

9 November 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee Project - Meeting to Discuss Interior Drainage

1. On 6 November 1978 a meeting was held in the Large Engineering Conference Room to discuss interior drainage in the Skagit Project. The following were in attendance:

Bob Frey	Real Estate Division
Larry Scudder	Civil Design Section
Vern Cook	Design Branch
Dick Regan	Hydraulics Section
Larry Merkle	Hydrology Section
Wayne Wagner	Hydrology Section
<u>Forest Brooks</u>	<u>Regional Planning Section</u>
Bill McKinley	Regional Planning Section
Don Thompson	Economic and Social Evaluation Section
Gerry Gardner	Flood Plain Management Section

2. I began the meeting by recounting a telephone conversation I had had with Gary McMichael of NPD regarding how the interior drainage was treated in the Yakima-Union Gap Report. The project levees were designed for the 200-year event, and the interior drainage handled was the 100-year event. There were about 10 areas where ponding would occur against the levee. Of these ten, the county already controlled the lands for 9 of them. The tenth was located on the downstream end of the project on the left bank. At that location, the county was required to obtain the land for the ponding area.

3. We then discussed the rural levee areas. Increasing the level of protection for the existing levees to 50-year level will not significantly alter the existing interior drainage. The areas which are presently used for ponding will continue to be used in the future. The present pumping system will continue in operation. The flooding that is caused by the interior drainage will generally last for only a short time and will be very shallow. We do not anticipate that significant damages will be caused by this ponding. Since we are only providing 50-year protection, the agricultural flood plain zoning will remain the same, and future development will not occur that could preclude the use of the ponding area. We will show the approximate extent of these areas on the maps in the hydrology appendix, and, since the project will not significantly aggravate the existing conditions, no other measures will be required.

P004825

9 November 1978

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4. We discussed the **Carpenter Creek/Fisher Slough problem** separate from the rest of the rural areas. It appeared that there are three options for the interior drainage at Fisher Slough:

a. Rebuild the floodgates on Fisher Slough and do nothing to the creek levees.

b. Improve the creek levees as necessary to handle the 50-year Skagit backwater and remove the floodgates.

c. Rebuild the floodgates in Fisher Slough, improve the creek levees as necessary to handle the Carpenter Creek flow, and add a controlled ponding area.

We are presently having the A/E contractor obtain cross sections of Carpenter Creek so that Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch can determine the existing capacity of the levees and effects of a 50-year Carpenter Creek flood. Depending upon the damages experienced by a 50-year Carpenter Creek flood, the least cost option listed above will be selected for the plan. **As in the other rural areas, the project itself will not change the interior drainage conditions significantly.** Therefore, we will probably treat Carpenter Creek interior drainage the same as the rest of the rural areas.

5. In discussing the urban areas, it was decided that, in general, the urban levee improvement would not change the existing drainage condition to any significant degree, and most segments could be treated the same as the rural areas. The exceptions would be where we would be building a dike where none currently exists. At three locations (West and North Burlington, West and South Mount Vernon, and Riverbend) we would probably require the local sponsor to obtain flowage easements for the ponding areas. Also the pump station that currently drains the riverside area will have to be raised by the locals. We will also check the residual damages caused by ponding the interior drainage and make sure we are not counting them as project benefits.

6. We then discussed the problem of additional flooding caused riverward of our levees. Mr. Cook related several conversations he had had with Office of Counsel and with Real Estate Division regarding those damages. Based partially on the Kootenai Flats special legislation, Office of Counsel informally feels that **damages riverward of the levee are consequential, and neither the Corps or the local sponsor has liability unless special legislation were to be passed.** However, they asked that a DF be sent to them for a formal opinion. The DF is currently under preparation.

cc:

BROOKS ^{RB}

Attendees

Ch, Plng Br; Ch, F&M Br; Ch, Des Br; Ch, H&H Br; Ch, Real Estate Div;
Ch, RP Sec; Ch, ERS Sec; Ch, E&SE Sec; Ch, FPM Sec; Ch, Civ Des Sec

2

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P004826