

\$50,000 approved for Skagit

Congress has approved a \$50,000 funding to the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers for a bank protection project on the Skagit River on the South Skagit Highway about four miles upstream from Sedro-Woolley.

The announcement was made today from Washington, D.C., by Congressman Lloyd Meeds, by telephone with the Skagit Valley Herald.

Skagit County commissioners and engineers had applied for the Corps' aid in the river erosion project. The river is undermining the highway at that point, a short distance east of where the county is currently repairing damage from Deadman's Slough erosion.

The Corps' project requires county participation on a matching basis of an estimated \$40,000 in additional funds. If the project does not run this high, the county money is not expended. The State Department of Conservation is expected to share about 30 per cent of the county's cost.

County Engineer Lloyd Johnson said today the county had not yet been notified of the approval of the application by the Seattle office of the Corps.

The work would call for substantial reinforcement of the river bank where it bends away from the highway. The bank is constantly being eroded at that point and eats into the road bed, said Commissioner Howard Miller.