

PORT OF SKAGIT COUNTY

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COMMISSIONERS:

Roger Pederson
S. S. McIntyre, Jr.
C. T. Magin

July 14, 1977

MANAGER:

Richard A. Andersen

Colonel John A. Poteat, District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
4735 E. Marginal Way
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Colonel Poteat:

Reference is made to your letter of July 11 relative to your public notice for project deauthorization of the Avon Bypass, Skagit River, Washington.

The Port Commissioners do concur that the Avon Bypass project should be dropped. The proposal to cut through the valuable farm lands of the Skagit Delta is very hard to support.

We wish to specifically point out to you, however, that the proposed upgrading of levees on the Skagit River from I-5 at Mount Vernon to Skagit Bay and your suggested release of flood control storage on the upper Baker Dam leave a great deal to be desired. Frankly, the purpose is far inadequate.

We recognize these are authorized projects, however, the projects do not address themselves to the full problem. There must be an action that can be approved by Congress that would release the pressure of the river at Skagit Bay. The river is silting between Skagit Bay and Mount Vernon. The raising of the bottom from siltation increases the danger every year from a major disastrous flood of the Skagit Delta.

If the Skagit River leaves its bed at any point between Concrete and Skagit Bay, you can be assured there are going to be thousands of people running for high ground and there will be a severe loss to property and possibly lives. You will recall the number of cows we had to pull out of the water during the Snohomish River flood of 1975. Skagit County is one of the largest dairy areas in the State--far exceeding Snohomish County.

The danger of loss from river flooding is very real and we look forward to seeing General Peel and yourself up here in the early fall

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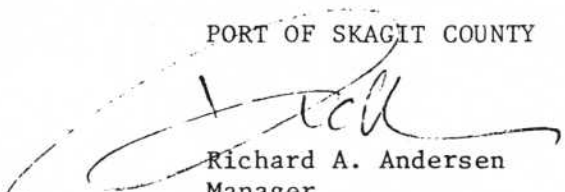
to make a personal inspection of the river and understand its strength.
Remember, next to the Columbia River, this is the second largest river in
the State and nothing has been done to truly control the flow.

It was good to see you again in Astoria.

Kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

PORT OF SKAGIT COUNTY



Richard A. Andersen
Manager

RAA:BK
Enclosure: Resolution 77-16
cc: Port Commissioners

P 002456

RESOLUTION 77-16

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4 A RESOLUTION having to do with the
5 designation of the Skagit River as a "Wild
6 and Scenic River."

7 WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the PORT OF SKAGIT
8 COUNTY have stated concern about the dangers of flooding of
9 property along the Skagit River; and,

10 WHEREAS, the Port Commissioners acknowledge the
11 efforts of the County of Skagit and concur with the Skagit
12 Conservation District for their efforts in the matter of
13 improved flood control; and,

14 WHEREAS, the Port Commissioners of the Port of Skagit
15 County consider the present efforts to include the Skagit River
16 under the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," without adequate pro-
17 tection for the vital and invaluable farm lands along the river
18 and on the Skagit River Delta to be a grave error; and,

19 WHEREAS, the mouth or west end of the Skagit River
20 does not have settling basins for silt nor is there a clear
21 channel to the open seas to allow for the free flow of heavy
22 winter flooding or operation of boating on the Skagit River
23 between Skagit Bay up river to Sedro Woolley; and,

24 NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners of the Port of
25 Skagit County do urge the County Commissioners, the U. S. Corps
26 of Engineers, the U. S. Department of Interior, the Governor of
27 the State of Washington and any other appropriate agency, to not
28 consider the river west of the Town of Concrete to the River mouth
29 as a "Wild and Scenic River Designation", but to develop a sub-
30 stantial plan for clearing debris, raising the levees from the
31 Town of Concrete on the East to the Skagit Bay on the West, to
32 seventy-five year flood level, establishing settling basins for

1 river silt and clearing a direct route for the river at its
2 entrance into Skagit Bay, including regular maintenance dredging
3 at the earliest possible date.

4 ADOPTED in open session, this 13th day of July, 1977,
5 and duly authenticated by the signatures affixed below.

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PORT OF SKAGIT COUNTY

By *S. S. McIntyre, Jr.*
S. S. McIntyre, Jr., President

By *R. E. Pederson*
R. E. Pederson, Secretary

By *C. T. Magin*
C. T. Magin, Commissioner

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