

SKAGIT RIVER REPORTS/STUDIES/DOCUMENTS ON FLOOD PROJECTS CONSIDERED

As Compiled by Larry J. Kunzler August 11, 2002

PROJECTS	DATE	TITLE
Levees (Setback)	12/11/1897 S 1/8/1898 HD	SURVEY OF SKAGIT RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH TO SEDRO, WASH., Survey (S) by Capt. Harry Taylor, Corps of Engineers {published as House Document #204, 55 th Congress, 2 nd Session} (Levees too close to edge of river.)
Levees (Setback)	12/6/12 PE 1/26/14 S 4/30/14 HD	SKAGIT RIVER, WASH., PE by Major J. B. Cavanaugh, Corps of Engineers, S by same {published as House Document #935, 63 rd Congress, 2 nd Session} (Levees not uniform in construction.)
Levees (Setback)1[1] Bypass	8/26/22	PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL SKAGIT RIVER, by Robert Herzog, Great Northern Railway Company (First proposal for “High Water Relief Channel”)
Flood Warning System Delay Diking Nookachamps Levees for Burlington & Mt. Vernon Form Countywide Flood Conservancy District	3/13/23 1923	STAGE AND VOLUME OF PAST FLOODS IN SKAGIT VALLEY AND ADVISABLE PROTECTIVE MEASURES PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT FLOOD CONTROLLING WORKS, by James E. Stewart, Hydraulic Engineer, U.S.G.S., Tacoma, Washington DRAFT SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD REPORT by James E. Stewart, Hydraulic Engineer, U.S.G.S., Tacoma, Washington, undated, contains additional chapter not found in final report
Prohibit Diking Nookachamps Setback Levees Bypass Dams	1/31/25 PE 12/12/25 HD	SKAGIT RIVER, WASH., PE by Col. W.J. Barden, Corps of Engineers {published as House Document #125, 69 th Congress, 1 st Session}

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Dams Setback Levees Dual Diking System Bypass Dredging	2/8/28 PE 5/19/28 HD	SKAGIT RIVER, WASH., PE by Major Jno. S. Butler, Corps of Engineers {published as House Document #311, 70 th Congress, 1 st Session} “Work done solely for the benefit of navigation would have little or no effect on flood prevention.” Page 14 ¶46
Dams	5/18/28	MEMORANDUM on COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY— CONFERENCE WITH MR. PARKER re potential dam sites in the Skagit Basin and river gages throughout the Northwest, author unknown
Levees Setback Levees	3/17/32	SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL RIVER ENLARGEMENT AND DIKES, by Charles B. Smith
Dams Levees Setback Levees Bypass Flood Warning System	5/18/32	SKAGIT RIVER, WASH., A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF NAVIGATION AND EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT OF ITS WATER POWER, THE CONTROL OF FLOODS, AND THE NEEDS OF IRRIGATION, by Lt. Col. C.L. Sturtevant, Corps of Engineers {published as House Document #187, 73 rd Congress, 2 nd Session} “If a diversion could be effected upstream from Burlington at a reasonable cost, the danger and loss occasioned by floods in the delta area could be eliminated or reduced.” Page 105 ¶294
Dams Bypass Levees Setback Levees	3/29/37 PE	SKAGIT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, WASHINGTON, PE by Lt. Col. H.J. Wild, Corps of Engineers “After careful study of the proposed Avon By-Pass the Department (Washington Dept. of Health) states that, “This department feels it would not be detrimental to the public health to allow the construction of the Avon By-Pass.” Page 50 ¶114
Dams Bypass Levees Setback Levees	7/30/40 S	SKAGIT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, WASHINGTON, S by Col. B.C. Dunn, Corps of Engineers Re Setback Levees: “It is estimated that a channel from Sedro-Woolley to Skagit Bay via the North fork of Skagit River, adequate to carry safely a discharge of 220,000 cfs would require the excavation of approximately 56,000,000 cubic yards of material and the acquisition of about 3,000 acres of agricultural land for right-of-way.” Page 47 ¶103

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Dams Bypass Levees Dredging the Mouth Dredging	2/21/52 S	SKAGIT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, WASHINGTON, S by Col. John Buehler, Corps of Engineers {not published, transmitted to Congress 11/28/56} “Local interest have stated that the bed of the Skagit River is rising to the extent that flood stages are higher now than in the past.” Corp sounded river in 1930. Again in 1950. “Average river-bottom profiles were drawn and it was found that no significant over-all change had taken place in the river channels in the past 20 years. ... a condition of stability or equilibrium has been reached. ... it is believed that any lowering of the river bottom by dredging would merely be temporary.” Page 40 ¶25
Dredging	1/18/63 PR	SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON (NAVIGATION), Preliminary Report (PR) on dredging barge channel to Concrete, by Col. Ernst Perry, Corps of Engineers 6 feet deep, 100 feet wide Annual dredging of 380,000 cu yds
Bypass Dredging Dredging Mouth of River Setback Levees	11/63 RR 9/25/64 SUP	AVON BYPASS, SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON, REACTIVATION REPORT (RR), with SUPPLEMENT (SUP) TO NPS REACTIVATION REPORT OF NOVEMBER 1963, Corps of Engineers Dredging: “Deepening the Skagit River to carry flood flows is not feasible. Substantial deepening of the river to carry flood flows would undermine existing levees along the river bank.” Page 6 ¶16 Dredging the mouth: “...would lower flood stages slightly for a short distance upstream from the mouth of the river, but would not provide flood protection for the upper delta in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon and Burlington.” Page 6 ¶18
Levees Setback Levees Bypass Dams Dredging Dredging the Mouth	3/1/65	SKAGIT RIVER BASIN, WASHINGTON, FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS by Colonel C.C. Holbrook, Corps of Engineers Setback Levees: “To achieve the same results as the Bypass and levee and channel improvements would produce, the channel would have to be widened from 300 to 600 feet from the downstream limits of Sedro-Woolley to the mouth of the river, a distance of over 20 miles.” Page 39 ¶51

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Levees (Raising) Setback Levees Bypass Dredging Dredging the Mouth	3/1/66	SUPPLEMENT TO REVIEW REPORT ON FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON, Corps of Engineer “Major raising of the levee system was found uneconomical. Cost would exceed \$28,000,000.” Page 6 ¶9b. More than cost of Bypass (\$23,000,000)
Levees (Raising) Setback Levees Bypass Dams Dredging Dredging the Mouth	8/30/66	AVON BYPASS, SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON, DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 1, SITE SELECTION, Corps of Engineers
Dams (Additional Upper Baker Storage) Floodplain Management	3/1/65 IRR 8/30/66 HD	SKAGIT RIVER, WASH., Interim Review Report (IRR) by Colonel C.C. Holbrook, Corps of Engineers {published as House Document #483, 89 th Congress, 2 nd Session}
Dams Bypass Levees Floodplain Management	6/1/71	COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF WATER AND RELATED LAND RESOURCES, PUGET SOUND AND ADJACENT WATERS, STATE OF WASHINGTON, Summary Report and 15 Appendices bound separately, by Puget Sound Task Force of the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission
Levees (Raising) Setback Levees Dams Bypass Floodplain Management Dredging	4/30/79	DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, SKAGIT RIVER LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, Corps of Engineers Re Floodplain Management: “...was determined to be not economically feasible or politically or socially acceptable.” Page 114 ¶6:04.1 Re Dredging: “Investigation of dredging was conducted to sufficient level of detail to determine that the desired levels of flood protection could not be provided by dredging alone and that a combination of dredging and levee construction to provide desired levels is significantly more costly than levee construction alone.” Page 115 ¶6:04.2



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Levees (Raising) Levees (Overtopping) Bypass	5/1/93	DRAT RECONNAISSANCE REPORT, SKAGIT RIVER, WASHINGTON, FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDY, Draft #2, Corps of Engineers {Final Draft}