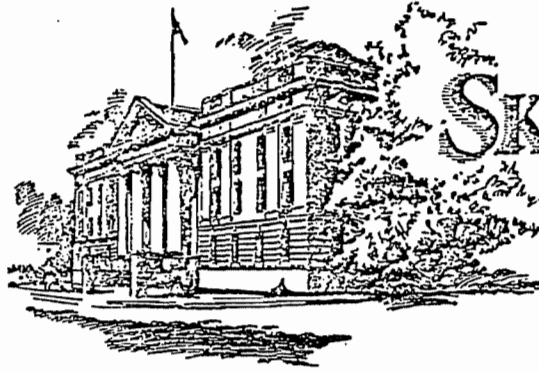


JERRY L. MANSFIELD  
FIRST DISTRICT

BUD NORRIS  
SECOND DISTRICT

HOWARD MILLER  
THIRD DISTRICT



# SKAGIT COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

(206) 336-9300

January 30, 1979

The Honorable Al Swift  
United States Representative  
1511 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Swift:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with Skagit County as local sponsor, is involved in advance engineering and design studies for the Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project. This Project was authorized in 1966 under Section 203 of Public Law 89-789 and provides for raising and strengthening existing Levees downstream from Burlington, Washington (vicinity of the Burlington Northern Bridge) to the River's mouth, to increase channel capacity and provide a higher degree of flood protection on the Skagit River.

Since authorization of the Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project in 1966, extensive development has taken place in the lower Skagit Valley; this growth is expected to continue. A higher degree of protection is now cost effective over a greater area than in 1966. The inclusion of the Sauk River into the Wild and Scenic River Act has virtually eliminated the possibility of up-river storage as a means of flood control for the Skagit Valley. The Levee Project remains as the only acceptable flood protection available. As you are aware, modification of the Levee Project was not passed in the last session of Congress. It is now more important than ever that this legislation be prepared and passed in this session of Congress.

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners requests that you prepare and/or promote, for inclusion in the 1979 omnibus bill, the necessary legislation to modify the authorization of the Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project to include the following items:

1. Authorize the Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project to include all of the Skagit River from the mouth of both the North and South Forks upstream to the City of Sedro Woolley, Washington.
2. Authorize the higher degree of protection now proven to be cost effective by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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3. Authorization of the entire project including the levee extension to Sedro Woolley be modified to incorporate recreation as an additional project purpose.
4. Include legislation authorizing the Federal Government to finance the local cost of the Project for repayment by Skagit County over a 50-year period with appropriate interest.


These provisions would, as you are aware, extend the current project from the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge upstream to Sedro Woolley with one hundred (100) year protection for the urban areas of Mount Vernon and Burlington, and fifty (50) year protection for rural areas downstream of Mount Vernon while incorporating recreation as a project purpose.

It should be noted that the project is not dependent upon the authorization for federally financing the local cost; however, this provision would allow Skagit County to continue the existing level of essential services through sound fiscal management over this extended period of time.

The Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project is the Number One Priority Project for the County and we continue to work closely with the Corps of Engineers who are most cooperative in resolving the flood control needs of Skagit County. Your assistance in facilitating the accomplishments of these efforts would be greatly appreciated.

BOARD OF SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
BUD MORRIS, Chairman

  
HOWARD MILLER, Commissioner

  
JERRY L. MANSFIELD, Commissioner

cc: Colonel John Poteat  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Senator Henry M. Jackson  
Senator Warren G. Magnuson  
Congressman Mike Lowrey  
Congressman Norman Dicks

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