

Flood Control Zone District
Advisory Committee
County Administration Building
Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

September 22, 2008

Skagit County Board of Commissioners
1800 Continental Place,
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: City of Burlington Flood Control Project

Dear Commissioners:

On June 16, 2008 the Skagit County Board of Commissioners (BCC) sent a letter (copy attached) to Ed Brunz, Mayor of the City of Burlington (City), requesting that the City present its conceptual levee improvement proposal to the Flood Control Zone District's Advisory Committee (AC). Chal Martin, Burlington's Public Works Director, made such a presentation to the AC at its 9/15/2008 monthly meeting. The June 16th letter further requested that the AC consider and make a recommendation on the City's proposal.

The purpose of this letter is to advise BCC that the AC discussed the City proposal following the presentation and determined it needed clarification as to the type of recommendation the BCC is expecting. The County is only in the preliminary stages of updating the 1989 Skagit County Comprehensive Flood Control Management Plan and this project has not yet been integrated and prioritized. The proposed Burlington project is not specifically identified in the 1989 plan, but the flood risk to properties protected by levees is certainly identified as a general problem.

The AC understands that the City of Burlington has requested the County participate as SEPA co-lead on a phased environmental review of the City's flood protection and land use project. Is the BCC asking the AC to evaluate the Burlington levee proposal?

The AC appreciated the City presentation and understands that it and other cities and dike districts feel it necessary to move forward with measures that reduce flood risk. We hope to support those endeavors in a coordinated and comprehensive manner in so much as it is possible.

The AC awaits further direction from the BCC.

Sincerely



Robert C. Boudinot, P.E.
Chairman



SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DON MUNKS, First District
KENNETH A. DAHLSTEDT, Second District
SHARON D. DILLON, Third District

June 16, 2008

Mayor Ed Brunz
City of Burlington
833 South Spruce Street
Burlington, WA 98233

**RE: Memorandum of Understanding
Co-lead on Phased Environmental Review**

Mayor Brunz:

We have your letter dated May 13, 2008, requesting that the County participate as co-lead in phased environmental review of a flood protection and land use project. It is our understanding that the City desires to plan for a standalone flood control project for the City of Burlington. As explained to County staff, it is our understanding this would involve levee setback and certification, a ring dike around the City, and a moderate expansion of the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA).

As you are aware, the Board of County Commissioners has charged the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) advisory committee with basin-wide flood control planning. The FCZD advisory group sets up a carefully balanced stakeholder process involving representatives of cities, dike districts, environmental and agricultural groups, business interests, tribes, and state and federal agencies.

The Board of Commissioners intends to heavily rely on recommendations from the FCZD committees in flood planning going forward. Flood control projects within a river basin are necessarily interrelated. Accordingly, it is vitally important that the FCZD body furnish holistic flood control recommendations and plans that work for the entire community.

For these reasons, we would request that the City of Burlington present the concept of its proposal to the FCZD for their discussion, consideration and recommendation prior to County staff taking any action in furtherance of the City's proposal.

By copy of this letter, we are requesting that Public Works Director Voetberg and FCZD Advisory Committee Chair Bob Boudinot assist you in making the necessary arrangements to present the City's conceptual plans to the FCZD advisory body. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



DON MUNKS, Chair



SHARON D. DILLON, Commissioner



KENNETH A. DAHLSTEDT, Commissioner

cc: **Bob Boudinot (Chair, FCZD Advisory Committee)**

James Voetberg

Gary Christensen

Gary Rowe

William Honea