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Huge Sums Available Here For Flood Control Projects

By Congressman Mon C. Wallgren

A bill that provided \$5,386,000 for second congressional district flood control projects when it passed the House, came back from the senate with the allotment reduced to \$3,411,000 for two projects instead of five million for five projects.

Despite the reduction the measure represents a real advance for our district as it is the first direct recognition by law of a flood control project in the district. I had worked and hoped for definite projects on four rivers but, for this session at least, will have to be content with the two on the Skagit and Stillaguamish rivers. The same bill, however, provides for further study of the needs on the Snohomish and Nooksack rivers.

The bill allots \$3,150,100 for the construction of the Avon-Padilla Bay cut-off on the Skagit river and \$261,000 for channel and bank work on the Stillaguamish.

When this money is made available it will bring the sum of flood control allotments in our district to more than \$5,200,000. I have been impatient and disappointed with immediate results many times during my four-year fight for recognition of our flood needs. But now, as I look back, I realize that

there are many other states equally interested in flood control and feel that five million dollars worth of recognition has been well worth the work given by the many people in the district interested and by myself.

The 17 projects in five counties being carried out under the direction of the Corps of Engineers with WPA represent a real start toward meeting flood and erosion threats. Floods and erosion which only a few years ago could get no federal recognition whatever. I was impatient in 1934 when I told the House of Representatives that our flood control needs were being neglected. At that time I said: "I find that persons tend to minimize floods occurring in distant parts of the nation. I also find that many of my colleagues little know our Pacific Northwest."

This has changed. The needs for flood control are being recognized. The needs of all our rivers were recognized in the original House flood control bill, 8455, for it carried allotments for the Snohomish, Nooksack, Skagit and Stillaguamish rivers.

Adding the flood control bill funds to those already allocated the various counties will participate in funds already available or

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to be made available as follows: Skagit \$3,456,100, Snohomish \$1,366,000, Whatcom \$257,656, Clallam \$63,607, and Jefferson \$79,600. The rivers upon which work will be done include: Nooksack, Whatcom, and Padden creeks, Skagit, Sauk, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Pilchuck, Sol Duc, Bogachiel, Clearwater, Queets, Dosewallips and others.