

City of **Mount**

Engineering Department

Post Office Box 809 **Vernon**, Washington 98273 • Telephone 336-6204

June 16, 1988

Mr. Walter L. Farrar, P.E.
Assistant Chief, Planning Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle Branch
Post Office Box C-3755
Seattle, Washington 98124

Dear Mr. Farrar:

As you are aware, back in the 1970's a Skagit River lower levee project was proposed which would improve the rural dikes to a 50 year protection standard and the urban dikes in Burlington and Mount Vernon to a 500 year protection standard. A County-wide advisory election was held and the proposal was overwhelming rejected. It has come to the attention of the City of Mount Vernon that the Congressional Authorization for the levee project is scheduled to expire in 1992. Since the advisory ballot, the citizens of Mount Vernon have had to contend with the costs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Program as well as the increased costs necessary to construct structures within the floodplain. Because of the increased burden on property owners within the floodplain and the impending expiration of Congressional Authorization for the levee project, it seems wise to re-evaluate a structural solution to prevent flooding. Because of the one-sided results at the polls, Skagit County is not interested in pursuing a County-wide solution at this time. However, the City of Mount Vernon wishes to see if there is interest in exploring the feasibility of a project which would provide flood protection primarily for the Mount Vernon segment of the levee system.

The City would like to meet with representatives of the potentially affected Dike Districts and the Corps of Engineers to further discuss this possibility. A meeting has been scheduled for the July 6th City Council Study Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom on the second floor of City Hall, 320 Broadway, Mount Vernon, Washington.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please call me at 336-6204.

Very truly yours,



John C. Wiseman, P.E.
City Engineer

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