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SKAGIT COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN.

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April 5, 2002

Commissioner Ted Anderson  
Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt  
Commissioner Don Munks  
Administration Bldg.  
700 South Second, Rm. 202  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

SUBJECT: Support for Skagit County Flood protection Project

Commissioners:

In accordance with your recent request, the Mount Vernon City Council recently voiced its support for Skagit County's efforts to address flooding problems within the County, through the adoption of Resolution No. 596. I have enclosed herewith a copy of that Resolution.

On behalf of the City, please allow me to extend our appreciation for addressing this most serious threat to public health and safety. We look forward to working with you and County staff in the future on this matter.

Sincerely,



SCOTT G. THOMAS  
City Attorney  
enclosure

cc: Chal Martin  
Mayor Richendrfer

## RESOLUTION NO.596

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR THE SKAGIT COUNTY FLOOD PROTECTION SALMON RESTORATION PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, in response to the significant flood events of 1990 and 1995 Skagit County initiated a study with the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the alternatives to provide flood protection to the lower Skagit River Delta, and

**WHEREAS**, a major component of the first phase of this study was the development of a sophisticated riverine hydraulic and floodplain model to determine the level of protection provided by the existing levee system and magnitude of damages that would occur in the event of a 100-year flood, and

**WHEREAS**, the result of this model confirmed the existing levee system is inadequate to handle a large flood event, leaving the urban and rural areas of the Skagit River Delta exposed to the greatest flood disaster potential on the entire west coast of the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, a stakeholder group of Federal and State Resource agencies, Local Diking Districts, City Representatives and property owners formed as the Skagit River Working Group and recommended flood control alternatives to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners, and

**WHEREAS**, the Skagit River Working Group utilized information from the study effort to evaluate the various alternatives and reached consensus that two alternatives known as the Diversion Channel and Setback Levees should be studied for possible construction, being in the best interests of the people of Skagit County, and

**WHEREAS**, Federal and State Resource Agencies have opposed the Diversion Channel option, focusing on the more expensive levee setback option and levee overtopping, and have requested numerous studies on the environmental effects of a wider range of alternatives than recommended by the Skagit River Working Group, and

**WHEREAS**, expensive and unfocused environmental study will cause project delay and ultimately bankrupt project funding, resulting in zero additional flood protection for the Skagit River Delta, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners officially adopted the Diversion Channel as the preferred alternative in order to focus the limited resources of the County toward achieving 100-year flood protection for the people of Skagit County while simultaneously achieving salmon habitat restoration;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon City Council recognizes:

- the tremendous flood risk associated with the Skagit River,


- the real potential for loss of life,
- the catastrophic consequences should a large flood event occur,
- that limited fund sources exist to ensure adequate environmental evaluation and design, and
- that a unique opportunity exists to provide both 100-year flood protection for Mount Vernon while simultaneously providing new salmon habitat for all citizens, and
- that project environmental studies are essential but must be focused on realistic construction options to conserve limited taxpayer resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Mount Vernon supports the efforts of Skagit County and the Army Corps of Engineers and further requests the help and support of all elected Federal and State officials representing the City to move this project to a timely and successful completion.

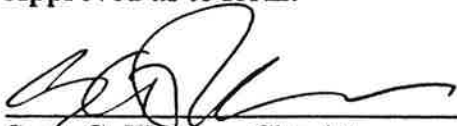
**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon at a regular meeting held on the 6th day of March, 2002.

  
 SKYE K. RICHENDRFER, Mayor

Attest:

  
 MARK S. KNOWLES, Finance Director

Approved as to form:

  
 Scott G. Thomas, City Attorney

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