

27 May 1981

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Delta Floodways - HEC Density Floodway Study; Telecon Logs

1. On 22 May 1981, Chuck Steele, Region X - FEMA, called to determine what we should do next about the Skagit delta floodways. I told Steele that Bob Schofield, Skagit County Planning Director, was not happy at being "bypassed" by FEMA (Edens) working with the Skagit River Flood Control Committee (SRFCC); Schofield will ask the Council to give the Planning Department a leadership role in the Committee.
2. I told Steele that we are planning to prepare a "horse" floodway plan to submit through FEMA to the SRFCC to get the process started. He like the idea and suggested we get the help of HEC, since Al Montalvo has been doing a "density floodway" study for FEMA and should have some smarts on floodway problems.
3. On 26 May 1981, I called (8-448-3285) Montalvo, who is completing a study for FEMA to determine whether hydraulic analyses can be used to evaluate a density floodway. The study has developed an approximate method, using graphs; and a detailed method using an option in the HEC II program. The report includes requirements to restrict depth and velocity (after encroachment). The limit is 2 feet in overbank for the approximate method, and 3 feet for the detailed method, with depth times velocity limited to 4. These severe limits were imposed by Bill Eckhard of HEC.
4. FEMA, Washington, D.C., (Brian Morasic, 8-755-5585) financed the study, so Montalvo can't release a draft without FEMA and Eckhard permission. Montalvo says that both FEMA, Washington, D.C., and OCE (Peterson) are opposed to the density floodway concept, although the FEMA regions favor it. FEMA, Washington, D.C., has not allowed the study results to be released to the FEMA regions yet. Opposition to the density floodway apparently stems from fear of creation of islands in the flood plain.
5. I asked Montalvo if HEC would be interested in helping FEMA and Corps to solve the Skagit delta floodway problem. He said that the Special Assistance Branch of HEC (Eckhard, acting head) would be the group to handle it. They will provide a cost estimate in response to a statement of work. He would be willing to meet with FEMA, Corps and locals to discuss the problems and possible solutions that could be used to prepare a Statement of Work.
6. On 26 May 81, I called Morasic and asked for approval to get an advance copy of the report from HEC. He agreed, provided we do not claim the density floodway method ~~which~~ is acceptable to FEMA since they have not adopted it. He will call HEC and ask them to send us a copy.

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7. On 27 May 1981, I called Montalvo, HEC, who had me talk to his boss, Vern Bonner. Bonner was reluctant to turn loose of the report at this stage, but I convinced him. If Eckhard approved, he will send. I suggested to Spurlock that we try to get all parties together to solve the Skagit problem. I can't do it because I am fully occupied in completing the Flood Insurance Studies. Spurlock can't handle it because of the dam safety effort and suggested Greg Polt, FEMA, Seattle, as possible coordinator. He will contact Polt.

GARDNER

cc:

Regan

Farrar

*WJ7/BROOKS/RP file*