

REPORT AND FINDINGS

SKAGIT FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOUNDARY COMMISSION

(Under provisions of Chap. 180, Laws of 1935)

This Commission, having been duly appointed, met in the office of the Department of Conservation and Development at Olympia, Washington, on the 3rd day of June, 1935.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the feasibility of the proposed Skagit Flood Control District and all other matters pertaining thereto as prescribed by law.

Feasibility

In considering the feasibility of the project the Commission had before it, and made part of its record, the report of Mr. B. H. Allen, prepared under the direction of the Department of Conservation and Development. It deals with the necessity for alleviation of flood conditions in a large portion of Skagit County, proposes means whereby such alleviation may be attained and shows the probable cost of the necessary improvements. The report recommends dredging of the several branches of the Skagit River through the delta to facilitate more ready escape of flood waters; channel changes to straighten the course of the river between Lyman and the vicinity of Mount Vernon; revetment of exposed and eroding banks of the Skagit River and its branches, the Sauk and Cascade rivers and of Friday and Day creeks; removal of snags and drift in Samish River between Allen and the Whatcom County line, in Skagit River between Marblemount and the mouth and in Nookachamps, Day, Finney and Friday creeks. Mr. Allen also recommends the building of a cut-off ditch from Sullivan Slough west to Swinomish Slough and the widening of an intercepting ditch from Carpenter Creek southerly for 4 miles together with bridges and other appurtenant structures.

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The cost of proposed improvements is estimated at \$2,126,852. Assessed valuation of the property within the proposed district is approximately \$16,930,000. Thus the cost of the proposed improvements equals approximately 14% of the assessed valuation.

The average annual damage from floods within the proposed district is large but the exact amount unknown. During the winter of 1933-34 the territory suffered damages in excess of \$600,000. Greater damage has been suffered in other years. It is believed that the average annual damage is sufficient to more than justify the proposed expenditure. The area to be protected is one of the most fertile and productive in the State and the larger portion thereof is highly improved and fairly densely populated. Important lines of travel and communication traverse the area and interruption of traffic over them is inconvenient and costly to local and statewide interests. Losses of land by bank erosion has during the past few years amounted to hundreds of acres, involving an economic public loss not measurable in money.

The plans proposed by the Department of Conservation and Development appear practical and adequate and are adopted by this Commission. The cost seems reasonable when compared with the anticipated benefits. The Commission therefore concludes that the project is feasible.

Financial Plan.

With an assessed valuation of \$16,930,000 it would be lawful for the district to create an indebtedness of approximately \$508,000, equal to a little over 21% of the estimated cost. In addition thereto the district may raise by levy approximately \$34,000 annually, or with the consent of a majority of the voters, approximately \$85,000. It would appear therefore that by levy and a bond issue the district may provide approximately one quarter of the amount required for

initial construction.

The balance would have to be obtained elsewhere. For the present it must suffice to state that it is hoped 25% of the cost may be obtained from the State and 50% from Federal funds, if and when such funds become available, and the district should proceed on that theory.

It is recommended that further proceedings for the formation of this district be had as early as possible.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, this 26th day of August, 1935.

SKAGIT FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION

E. J. Bauer
Director Dept. of Conservation & Development

Chas. Lorchard
Supervisor of Hydraulics

Director of Highways

Arvid Nelson
Member of State Planning Council

✓ Granville E. Dixon
Representative of Region Affected