



NPSEN-PL-RP

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PO BOX C-3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124

J. B. A.
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SEP 6 1977

SKAGIT COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

31 AUG 1977

Howard Miller, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Skagit County Courthouse, Room 102
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mr. Miller:

We are involved in advance engineering and design studies of the Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvements Project. The project involves raising and strengthening existing levees downstream from Burlington, Washington, and making minor channel improvements to increase channel capacities.

There has been extensive development in the Burlington-Sedro Woolley area since our flood control studies in 1964, and flood protection for this area now appears to be urgently needed. Studies for flood protection for the Burlington-Sedro Woolley urban areas could be accomplished as an integral part of the Levee and Channel Improvement Project. However, our authority for the current study does not include the Burlington-Sedro Woolley area.

Four miles of levee improvement and extension between Burlington and Sedro Woolley were authorized by Congress in 1936 as part of the Avon Bypass Project. We believe that the most expeditious way to provide levees for flood protection for the Burlington-Sedro Woolley area would be through the 1936 authorization.

The Avon Bypass project has been in a deferred category since March 1972. We are now seeking approval from our higher authority to reclassify the project to an active status so that funding can be requested for a study of the levee portion of the project. In order to support our request for reclassification to an active status, we ask that you provide us with a letter of intent to sponsor the levee improvement and extension portion of the

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Howard Miller, Chairman

Avon Bypass project between Burlington and Sedro Woolley. The letter should also include reaffirmation of your support as stated in your 8 May 1975 letter for the Levee and Channel Improvement Project.

Attached are the items of local cooperation that are required for sponsorship of the levees. Skagit County would have to provide the non-Federal portion of the project costs, which include: lands, easements, rights-of-way, and modifications of roads and utilities necessary to permit the project to proceed.

As you know, we have asked for comments regarding possible deauthorization of the Avon Bypass project. This procedure is required for any authorized project, such as the Avon Bypass, for which funding from Congress has not been received for the previous eight years. Your letter asking that the Avon Bypass project not be deauthorized is appreciated.

We would appreciate a response at an early date. If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact me, telephone (206) 764-3690, or Mr. Vernon Cook, Project Manager (206) 764-3455, or Mr. Raymond Skrinde, Chief, Regional Planning Section (206) 764-3604.

Sincerely yours,



JOHN J. TERPSTRA, JR.
Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Acting District Engineer

1 Incl
As stated

Copy furnished w/incl:
Lloyd Johnson, P.E.,
Skagit County Engineer
Skagit County Courthouse
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

ITEMS OF LOCAL SPONSORSHIP

a. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way, including suitable borrow areas as determined by the Chief of Engineers to be necessary for the construction of the project;

b. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works, not including damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors;

c. Maintain and operate all the works after completion, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army;

d. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary relocations and all modifications of roads and utilities;

e. Prescribe and enforce regulations to prevent obstruction or encroachment on channels and interior ponding areas, including those drainage channels and low areas behind the line of protection which would reduce their flood-carrying capacity or hinder maintenance and operation;

f. Publicize flood plain information in the areas concerned and provide this information to zoning and other regulatory agencies for their guidance and leadership in preventing unwise future development in the flood plain and in adapting such regulations as may be necessary to insure compatibility between future development and protection levels provided by the project; and

g. At least annually, inform affected interests regarding the limitation of the protection afforded by the project.

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