

July 13, 2012

Mr. Dan Johnson
Skagit River General Investigation Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

RE: 3FI's comments on Skagit River General Investigation Preliminary Alternatives

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you to you and your team for making time to meet with members of the Farms, Fish and Floods Initiative (3FI) group on May 21, 2012. The 3FI team appreciated hearing from you and your team about the six alternatives that are being proposed as preliminary alternatives for the general investigation.

Given the general nature of the six alternatives, the 3FI group does not wish to specifically comment on any of the six alternatives at this time but would ask your team to consider the mission and goals of the 3FI team as they relate to the Corp's proposed alternatives.

Mission: *To create and advance mutually beneficial strategies that support the long-term viability of agriculture and salmon while reducing the risks of destructive floods*

Goal 1: *Restore estuary habitats and functions in the tidal Skagit Delta needed to meet the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan goal (approximately 2,380 acres is the remainder needed).*

Goal 2: *Reduce the risk of destructive flooding by implementing flood risk reduction alternatives that maximize river and estuary habitats and functions whenever possible and minimize the conversion of farmland.*

Goal 3: *Protect and improve agricultural land base and infrastructure (20,000 acres protected through agricultural easements and drainage structures are maintained and enhanced).*

The 3FI team hopes to meet with you and your team again as you continue to refine and focus the proposed alternatives for the general investigation and look forward to engaging with you as you move further in the design process. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully submitted by the 3FI oversight team,

Allen Rozema
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland

Brian Williams
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dan Berentsen
Skagit County Public Works

Daryl Hamburg
Skagit County Dike District 17

Kevin Morse and Bob Carey
The Nature Conservancy

Mike Shelby
Western Washington Agricultural Association

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