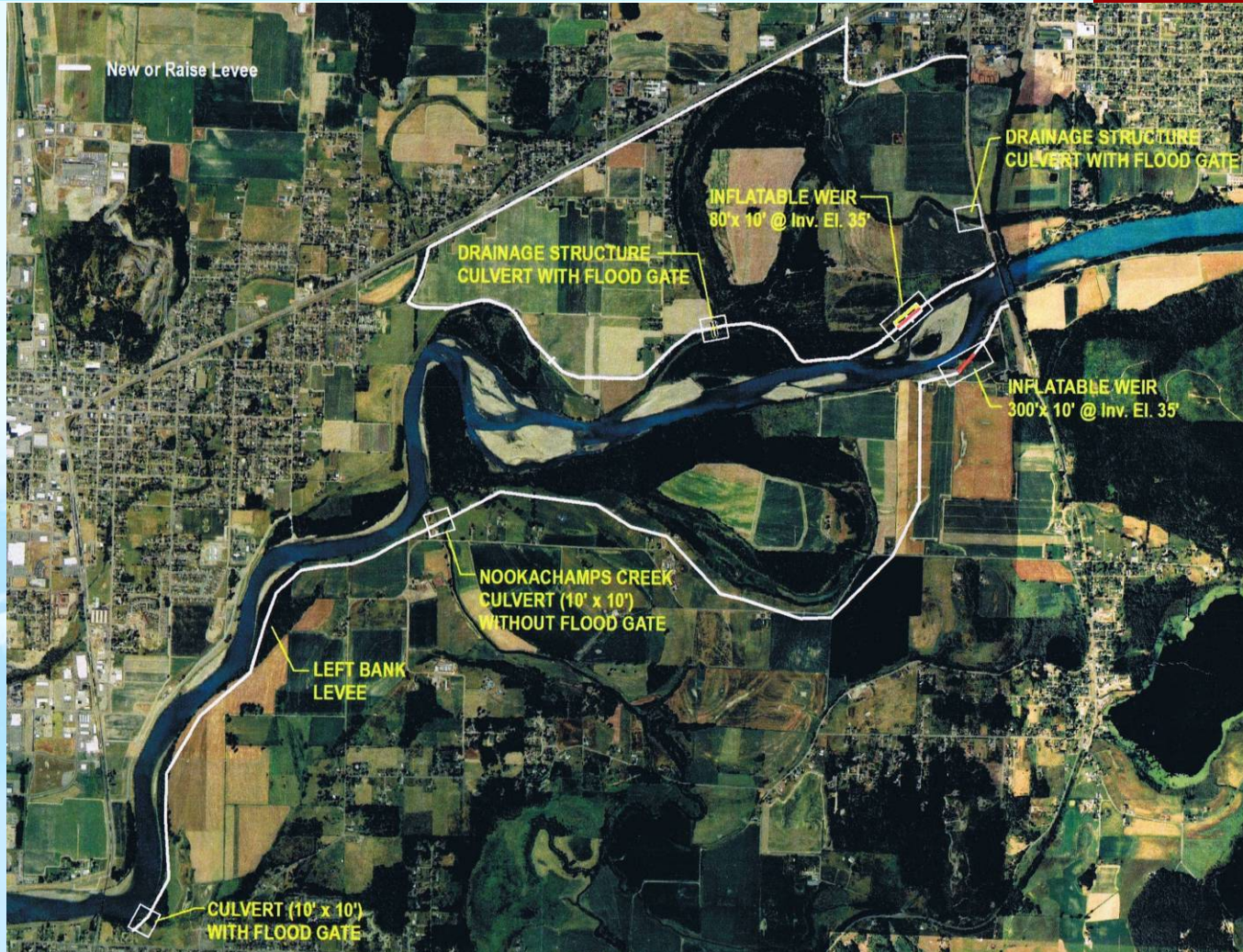
➤ The Agreement

100 yr. flood

➤ Veto Power

- **20.** A Party may exercise a veto with respect to the following items:
 - a) **the construction** and/or acquisition **of Projects, Works or Facilities within its boundaries;**
 - b) the **Agency's assumption of the Party's maintenance and operation responsibilities** for currently existing levees, Projects, Facilities or Works;
 - c) the imposition of **any assessment, fee, or charge within its boundaries** to be levied for any Projects, Facilities or Works authorized pursuant to this Agreement.

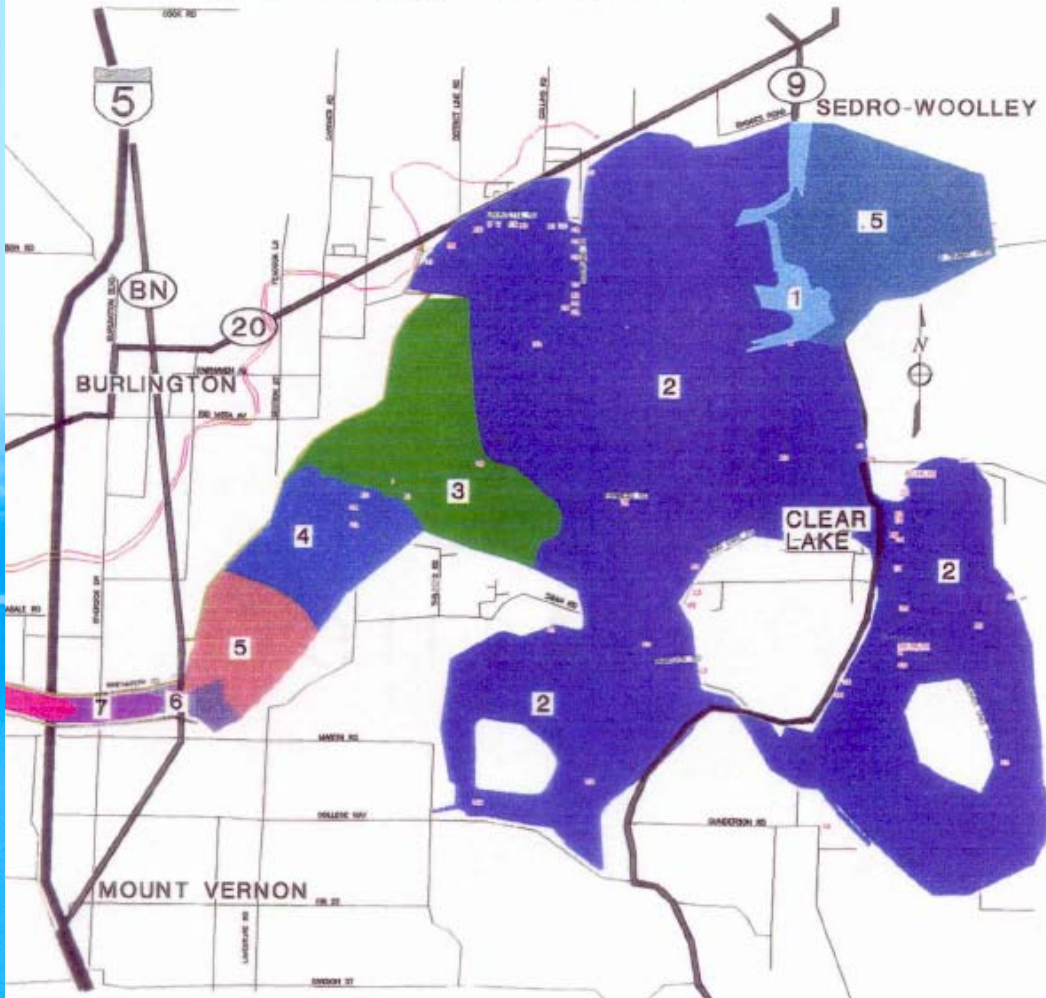
Possible Project



100 yr. flood

Current Conditions

GRAPHIC SUMMARY OF
INCREASES IN 1990 FLOOD LEVELS
DUE TO LEVEE SYSTEM



100 yr. flood

Sedro Woolley Sewage
Treatment Plant = .5 to 1 ft

Clear Lake/Beaver Lake
= 2 ft

Francis Road = 4 ft

Plan B -- Legislation

➤ The Legislation

100 yr. flood

- Will require flood control statutes to be amended in order to allow formation of Flood Control Agency by agreement of participating municipalities, adding new sections to but not limited to
 - RCW 86.12 Flood Control By Counties
 - RCW 86.13 Flood Control By Counties Jointly
 - RCW 85.05 Diking Districts
 - RCW 36.89 (Maybe) Highways . . . Storm water Control
 - RCW 36.94 (Maybe) Sewerage, Water & Drainage Systems

Plan B -- Legislation

➤ The Legislation

100 yr. flood

- Will require Sales Excise tax statutes to be amended in order to allow for the funding of the Flood Control Agency by agreement of participating municipalities, adding new sections but not limited to
 - RCW 82.08 Retail Sales Tax
 - RCW 82.14 Local Retail Sales and Use Taxes

Plan B -- Timeline

- June 21st – The beginning
- July 30th – Attorneys have draft agreement in final form
- August 30th – Cities/County/Dike Districts begin final approval and signing of Agreement
- September 30th – Attorneys prepare draft legislation
- October/December County Commissioners, Mayors, Dike Commissioners, Upstanding Members of the Community Meet with Legislators

100 yr. flood

Plan B -- Timeline

- January 2008: Bill introduced in both houses of the legislature – put on fast track
- March 2008: Legislature passes Bill
- June 2008: County holds special election for voter approval of the Excise Tax
- July 2008: Flood Control Agency formed.
- By July 2010 we begin construction of flood control projects

100 yr. flood

Plan B – Summary

100 yr. flood

- Get consensus of local community.
- Prepare and sign local agreement to form Skagit River Flood Control Agency.
- Have legislature amend statutes creating the Agency and provide funding by increasing a dedicated sales excise tax by .005 cents.
- Have voters approve sales tax.
- Begin construction of flood control projects!!

Plan B – What it's about!!

100 yr. flood

- It's about LOCAL CONTROL.
- Putting local people in charge of local funds to build flood control projects.

“LET'S DO IT OURSELVES!”

“LET'S DO IT NOW!!”