

City of Burlington

Burlington, Washington

February 7, 1961

District Engineer
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
1519 South Alaskan Way
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Sir:

In response to requests contained in your notice of January 6, 1961, concerning flood control in the Skagit River Basin, a study has been made relative to the City of Burlington. The study reveals that no appreciable permanent damage has been sustained by the City of Burlington since 1950, the period covered by your request. However, records reveal that the City sewage system has been temporarily incapacitated at times when the river height reached approximately 20 feet at Mount Vernon. At approximately this height the river closes the sewage outflow gates, and no sewage can escape until the river has receded. This situation stagnates sewage within the City and endangers health and property.

Predicted effects upon the populace, industry, business, real estate and utilities, in case the river is not contained within its banks, pose a much more serious problem, deserving a timely solution, and actual accomplishment of remedial action.

A relief map of Burlington shows approximately equal elevations throughout the City, therefore, the Skagit, when out of its banks in this area, would almost completely inundate the City, with resultant loss of, or serious detrimental effects upon, the following:

Municipal real property	\$ 225,000
Municipal pay roll(annual)	88,000
Streets	180,000
Sewer Systems	518,000
Equipment	50,000
Private real property	10,500,000
Personal property	1,700,000
Industry--covered by sepearate reports	
Water, gas, electric and telephone utilities covered by sepearate reports.	

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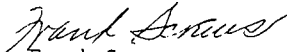
The industrial and business pay roll within the City has not been computed, however, it has been determined that business and industry in Burlington serves a substantial surrounding area. The magnitude of the retail establishment in Burlington per capita is comparable to that of larger cities in the area with large regional draw of shoppers.

No specific recommendations can be made by the City of Burlington concerning the relative merits of the various methods of controlling floods in the Skagit

Basin. However, it is believed that sufficient control, by dams, spillways or dikes should be provided to eliminate apprehension on the part of prospective industry, business or individuals, which might contemplate establishment in Burlington, or surrounding Basin area.

There appears to be a general attitude of willingness to provide local cooperation in flood control measures, particularly in the case of residents and business men who have acquainted themselves with potential dangers associated with extreme conditions, such as 50 year and 200 year floods. However, the magnitude of specific and detailed local financial support will not be known until the problem is officially submitted to the populace for their determination. The results of such determination will depend largely upon education of the Voters in this matter. The City Administration will actively participate in such a program.

Very truly yours,


Frank Screws
City Supervisor