

PUBLIC HEARING ON RIVER WORK SET APRIL 12

US Engineers Seek Local Opinion On Projects

Skagit county will be represented by appropriate officials to learn exactly what US army engineers are proposing when the latter agency holds a public hearing in Mount Vernon at 10 a.m. April 12 on a series of projects, Chairman Lowell Hughes of the board of commissioners said today.

If available, the small court room at the courthouse will be used for the hearing, otherwise the Mount Vernon city council chambers.

NAVIGATION MAIN TOPIC

The hearing, it is understood, is called primarily to poll local opinion as to the projects the engineers propose, principally dealing with improving navigation on the lower Skagit river.

But at least two projects may be proposed by local groups. A delegation of Day creek residents intends to appear before the engineers, Ed Barben indicated at the courthouse recently. And residents of the lower river areas, including the LaConner flats and the diking districts along the North and South forks, are understood to be interested in the cutting of a new channel across the delta that would save boats a mile of travel in reaching salt water.

In their announcement of the hearing, the engineers described their project as follows:

PROJECT DESCRIBED

"The existing project provides for channel stabilization through the delta by means of a dike at the mouth of the South fork; regulating dikes and a mattress sill near the head of North fork; and closing subsidiary channels at the delta; and for increasing the available depth at Skagit City bar by dredging and by training walls. The length of the section included in the project is 9½ miles. The mattress sill, closing dikes, and 10,450 feet of training dike at dike at the mouth of the South fork are completed. The training dike was completed to a length 5550 feet less than project length. The work at Skagit City bar awaits the local cooperation required by the act of 2 March 1919."

The engineers have asked all persons and agencies interested in the river projects to be represented at the hearing and to present data on the valley's resources, navigation needs and possible coordination of navigation aids with flood control and water conservation.

PASS HEARING SAME DAY

The same day, at 2 o'clock, the engineers will conduct a hearing at the Anacortes city hall as to possible or desired improvements to navigation through Deception Pass.