

**Skagit County Diking District No. 3
PO Box 324
Conway, WA 98238**

August 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor of the State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON DOWNTOWN FLOOD PROTECTION AND REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Skagit County Diking District No. 3 is pleased to support the City of Mount Vernon's efforts to obtain funding for Phase III of the Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail enabling the completion of this transformational project.

This essential project is well on its way with the successful completion of Phase I. Phase II is slated to be completed by the end of 2013. The District is very pleased to see removal of the buildings from the flood way. The benefit of physical flood protection to the historic downtown along the Skagit River enhances public safety and reduces risk during flood fighting.

As you might remember, the City of Mount Vernon received a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA that recognizes the project's effectiveness in removing Mount Vernon's historic downtown from the 100-year floodplain and providing certified flood protection when it is completed.

With 100-year certified flood protection, downtown Mount Vernon can redevelop the urban center that is connected to the City's historic roots as a waterfront based commercial center. It is anticipated that the flood protection and improved access to the river which is incorporated into the design of the flood project, new and upgraded amenities, and mixed-use redevelopment will generate jobs and create housing and an improved commercial tax base while preserving the character of downtown Mount Vernon.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for all that you do to improve Skagit County and Northwest Washington. I hope that you will lend your support to this critical project.

Respectfully,

SKAGIT COUNTY DIKING DISTRICT NO. 3



DAVID J. ELSON
Chairman



DARREN L. MORRISON
Commissioner



BRAD SMITH
Commissioner