

May 29, 1979

Skagit County Flood Control Council
Skagit County,
Washington

Re: Skagit County Public Hearing

Dear Council Member:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have scheduled a public hearing on the Skagit River Levee Project at 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 19, 1979 in the Skagit County Administration Building. It is very important that the Council have a positive input at this hearing.

The Skagit County Flood Control Council President has directed me to call a special meeting of the officers and directors to discuss the input the Council will make at this hearing. The special meeting will be held in the Flood Control Office, Skagit County Administration Building at 7:30 P. M. on Thursday, May 31, 1979. Please try to attend.

Thank you.

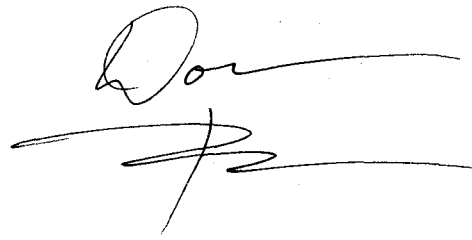
Respectfully,

DONALD E. NELSON
Secretary

DEN/mjb

COPY

Letter to each

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a flourish underneath.

Mr. Peter Walker
President
Commissioner, Dike District #12
1265 McLean Road
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Mr. Owen Tronsdal
Vice President
Commissioner, Dike District #3
Conway, Washington 98238

Mr. Donald Nelson
Secretary
Skagit County Engineering Department
County Administration Building
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

DIRECTORS

Mr. Bob Hulbert
Skagit County Conservation District
2049 Dry Slough Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Oscar B. Helde
Commissioner, Dike District #1
1446 Jungquist Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Earl Hanson
Commissioner, Dike District #17
2517 Riverbend Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Alfred Tellesbo
Commissioner, Dike District #2
1509 Fir Island Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Bennie Anderson
Commissioner, Dike District #13
1410 Moore Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Lawrence Hoffman
Commissioner, Dike District #15
1197 Maupin Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mr. Lloyd Johnson
1765 Britt Slough Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

SKAGIT RIVER LEVEE PROJECT

May 29, 1979

The Skagit River Levee Project is a joint project between the Federal Government (under the administration of the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers) and Skagit County. The total project cost is about \$55,000,000. About \$5,000,000. of this amount is the responsibility of Skagit County. Skagit County has requested a 50-year loan from the Federal Government for it's portion of the project. The annual payback for this loan would be about \$350,000. per year. Legislation to this effect is now pending in the Congress of the United States.

The Skagit River Levee Project consists of the improvement of 50 some miles of the Skagit River Levee system. This improvement will raise the existing levees from the mouths of the South Fork and North Fork upstream through the cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington to the City of Sedro Woolley.

Rural levees will be earth levees constructed of the approximate location of the existing levees and provide flood protection from floods of 50 year frequency. Urban levees will be earth levees and concrete flood walls providing flood protection from floods 100 year frequency or greater.

This project will provide the City of Mount Vernon with the most protection of any area within the project limits. Almost the entire city will be protected with a concrete flood wall. This flood wall will start at the south city limits and run north along the left bank of the Skagit River to a point between the main building of Stokely Van Camp Cannery then run east between the main building and the wooden storage building, then continue north along the west side of Main Street to the Moose Hall. At this point, the flood wall will continue north across the reventment and become a concrete tilt-up wall. This tilt-up wall will act as a sidewalk in those times of low water and tilt up to become a flood wall at time of flooding. This tilt-up wall will run to the east approach to the west side bridge. A concrete flood wall will continue north to the Lions' Park and again become a tilt up wall in front of the Lions' Park.

This system of flood walls will provide the City of Mount Vernon with what is termed "Standard Project Flood Protection". Standard project flood protection is about 500-year flood protection. Flood protection of this magnitude will virtually assure that the City of Mount Vernon will Never be Flooded. The very remote possibility exists that flood of greater than 500-year frequency could occur; however, these flood waters would inundate other areas of the valley and not damage the city.

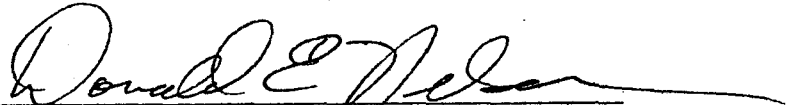
It is to be expected that a project of this size covering such a large area would have some adverse effects. These adverse effects will occur primarily in the Nookachamps, Clear Lake area. These adverse damages will be mitigated with individual flood protection, flood proofing, or flow easements at the expense of the Federal Government and Skagit County.

On June 19, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. in the Skagit County Administration Building, a public hearing on this project will be held.

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May 29, 1979
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Testimony for and against this project will be taken at that time. With the tight money policy now present in Washington, D.C., it is necessary that strong support of this project is forthcoming at this hearing, especially from that area receiving the most protection, the City of Mount Vernon. The support of the MountVernon Chamber of Commerce will be of considerable benefit.

NOTE: This is a thumb-nail sketch of the Skagit River Levee Project.
I can provide you with considerable more detail should you need it.


DONALD E. NELSON
Section Manager -
Flood Control

DEN:bjs

SKAGIT COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL COUNCIL

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 1979

President Pete Walker called the meeting to order.

Those present were:

President-Pete Walker
Vice President-Owen Tronsdal
Secretary-Donald Nelson
Director-Lawrence Hoffman
Director-Alfred Tellesbo

This special meeting was called to prepare the Council for the upcoming Army Corps of Engineer Hearing on June 19, 1979 and to prepare for the general meeting of the Council on June 6, 1979.

Mr. Nelson reviewed the changes that have taken place in the last few weeks regarding the Levee Project. Mr. Nelson addressed the change in Federal Policy regarding induced damages. The Federal Policy is a cost share on midigation of induced damages at the project ratio of 80% Federal and 20% local cost. Previously, the Federal Government had called these damages consequential damages and not the responsibility of the Federal Government. Another substantial change was the elimination of the weir between Burlington and Sedro Woolley. The Corps has determined the weir was acting as an erosion control device. A much less expensive sheet pile structure can be constructed at a location north of State Highway 20, which will accomplish erosion control and not allow a channel change of the Skagit River into the Samish River Basin. This possibility exists under present conditions in those times of high frequency (100 year) flooding.

It was discussed and agreed that the Council would hold a general meeting on June 6, 1979 and request a motion to make a positive statement in favor of the project as presented.

It was also agreed that the Dike District Commissioners would make statements supporting the project. (These statements need not be lengthly and can merely state that the District is in favor of the project and support it as presented.)

A discussion was held regarding the financial support of the Dike Districts to the Levee Project. It was generally agreed that this should be done. That a uniform rate of assessment would be necessary. Mr. Nelson stated that a letter from the Council to the Skagit County Commissioners was in order. It was agreed to bring this issue before the general meeting of the Council at the June 6th meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

General meeting of the Skagit County Flood Control Council on Wednesday, June 6, 1979 at 7:30 p.m., in the Skagit County Administration Building, Hearing Room "C".

DONALD E. NELSON
Secretary

DEN;bjs