

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,)	
)	DOCKET TR-070696
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PREFILED WRITTEN
)	TESTIMONY OF MARK
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON)	WATKINSON
)	
Respondent.)	
And)	
)	
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON)	
STATE DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION, and WEST)	
VALLEY FARMS, LLC,)	
)	
Intervenors)	
)	
.....)	

- 1 **Q: Please state your name, full job title, and business address.**
- 2 **A: Mark Watkinson, Skagit County Department of Emergency Management**
- 3 **Coordinator, 2911 E. College Way, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.**
- 4

5

6 **Q: How long have you been employed at your current position?**

7 **A:** I have been employed as the Skagit County Department of Emergency
8 Management Coordinator for over 17 years. I have been employed by Skagit County for
9 over 22 years, both in my current capacity, and as an Engineering Technician and Field
10 Engineer for the Skagit County Public Works Department.

11

12 **Q: What are your qualifications?**

13 **A:** Please see the copy of my resume, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and fully
14 incorporated herein by reference.

15

16 **Q: Please describe the nature of your position as Skagit County Department of**
17 **Emergency Management Coordinator.**

18 **A:** Please see the copy of my resume (attached hereto as Exhibit "A"). Please also
19 see the copy of my job description attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and fully incorporated
20 herein by reference.

21

22 **Q: How often does flooding occur in Skagit County?**

23 **A:** Since 1975, flooding has occurred on an average of once every two (2) years in
24 Skagit County. Recent major flood events resulting in Presidential Disaster Declarations
25 occurred in December, 1975; December, 1979; November, 1990 (2 events); November,
26 1995 (2 events); February, 1996; October, 2003; and November, 2006. Since 1815
27 there have been thirty five (35) recorded flood events on the Skagit River. Additional
28 information regarding Skagit River Recorded Discharges from 1815 through 2006,
29 illustrating a total of thirty five (35) flood events since 1815, is attached hereto

PREFILED WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK WATKINSON

30 as Exhibit "C" and incorporated by reference. Additional general information regarding
31 annual flood risk awareness in Skagit County is attached hereto as Exhibit "D" and is
32 incorporated by reference.

33

34 **Q: Can you briefly describe the County's role in this coordinated flood fighting**
35 **efforts?**

36 **A:** Operating under the authority of the Skagit Board of County Commissioners,
37 representatives from the Skagit County Public Works Department, the Skagit County
38 Sheriff's Office, the Skagit County Health Department, and the Skagit County
39 Department of Emergency Management form a Unified Command to oversee a flood
40 fight organization that operates within the Skagit County Emergency Operations Center
41 at 2911 East College Way, Mount Vernon, WA. This group is organized in conformance
42 with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocol and provides public
43 information, collects and disseminates critical incident information to other agencies and
44 jurisdictions, coordinates evacuations and the establishment of emergency shelters,
45 and provides a central point-of-contact for requesting resources needed to conduct flood
46 fight activities for the purpose of protecting life, property, and the environment.

47

48 **Q: In the event of a levee failure in the vicinity of the crossing, what could**
49 **happen?**

50 **A:** Depending on the severity of the failure or breach, the entire area could be
51 inundated with flood water in very short time. Significant property damage, potentially
52 significant injuries, or even loss of life could occur.

53

54

55

56 **Q: In the event of a severe failure of a levee in the vicinity of the crossing, how**
57 **much time would people have to evacuate?**

58 **A:** Depending on the severity of the failure, and depending on the location of the
59 residents in relation to the failure, persons could have anywhere from just a few minutes
60 to several hours to evacuate.

61

62 **Q: Does the County have designated evacuation routes in the event of an**
63 **emergency requiring evacuation (including flooding)?**

64 **A:** Yes, the County does have officially designated emergency evacuation routes.
65 These routes are depicted on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "E" and incorporated
66 by reference. These evacuation routes (and the map) were established prior to 1995.
67 These routes are generally comprised of major roads within the County (with a specific
68 focus on providing multiple points of local access and redundancy). Local access to
69 these evacuation routes in the event of a significant emergency (such as a levee failure)
70 is very important in order to help ensure public safety and order in the event of the need
71 for evacuation. As is evident on the map, the Hickox Road crossing is in direct proximity
72 to one of the most significant evacuation routes in the entire County (I-5). Hickox Road
73 is crucial in providing local access to this evacuation route, and also in providing the
74 most proximate and direct access to higher ground located on the east side of I-5.
75 Hickox Road would be especially important in the event that flooding has rendered other
76 local access roads (such as Dike Road, Britt Road, or West Stackpole Road) impassible.
77 Given the proximity of these local access routes to levee infrastructure, it is possible that
78 these and/or other local access roads could be rendered impassible if flooding occurred
79 in the vicinity of the crossing (either by flood waters and/or by equipment and/or local

PREFILED WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK WATKINSON

80 agency personnel engaged in monitoring, maintaining, repairing, and/or reinforcing the
81 levees). As such, even though Hickox Road is not formally designated as an evacuation
82 route, Hickox Road is nevertheless important and significant in providing local
83 evacuation access and in providing local access for flood fighting efforts. There is a
84 significant public need for the Hickox Road crossing to remain open to provide for such
85 access.

86


87 **Q: What would be the impact on local evacuation and flood fight response if**
88 **the Hickox Road railroad crossing were closed?**

89 **A:** Closure of the Hickox Road railroad crossing would have a negative impact on
90 the ability of local residents to evacuate in the event of an emergency, and it would also
91 have a negative impact on the ability of local agencies to provide flood fight response in
92 the vicinity of the crossing. Closure of the crossing could endanger lives and property,
93 and could pose a significant threat to public health and welfare in the event of a flood
94 emergency. Given the location of the crossing to flood control infrastructure in the area
95 (levees), in the event of a significant flood event other evacuation routes may be blocked
96 by floodwaters, and/or congested with evacuees and/or flood fighting equipment and/or
97 personnel. The Hickox Road crossing also provides a direct route and access to the
98 Meridian Quarry, which is used to obtain flood fighting materials, and lies to the east of
99 the crossing. In light of the forgoing, closure of the Hickox Road crossing would not
100 serve or promote the interest of public safety.

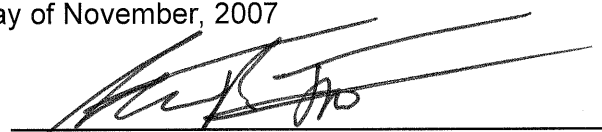
DECLARATION.

I, Mark Watkinson, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the forgoing PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK WATKINSON is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2007


Mark Watkinson

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2007


Stephen R. Fallquist, WSBA # 31678
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division
Skagit County

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Judy Kiesser states and declares as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States of America, over 18 years of age and competent to testify to the matters set forth herein. On November 5th, 2007, I caused to be served by first class mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled PREFILED WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK WATKINSON on the following:

JOHN LI, MANAGER
PUBLIC PROJECTS
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
2454 OCCIDENTAL AVE S, STE 1A
SEATTLE WA 98134-1451

BRADLEY P. SCARP, ESQ.
1218 THIRD AVENUE, 27TH FLOOR
SEATTLE, WA 98101

JONATHAN THOMPSON, AAG
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PO BOX 40128
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0128

GARY T. JONES
JONES & SMITH
PO BOX 1245
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

BRIAN K. SNURE
SNURE LAW OFFICE
612 S 227TH STREET
DES MOINES WA 98198

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L. SCOTT LOCKWOOD, AAG
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PO BOX 40113
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0113

KEVIN ROGERSON
CITY ATTORNEY
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
910 CLEVELAND AVE.,
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

DATED this 5th day of November, 2007.



Judy Kiesser, Legal Assistant

Exhibit No. _____ (MW-2)

EXHIBIT "A"

RESUME OF MARK WATKINSON

**Mark Watkinson
16936 Bradshaw Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

EDUCATION:

Skagit Valley College; Mount Vernon, WA 1982 – 1984
CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY; Associate in Technical Arts Degree with High Honors

University of Puget Sound; Tacoma, WA 1970 – 1975
Major: Geology-Natural Science and Education

Mount Vernon High School; Mount Vernon, WA 1966 – 1970

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

Skagit County Department of Emergency Management: March, 1990 – Present

Primary Responsibilities:

- Maintain an integrated emergency management program for the benefit of local governmental jurisdictions and the citizens of Skagit County.
- Support county and municipal elected officials and agencies in the delivery of disaster response and recovery services to protect life, property, and the environment.
- Develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with local elected and appointed officials.
- Coordinate inter-jurisdictional and inter-agency emergency planning and exercise activities to meet the needs of county and municipal agencies.
- Establish long-term emergency planning goals for the department.
- Insure the operational readiness of the Skagit County Emergency Operations Center.
- Coordinate the compilation and timely submittal of all documents necessary to support the federal disaster declaration process following local emergency events.
- Develop, coordinate, and deliver the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Program within Skagit County for the benefit of the public, schools, and businesses.

Significant Experiences:

- 1992-1994: Served on a state-wide committee to develop the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.
- 1995: Presenter – Washington State Department of Natural Resources Top Management Tour ... Wildland Fires in the Urban Interface – a look at Cascade Ridge, Skagit County.
- 1997: Trainer – Washington State Emergency Management Division Fire Mobilization Tabletop Exercise.
- 2000: Developed and instituted the Skagit County Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Program in partnership with the Mount Vernon Fire Department.
- 2002-2003: Served as the lead project coordinator and plan writer for the Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan – the first multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the State of Washington.
- 2003: Developed a model *Supplemental Justification* document that was distributed state-wide following the 2006 flood and windstorm events for the purpose of obtaining a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- 2004: Presenter – Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, Bellevue, WA Hazard Mitigation and the Community Rating System, the Skagit County Process.

- 2004: Instructor – Washington State Emergency Management Division Emergency Preparedness Course – Hazard Mitigation Planning.
- Coordinated the mobilization and deployment of Skagit County Fire Resources to respond to the following events:
 1. Tye Complex Fire, Chelan County; 1994.
 2. World Trade Organization (W.T.O.) riot, Seattle; 1999.
 3. Leona Complex Fire, Ferry County; 2001.
- Coordinated efforts with county and municipal agencies to obtain Presidential Disaster Declarations for the following events:
 1. 1990 flood events.
 2. 1990 severe wind storm.
 3. 1995 flood events.
 4. 1996 flood.
 5. 1997 severe wind storm and severe snow storm events.
 6. 2001 Nisqually Earthquake.
 7. 2003 flood.
 8. 2006 flood and severe wind storm events.

Skagit County Public Works Department: April, 1985 – March, 1990

Engineering Technician IV, Field Engineer:

- Issue construction permits for work to be performed within county rights-of-way.
- Perform construction inspection to determine compliance with Skagit County Road Standards.
- Maintain computer data base files.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with rural Fire District Chiefs and emergency response dispatching agencies regarding the assigning of addresses in the unincorporated areas of Skagit County.
- Assign new addresses in accordance with Skagit County policy.
- Coordinate and cooperate with local officials regarding address problems along jurisdictional boundaries.
- Participate as a member of the Skagit County Emergency Flood Fight Team.

Engineering Technician III:

- Design various Public Works construction projects.
- Prepare project drawings, plans, specifications, and cost estimates for Public Works construction projects.
- Perform construction and as-built inspections to insure quality control and conformance with contract and county specifications
- Participate as a member of the Skagit County Emergency Flood Fight Team.

Engineering Technician I:

- Perform research related to county rights-of-way, road establishments and vacations.
- Prepare documents for public hearings and presentations to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Maintain a variety of records for the engineering department.
- Assist the public with a variety of issues related to county roads and rights-of-way.
- Assist private engineering/survey firms in researching county engineering records.
- Participate as a member of the Skagit County Emergency Flood Fight Team.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

Throughout the past 17 years I have attended and/or completed numerous training courses; the most significant training courses I have attended are listed below:

- Federal Emergency Management Professional Development Series: Completed April, 1993
- National Fire Protection Association - Fire Service Instructor I: September, 1993
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Train-The-Trainer: November, 1993
- Earthquake Safety Program For Schools: April, 1994
- Community Emergency Response Team Train-The-Trainer: June, 1999
- Emergency Operations Center: September, 1999
- Flood Fight Operations: September, 1999
- Hazardous Materials On-Scene Incident Command: March, 2002
- Hazardous Materials Responder Technician Level: June, 2002
- Disaster Assistance for Local Governments Workshop: June, 2003
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Level: December, 2003
- Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents – Operations Level: February, 2004
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident Command/Unified Command: September, 2004
- National Incident Management System (N.I.M.S.) Training: 2006 – Present
Courses completed: IS-700; IS-100; IS-200; IS-800; I-300; I-400

OTHER TRAINING:

Leadership Skagit

- Member: Class of 2005
- Member: Agriculture Committee, Class of 2006
- Member: A Sense of Place Committee, Class of 2007
- Leadership Skagit Service Award Recipient, 2007

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Skagit County Fire District No. 2

- Volunteer Fire Fighter: 1982 – Present
- Emergency Medical Technician: 1985 – 1997
- Captain and Medical Officer: 1994 – 1997

Skagit Emergency Medical Services Council

- General Council/Commission Member: 1990 – Present
- Executive Board Member: 1992 – 1999

American Red Cross – Skagit Valley Chapter:

- Member – Board of Directors: 1998 – 2000

Boy Scouts of America

- Den Leader: 1995 – 1999
- Assistant Scoutmaster: 1999 – 2002
- Wood Badge Adult Leadership Training Program: 2000

La Conner Booster Club

- Member: 2002 – Present

La Conner Community Coalition

- Member: 2004 – 2006

EXHIBIT "B"

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

**SKAGIT COUNTY
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Position Title: **Coordinator**
Department: Emergency Management
Report To: Director
Occupation Code: 1210
Salary Range: 12

SUMMARY: Works with the Director and other Department of Emergency Management staff as well as other city and County officials, staff and emergency response personnel in planning, organizing, coordinating and conducting activities of the Skagit County Emergency Management Department. Assists in formulating emergency plan contingencies and coordinates with various community agencies to insure an organized and timely delivery of emergency services. Job requires response to hazardous materials incidents, fires and other natural and man-made disasters at various sites throughout the County on an on-call, 24-hour a day basis. Performs a variety of duties to relieve the department head of technical as well as routine administrative detail.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Assists in the planning, organizing, directing, monitoring and controlling the performance of the emergency management department in conformance with objectives, plans, schedules and budgets.

Responds as Incident Commander or part of a United Command to hazardous materials incidents and other natural and human-caused emergencies or disasters throughout Skagit County on an on-call 24 hour a day basis.

Assists in implementing the accomplishment of required Federal and State Emergency Management Programs.

Provides response to fire scenes to conduct cause and origin investigations and compiles fire investigation reports on a weekend duty and/or in the absence of the Fire Marshal and/or the Deputy Fire Marshal.

Meets with Emergency Management Council and Advisory Committee members regarding direction and progress of Emergency Management Program.

Establishes and maintains an effective working relationship with Skagit Emergency Management Council members, other elected officials and appointed officials, agencies, and private industry to facilitate the emergency management program in Skagit County.

Conducts research, plans and writes a variety of emergency plans and documents including but not limited to the Skagit County Emergency Management Plan, the Skagit County Emergency Alert Plan, the Skagit County Fire Mobilization Plan, the Skagit County Local Emergency Planning Committee Plan and the Skagit County Emergency Operation Center Manual and updates these plans as needed.

Assists in the development of other requested local, State and Federal plans.

Provide assistance to local jurisdictions/agencies in the development of other requested local, State, and Federal plans; and in the reviewing of school, hospital, other agency, industry, and company emergency plans as requested.

Attends trainings, professional conferences, seminars, and other meetings to maintain technical certifications and gain new job related information.

Assists in the establishment of a Countywide warning and notification system to include the Emergency Alert System, and in the development of an emergency communications system.

Determines the need for other special warning systems and works with elected officials, government agencies and private industry to provide warning systems to help prevent loss of life during emergency situations.

Organize, oversee, and assist other staff and volunteers in the activation of the Skagit County Emergency Operations Center or on-scene command post for the purposes of coordinating response and recovery operations in an effort to limit loss of life and property damage during emergency or disaster events.

Assists in the administering of the County's SARA Title III Reporting of Extremely Hazardous Substances Program and assists in the updating of the "Skagit County LEPC Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan".

Work with the Director to organize and assist in the design, development, coordination, and implementation of an annual Federally mandated Countywide exercise to test emergency response systems to natural and man-made disasters; and participate in other agency and private industry/company exercises as requested.

Participates in public relations programs; maintains close contact with news media, initiates community interest in emergency preparedness education.

Develop, expand, coordinate, and deliver a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program within Skagit County for Skagit County residents. Encourage the participation of Skagit County and City Employees in the CERT program and provide for the development, training, and coordination of CERT teams.

Develop and update the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis document for the County.

Assists in the establishment and maintenance of a community shelter system and coordinates with welfare agencies and other voluntary groups to develop emergency welfare capabilities for the mass care of people during a disaster or incident.

Assists in the compiling of damage assessment information and supporting documentation for the submittal of a request for assistance to the State for a disaster declaration in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Reviews disasters/incidents to see if there are ways to mitigate future reoccurrence.

Supports local Search and Rescue Programs.

Independently or as directed, initiates correspondence, reports, and other similar matters.

Receives and responds to inquiries from the public, other agencies, or private industry/companies to supply information which is available and known, or direct to proper source.

Helps perform the duties of the Fire Marshal's Office in the absence of the Fire Marshal and/or Deputy Fire Marshal.

Provides secretarial support to the department to include composing and typing departmental materials, assisting in the development of office procedures and filing systems, and developing proper report and correspondence layout, arrangement, grammatical composition, and assures inclusion of all pertinent information from sources.

Prepares agendas, attends meetings, takes meeting minutes and assures proper distribution of minutes.

Assists in planning and organizing work, assigns and checks work of and/or assists and instructs others.

Supervisory:

This position has direct supervisory responsibility over certain full-time employees and occasional volunteer staff.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:

Performs related duties as assigned. *

QUALIFICATIONS:

High School Diploma or G.E.D. Equivalent.

Two-year college degree in emergency management or other related technical field required.

Minimum of 1 – 3 years of experience required.

Specialized training through a community college, technical, vocational, trade or business program required.

Emergency management, fire service and hazardous materials training desired.

The following is preferred or must be completed in a reasonable time frame as established by the Director:

Completion of FEMA Emergency Management Professional Development Series Training.

Completion of 40-Hour Course for Emergency Response to Hazardous Material Incidents.

Completion of Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention Course for the operation of an emergency vehicle sponsored by Washington State Fire Service Training

Completion of Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course

National Fire Academy Fire and Arson Investigation Training or college level equivalent.

Completion of the following hazardous materials training courses:

Awareness Level – 6 Hour training.

Operations Level – 8 Hour training in addition to prior completion of Awareness Level training.

Technician Level – 40 Hour training in addition to completion of Awareness Level and Operations Level training.

An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted which provides the skills, knowledge and abilities to perform the essential functions of the position.

Requires knowledge of:

Local politics such as Board of County Commissioners, Fire Department Commissioners, Dike District Commissioners and City Mayors as well as local major industry organizational systems.

Modern techniques, development, design systems, methods, practices and equipment utilized in emergency management.

The Incident Command System.

Office machines such as typewriters, computer equipment, adding machines and other office equipment.

The principles of fire investigations sufficient to conduct cause and origin investigation in fire districts throughout the County.

Engineering.

* Related duties as required are duties that may not be specifically listed in the Position Description but are within the general occupational series and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's classification of work.

The principles of arson investigation and rules of evidence sufficient to aid the sheriff in efficient investigation and prosecution of arson cases.

Requires the ability to:

Determine the best way to communicate either by e-mail, telephone and/or in person based on the issue, incident or event.

Be conscious of safety and be aware of the level of knowledge of those around you, question their judgment when necessary to prevent serious injury or death to themselves and/or others as well as possible damage to the environment.

Develop and complete a majority of plans and projects undertaken by this office.

Accomplish the necessary tasks and keep a project on line to its completion.

Receive direction from the director and then begin the development of the plan/project.

Keep the Director and the various entities involved and advised as to the progress being made and request further direction is necessary.

Review all plans before being finalized and make revisions if needed.

Cooperatively work with elected officials, fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services and many other agencies to plan and prepare for a variety of emergency events that could adversely impact the community.

Coordinate with a wide variety of governmental agencies, private businesses and industries and non profit groups to effectively respond to the emergency event to protect lives and property and then continue to coordinate and manage the recovery efforts which may extend for several months or even years after the event.

Analyze a situation to determine if response plans or strategies should be changed to more effectively and efficiently utilize available resources and better address the needs of the public.

Effectively write technical plans and documents that can be easily understood and put into place.

Educate coworkers and the public to be better prepared to survive and deal with the effects of catastrophic disasters.

Self motivated and follow through tasks to completion.

Organize and manage a variety of projects and tasks simultaneously.

Consider the overall consequences of actions decided upon while at the same time continuing to focus on specific issues or problems that need to be considered.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with officials, other employees and the general public.

Prepare comprehensive reports, budgets, departmental materials and correspondence.

Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

Quickly coordinate and direct emergency response to flooding, hazardous material incidents, and other disasters.

Analytical and conceptual.

Logical and intuitive.

Licenses and/or Certifications:

Valid Washington State driver's license required.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Work is conducted both in an office environment and at a wide range of sites throughout Skagit County under a wide variety of conditions including but no limited to response to hazardous materials incidents which pose a health threat due to potential exposure to these materials, oil spills at docks and on ships, and natural disasters such as floods, landslides, forest fires, and earthquakes. This type of response could happen at any location in Skagit County and requires access to all types and conditions of structures and terrain. Department of Emergency Management personnel also are required to respond to fire investigation scenes. Lifting in excess of 25 pounds, shoveling, bending, crawling, climbing, entering confined spaces, traversing steep and unstable terrain, in all types of weather and lighting conditions.

Hazards:

Those present in a normal office environment. Exposure to dangerous structurally damaged buildings, hazardous materials through inhalation, absorption, injection or ingestion, exposure to noxious fumes, smoke, fire, traffic and risk of drowning due to entrapment under water. Work is on-call, 24-hours a day, seven days a week and requires carrying a pager at all times.

The statements contained herein reflect general details as necessary to describe the essential functions of this position, the level of knowledge and skill typically required, and the scope of responsibility, but should not be considered an all-inclusive listing of work requirements. Individuals may perform other duties as assigned, including work in other functional areas to cover absences or relief, to equalize peak work periods, or otherwise to balance the workload. Changes to the position description may be made at the discretion of the employer.

It is the policy of Skagit County to not discriminate against any person with regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status or physical or mental disability.

Exhibit No. _____(MW-4)

EXHIBIT "C"

SKAGIT RIVER RECORDED DISCHARGES

SKAGIT RIVER RECORDED DISCHARGES 1815 TO 2006

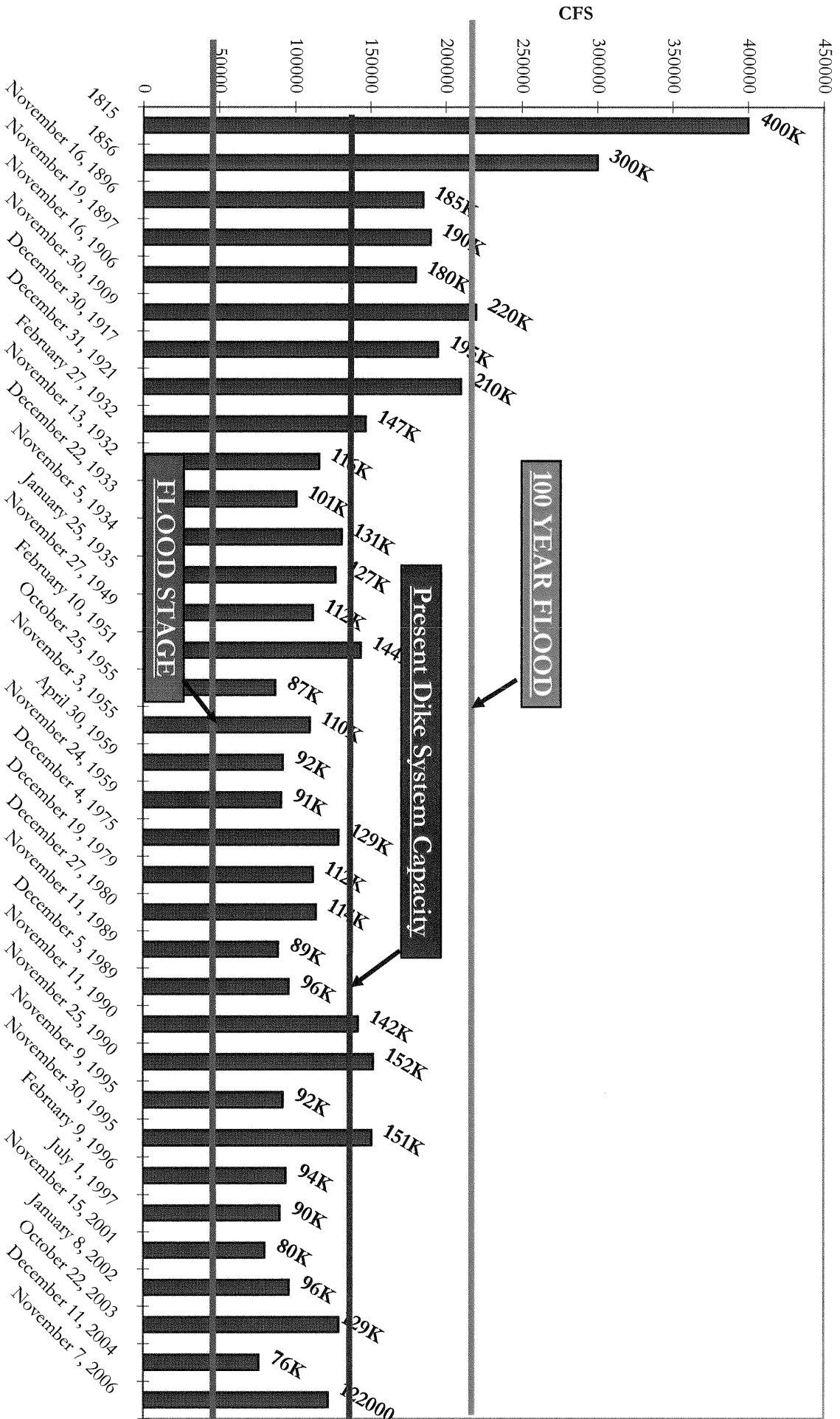
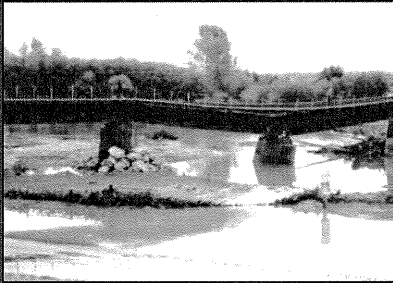


EXHIBIT "D"

SKAGIT RIVER ANNUAL FLOOD RISK AWARENESS

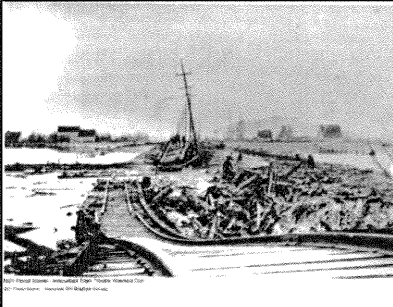


The Skagit River FLOOD RISK



Burlington Northern Sante Fe Bridge failure during 1995 flood.

FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK
Oct 16-22, 2005



Interurban railway destroyed by flood waters in 1921 between Burlington and Mount Vernon.



Hamilton, Washington. 2003 Skagit River Flood, a Federal Disaster.

Will You Be Prepared When **DISASTER STRIKES?**

More than 30,000 Skagit County residents live in the Skagit River 100-year flood plain. The Skagit River has reached flood stage more than 60 times during the last 100 years for an average of once every 1.5 years. Our levee systems are not adequate for flood protection during a large flood event.

Skagit County Government has been working diligently to find a long-term solution for flood control with our state and federal government for more than 80 years with little success. Although we have made progress in many areas, we still do not have adequate protection from major floods.

Since 1990, Skagit County has suffered more than \$78 million dollars in flood damage, and loss of human life. In light of

the disaster that has struck our Gulf Coast, the incredible loss of life and billions of dollars of damage, we must realize that it can happen here.

Please read and study this publication so that you know what to do when, not if, a major catastrophic event strikes the Skagit Valley.

Skagit County has fought many gallant flood fights in the past, and thanks to the diligent efforts of many, lives and properties have been saved, but we must not become complacent. A 100-year flood could cause catastrophic loss of life and potentially billions of dollars of damage. In 2003, the flood season began in mid-October. Be prepared for an emergency now!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Keep this information in an easy-to-find place!

RADIO: Tune into the local Emergency Broadcast System:

- KBRC (1430 am) Mount Vernon
- KLKI (1340 am) Anacortes
- KAPS (660 am) Mount Vernon

PHONE NUMBERS:

Flood Emergency	911
Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management	(360) 428-3250
• Emergency shelters	
• Special transportation problems	
• Evacuation	
Skagit County Public Works	(360) 336-9400
• Road closures/dike district/levee information	
• River level information	(360) 419-3425
American Red Cross	
• Skagit Valley Chapter	(360) 424-5291
• Anacortes/San Juan Chapter	(360) 293-2911
City of Burlington	
• Flood fight headquarters	(360) 757-3484
• Planning	(360) 755-9717

City of Mount Vernon, Development Services Dept. (360) 336-6214

Personal Contact:

Uniformed law enforcement or fire service agent will contact residents.

Public Address:

Mobile sirens, police, fire, or other public address systems will sound.

Information Available Online:

Skagit County – www.skagitcounty.net
 Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.fema.gov
 Red Cross – www.redcross.org

Look for the following links under services:

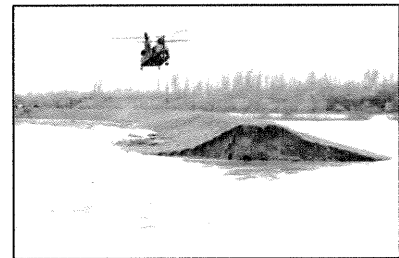
- Family disaster planning
- Children & disasters
- Special needs & concerns (elderly, handicapped)
- Animals
- Financial preparations
- Pet first aid
- Business & Industry guide
- Power outage

What we know about the Skagit River and the potential for devastation and loss of life when DISASTER STRIKES!

- The Skagit River has flooded more than 60 times in the last century causing loss of human life and tens of millions of dollars of damage.
- Of the 108,000 people who live in Skagit County, more than 30,000 live in the 100-year flood plain and would need to be evacuated in a 100-year flood.
- The cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon are protected by a levee system that may NOT ADEQUATE for large floods that HAVE OCCURRED and are predicted to OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.
- In 2003, the Town of Hamilton and the communities of Cape Horn and Shangri La were severely flooded. 34 homes were DESTROYED and 115 received MAJOR DAMAGE. 141 homes received minor damage.
- In 2003, 3,425 persons were evacuated from Hamilton, Cape Horn, Shangri La, Burlington and Mount Vernon.
- Floods reported, the size of 1917 and 1921 could breach the levees in Burlington and Mount Vernon. A 100-year flood in all probability would cause loss of human life and a predicted 1.3 billion dollars in damage.
- A 100-year flood would close down Interstate 5 and State Route 20, probably take out the Burlington-Northern Sante Fe railroad bridge, disrupt oil distribution from our refineries, cut off the water system for Fidalgo and Whidbey Island, NAS Whidbey and the Town of LaConner, flood our municipal waste water treatment plants in Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley and severely damage the sewage collection system for 40 percent of Burlington and Mount Vernon.



1995 Flood fight.



Fir Island dike breach, 1990.



West Mount Vernon flooded in 1990.



Flood fight in Conway, 1990.

FLOOD SAFETY

In the event of an evacuation:

- **Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food, first aid kit, and flashlights are essential.**
- **Secure your home before leaving:** turn off electricity, gas, and water.
- **Fill your car's gas tank,** as gasoline pumps will not be working if electricity has been cut off.
- **If there is time,** take the following: **prescription drugs, food** (especially if you require a special diet), **eyeglasses, clothing** (enough for at least 24 hours), **personal items** (toiletries, documents, photo albums, etc.), **bedding, baby or child supplies** (food, diapers, toys), **money and identification.**



IMPORTANT

Flood Preparedness Information

Complete, comprehensive emergency preparedness booklets can be obtained from the Skagit Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. These booklets cover a wide variety of issues including: Family Disaster Plan, Disaster Supplies Kit, Emergency Preparedness Checklist, Checklist for People with Mobility Problems, Helping Children Cope with Disaster, Food and Water in an Emergency, Pets and Disasters, Can You Afford to Lose Everything, and many others. (see emergency section for information on how to acquire).

Before a Flood

If you're a newcomer to the area, **find out if you live or work in a flood-prone area.** (see map on pages 4 and 5) Study the maps included in this pamphlet, talk to your neighbors, especially those living in Skagit County during the 1990 and 1995 floods, or call Skagit County Public Works Surface Water Management at 360-336-9400. **Remember that the next flood could be larger than previous floods.**



Find out if there is a **neighborhood notification system** for your area. If there is not, consider organizing one. Pay particular notice to contacting and helping the elderly and handicapped.

Develop an evacuation plan. Learn the safest route and an alternative route from your home, farm, or business to high, safe ground. Remember many low lying bridges or roads can be swept away by flood waters. Establish a safe meeting place on high ground for all family members in case you are separated. Establish an out of town contact because local telephone lines may be down while long distance may still be operational. Sample plans, check lists, ideas, and other resource materials can be obtained from your local Red Cross Chapter. Many cell phones will not be operational in a major emergency.

Make an itemized list of personal property, including valuables, furnishings, and clothing. Photograph your home inside and out. Keep your list, photos, and any insurance policies in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box, outside the flood plain. Consider keeping duplicates with a relative or friend outside the area.

Buy Flood Insurance. Protection against floods is not covered under a homeowner's policy. Any property owner in Skagit County is eligible to obtain flood insurance that

covers flood damage from ponding, drainage, snowmelt, runoff, and surface water. Contact an insurance agent about your eligibility for flood insurance offered through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Do not wait until the last minute – there is usually a 30-day waiting period before the policy is effective.

In a Flood Watch:

Tune to your local Emergency Broadcast Station. A Flood Watch from the National Weather Services means conditions are favorable for flooding. The Skagit County Department of Emergency Management will coordinate the public notification when required. The Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) is activated when necessary and include the local radio stations listed in the Emergency Information section on page 1.

In a Flood Warning:

- **Evacuate if you're told to do so.** A *Flood Warning* from the National Weather Service means flooding is occurring or will occur soon.
- **Secure your home before leaving.** Turn off electricity, gas, and water if possible.
- **Fill your car's gas tank.** Gasoline pumps will not be working if electricity has been turned off.
- **If there is time, here are some items to take with you:**
 1. Prescription drugs
 2. Food, especially if you require a special diet
 3. Eyeglasses
 4. Clothing – enough for at least 1 day
 5. Personal items – toiletries, documents, photo albums, etc.
 6. Bedding – sleeping bags, blankets, pillows
 7. Baby or child supplies
 8. Money – cash, credit cards, checks
 9. Proper Identification – especially important for small children

IMPORTANTE

Información Del Estado de preparación De la Inundación

Los libretes completos, comprensivos del estado de preparación de la emergencia se pueden obtener del capítulo del valle de Skagit de la Cruz Roja americana. Estos libretes cubren una variedad amplia de ediciones incluyendo: El plan del desastre de la familia, kit de materiales consumibles del desastre, lista de comprobación del estado de preparación de la emergencia, lista de comprobación para la gente con problemas de la movilidad, los niños que ayudan hace frente a desastre, al alimento y a agua en una emergencia, animales domésticos y desastres, puede usted permitirse perder todo, y muchos otros (véase la sección de la emergencia para la información sobre cómo adquirir).

Información de Emergencia En Una Inundacion

¡GUÁRDELO SALUDABLE!

Preparación para inundación o inundación súbita

Esto es lo que puedes hacer para prepararte contra tales emergencias. **AVERIGÜA** qué esperar.

Conoce los riesgos de inundación de tu área. Si no estás seguro, llama a la oficina local de la Cruz Roja, a la oficina de administración de emergencias o al ministerio de planificación y zonificación de tu localidad.

Si ha habido lluvia fuerte durante varias horas, o lluvia continua durante varios días, estate alerta a la posibilidad de una inundación.

Escucha las emisoras locales de radio o de televisión para recibir información sobre inundaciones.

Las inundaciones pueden tomar desde varias horas a días en desarrollarse--

Reduce los daños de las inundaciones-- Levanta el calentador de agua y el panel eléctrico si están en un área de la casa que pueda inundarse.

Consulta con un especialista para obtener más información sobre las medidas que se pueden tomar para reducir los daños. **Las inundaciones pueden tomar**

entre varias horas y varios días en desarrollarse--

Una **ADVERTENCIA** de inundación significa que es posible que ocurra una inundación en su área.

Un **AVISO** de inundación significa que una inundación está ocurriendo u ocurrirá pronto en su área.

Las inundaciones súbitas pueden tomar entre pocos minutos y pocas horas en desarrollarse--

Una **ADVERTENCIA** de inundación súbita significa que es posible que ocurra una inundación súbita en su área.

Un **AVISO** de inundación súbita significa que una inundación súbita está ocurriendo u ocurrirá muy pronto.

Haz un plan familiar contra desastres

Verifica si tienes una póliza de seguro que cubra inundaciones. De no ser así, averigüa cómo obtener una póliza de seguro contra inundaciones.

Manten las pólizas de seguro, los documentos y otros objetos de valor en una caja de seguridad.

Prepara un equipo de suministros para desastres que contenga:

medicamentos esenciales.

Comida enlatada y un abrelatas.

Por lo menos tres galones de agua por persona.

Ropa de protección, impermeables, y ropa de cama o sacos de dormir.

Radio a pilas, linterna y pilas de repuesto.

Artículos especiales para bebés, ancianos, o familiares discapacitados.

Instrucciones escritas sobre cómo desconectar la electricidad, el gas, y el agua si las autoridades le aconsejan hacerlo. (Recuerde, necesitará que un especialista vuelva a conectar el servicio de gas natural.)

Identifica dónde puedes ir si te dicen que tienes que desalojar tu vivienda. Elige varios lugares...la casa de un amigo en otra ciudad, un motel o un refugio.

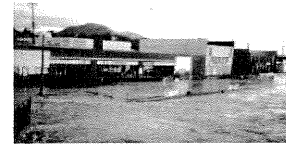
Si emiten una **ADVERTENCIA** de inundación...

Traslada tus muebles y objetos de valor a las plantas más altas de tu vivienda.

Llena el tanque de tu automóvil con gasolina, por si se da un aviso de desalojamiento.

Si emiten un AVISO de inundación...

Escucha las emisoras locales de radio y televisión para recibir información y



consejo. Si te dicen que debes desalojar la vivienda, hazlo lo antes posible.

Si emiten una ADVERTENCIA de inundación súbita...

Estate alerta a las señales de inundación súbita y estate preparado para desalojar tu vivienda al instante.

Si emiten un AVISO de inundación súbita...

O si tú piensas que ya ha comenzado la inundación, desaloja tu hogar inmediatamente. Puede que sólo tengas segundos para escapar. ¡Actúa rápidamente!

Vete a un terreno más alto lejos de ríos, arroyos, riachuelos y desagües de tormentas. No manejes alrededor de barricadas...están ahí para tu seguridad.



A large flood would have a huge impact on Skagit County's Petroleum Refining Industry

A significant flood event on the Skagit River would have an economic impact of national significance on Skagit County's petroleum refining industry. The most significant threat to the operations of the Tesoro NW and Shell Puget Sound Refining Company and their need for water, in addition, the movement of product by truck, rail, and pipeline would be seriously compromised during a 100-year flood.

- **WATER** - Tesoro and Shell draw more than 60 percent of the finished water produced by the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant. Flood fight operations went into action in 1990, 1995, and 2003 to save this facility. This plant is in jeopardy with even a 4-year flood event and could be out of commission for weeks. Without this primary water supply, the refineries would have to shut down until the service is restored.
- **TRANSPORTATION** - In the event of a major flood, major transportation corridors including Highway 20, Interstate 5, and the Burlington Northern Railroad would be shut down. Skagit County's refineries depend on

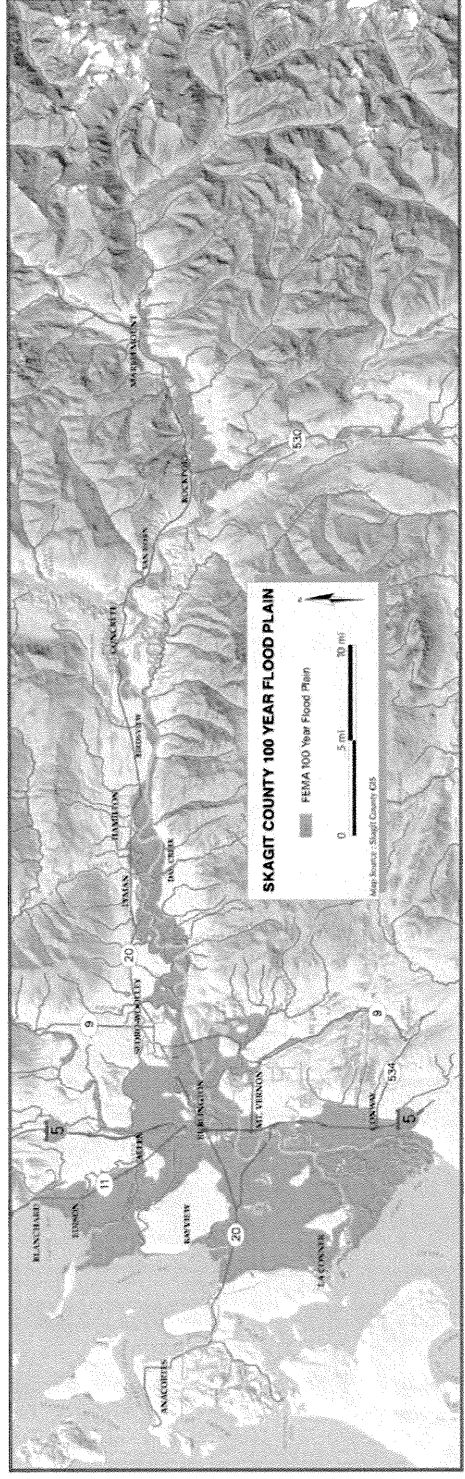
Waste water and sewer systems will fall in a large flood event

The water table within the 100-year flood plan has a direct hydraulic connection to the Skagit River. The increased pressure causes failure of pipe joints, erosion of pipe bedding and pipe collapse. It is especially a serious concern in Mount Vernon where much of the aging sewer system is located in the 100-year flood plain.

Floods larger than a 25-year event have the potential to cause levy failure downstream of the Mount Vernon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Burlington and Sedro-Woolley's plants are also threatened. The bottom line is that sewers, waste water treatment plants, and major stormwater pumping systems will cease to function in a major flood situation. The damage will be extensive. There are 40 miles of sewer pipe within the Mount Vernon system that are in the 100-year flood plain. Most of the Burlington system is in the 100-year flood plain.

These facilities would be down for weeks and create a major health risk, costing millions to get back on line.

Do you live in the 100 year Flood plain?



Gauge Heights and Phase

Skagit River Gauge near Concrete		
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
28.0 to 32.0	32.0 to 37.0	37.0 to 48.4+

This USGS gauge is located near the community of Concrete at river mile 54.1 on the Skagit River.

You may monitor Skagit River gauge levels at (360) 419-3425 or www.skagitcounty.net. Note: Gauge heights (measured in feet) indicate level at which the flood phase begins at the gauge location. Flood severity may significantly increase as the flood moves from the upstream to the downstream locations.



A 100-year flood will close I-5 from Conway to Bow Hill

In the event of a 100-year flood, I-5 will be closed from Conway to Bow Hill. Hopefully our warning systems will allow for adequate evacuation, but at the flood's peak, significant portions of our primary transportation routes will be under water.

- **International Commerce** activity between Washington State and Canada is substantial. In 2000, annual overland Washington State exports to Canada were approximately \$6.6 billion and overland imports exceeded \$14.3 billion. 95 percent of all commercial goods are shipped overland. This would come to a grinding halt!
- **Major Highways** will be closed completely during a 100-year flood event. Interstate 5 and State Routes 20, 9 and 536 lie on the flood plain and supply the transportation network for not only the local and regional economy, but escape routes for evacuation.
- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak** operate a primary railroad that would be devastated in a 100-year flood. BNSF currently runs 13 trains across the Skagit River each day. In a much smaller flood in 1995, a pier was undermined and closed the bridge for two weeks. The BNSF trestle would likely fail in a 100-year flood as it did in 1916.

Flood Awareness Week is October 16-22 in Skagit County

Brookings, Flude appointed flood fight coordinators
The Skagit County Commissioners have signed a resolution appointing Public Works Administrator Dave Brookings and Assistant County Engineer Steve Flude as Flood Fight Coordinators for the coming flood season. They also have proclaimed October 16-22 as Flood Awareness Week in Skagit County.

The proclamation stated that flooding is historically the most prevalent type of natural disaster to affect Skagit County and the roles and responsibilities of the Skagit County Public Works Department must be clearly understood during a flood disaster event. In October 2003, the Skagit Valley experienced a devastating flood that was declared a national disaster by President George W. Bush. Skagit County experienced more than \$17 million of damages. Fortunately there was no loss of human life.

The Commissioners defined that role during a flood event as to maintain County transportation facilities, roads and bridges, and to provide materials and equipment to Flood Fight Operations to maintain the levee systems during an event.

The role of the Department's Flood Fight Coordinators is to coordinate the use of the Department's resources for a flood fight, as well as work in cooperation with other federal, state and local entities to reduce flood damages as much as possible.

In preparation for the potential flood fight this fall, Skagit County Public Works has scheduled several training sessions for staff members.

IMPORTANT FLOOD DEFINITIONS

FLOOD STAGE: A site-specific water level at which flood damage may start to occur, usually in the form of property damage. Flood heights are often measured relative to the flood stage elevation. At the Concrete and Mount Vernon gauges, flood stage is 28 feet.

FLOOD WATCH: The first of two basic advisories issued by the National Weather Service. A flood watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. A watch does not mean that flooding will definitely occur, but it does give a community an early notice of potential flooding and allows the community to review flood safety steps.

FLOOD WARNING: The second basic advisory issued by the National Weather Service. A flood warning is issued when flooding conditions are expected to develop. In some cases, the flood warning will be river stage or height reading. The National Weather Service tries to issue flood forecasts with an accuracy of plus or minus one foot. But there are many variables that can enter into this forecast. Some of the variables are difficult to predict, yet have great impacts on flood forecasts.

FLOOD INSURANCE: The insurance coverage provided through the National Flood Insurance Program.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM): An official map of a community on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk profile for the community. FIRMs typically identify the elevation of the one-percent annual chance flood and the areas that would be inundated by that level of flooding; they are used to determine flood insurance rates and for floodplain management. FIRM maps are available at the Skagit County Planning and Permit Center.

100-YEAR FLOOD: A term commonly used to refer to the one-percent annual chance flood. The term 100-year flood should not be taken literally as there is no guarantee that the 100-year flood will occur at all within a 100-year period or that it will not recur several times. It is simply a shorthand way of saying that there is a one-in-a-hundred chance that a particular major flood will occur in a given year.

CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS): The rate of flow past a given point is measured in cubic feet per second. One cubic foot of water equals about 7.48 gallons. One cfs is equivalent to about 480 gallons per minute.

Skagit River Gauge near Mount Vernon

Phase Ranges in Feet		
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
28.0 to 32.0	32.0 to 35.6	35.6 to 40.0+

This USGS gauge is located at the Riverside Bridge on the main stem at river mile 17.0.

Natural Functions of Flood Plains
Natural flood plain areas help reduce our flood damage by allowing floodwaters to spread over a large area. This reduces flood velocity and provides flood storage to reduce peak flows downstream. Natural flood plains reduce wind and wave impact, and their vegetation stabilizes soils during flooding.



IMPORTANT

Flood Preparedness Information

Complete, comprehensive emergency preparedness booklets can be obtained from the Skagit Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. These booklets cover a wide variety of issues including: Family Disaster Plan, Disaster Supplies Kit, Emergency Preparedness Checklist, Checklist for People with Mobility Problems, Helping Children Cope with Disaster, Food and Water in an Emergency, Pets and Disasters, Can You Afford to Lose Everything, and many others. (see emergency section for information on how to acquire).

During a Flood

The most important consideration during a flood is the safety of you and your family. Flood waters can rise very rapidly. Be prepared to evacuate before waters reach your property. A long period of rain and/or melting snow can cause a river to overflow its banks. In some cases, flood waters may rise slowly, and it can take hours or even days before flooding occurs. A dam or levee failure can cause a quick dramatic rise in rivers. Keep your radio tuned to your local Emergency Alert System (Emergency Broadcast System) to find out if your need to evacuate and how much time you have.

FLOOD WATERS – The Most Dangerous

Rushing water from floods and flash floods is extremely deceptive and dangerous. On average flooding kills as many people every year as lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes combined!

Remember:

- *Police Barricades are there for your protection. Do not drive around them!*
- *Wading or driving through flood waters is extremely deceptive and dangerous! Even six-inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet and a depth of two feet will float most cars! The roadbed may be washed out under the water and the pavement could collapse under your vehicle!*
- **PLAN AHEAD: Identify where to go if told to evacuate. Go to HIGHER GROUND.**
- *If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.*

Construction Requirements:

A permit is required by ordinance for any development in the flood plain. Always check with Skagit County Planning and Development Services at 336-9410 (or your city building department for city residents) before you build on, alter, regrade, or place fill on your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties. If you see construction without a permit sign posted, contact Skagit County Planning and Permit Center or your city building department.

All substantial improvements to existing buildings in the flood plain require the building be treated as a new building. A substantial improvement is when the value of an addition, repair, or reconstruction project exceeds 50% of the value of the existing building. Contact Skagit County Planning and Development Services or your city building department for more information on substantial improvements.

After a Flood

- Do not use food or water that has been exposed to flood waters. Flood waters will be contaminated.
- Until the public water system or your private well has been declared safe, water for drinking and food preparation should be boiled vigorously for ten minutes.

RE-ENTERING YOUR HOME

- Before entering, check for structural damage that could cause collapse. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank and let the house air for several minutes.
- Do not strike a match when entering your home. There may have been a gas leak.
- Be careful about turning the power on again. Watch for electrical shorts or live wires. Do not use water-damaged appliances.
- Document your flood losses and contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.
- Follow procedures for safe clean up of household items, food, water supply, and property.
- Dry your house slowly. Carpets and drywall may have to be removed. Remember, water can be trapped between walls and will not dry.
- If your home or business has received extensive structural damage, this may be the time to elevate or flood proof the structure.

Flood Protection Information

Property Protection

Skagit County Planning and Development Services (336-9410) or your city building department can help you decide how to best protect your property from flood damage. Some options to consider are:

- Elevating buildings so water does not enter the structure
- Constructing barriers out of fill or concrete between buildings and floodwaters.
- "Dry Floodproofing" to make the building walls and floors watertight so water does not enter.
- "Wet Floodproofing" to modify the structure and relocate the contents so floodwaters do little or no damage.
- Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber on hand for emergency waterproofing.

Drainage Ditch Maintenance

Do not dump or throw anything in ditches or streams. A plugged channel cannot carry water, so the water has to go elsewhere when it rains. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels and culverts. If your property is near a ditch, please keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Call 336-9400 if you see illegal dumping in Skagit County, or your city staff if you see dumping in the cities.

IMPORTANTE

Información Del Estado de preparación De la Inundación

...continuado de página 3

Si tu automóvil se detiene en aguas que están creciendo rápidamente, abandónalo inmediatamente y vé a tierras más altas.

Tu contacto local es:

¿Estás preparado para una inundación o una inundación súbita?

Las lluvias continuas durante varios días o un atasco de hielo pueden hacer que un río o un arroyo crezca e inunde las áreas circundantes. La inundación súbita de una represa o de un dique que se rompe o después de lluvias intensas de una pulgada (o más) por hora, con frecuencia pilla desprevenidas a las personas.

No obstante, la regla para estar seguro es simple: dirígete a tierras más altas y mantente lejos del agua. Incluso aguas de poca profundidad, pero con corriente veloz, tienen más fuerza de lo que la mayoría de la gente se imagina. Lo más peligroso que puedes hacer es tratar de caminar, nadar o manejar a través de dichas aguas rápidas.

Sin embargo, puedes tomar medidas para prepararte contra dichos tipos de emergencias. Haz que varios miembros de tu familia realicen cada uno de los puntos en la siguiente lista de verificación. Luego reúnanse para discutir y concluir su plan familiar contra inundaciones.

_____ Determina si vives en una zona de inundaciones.

Zona de inundación:

Sí

No

_____ Si vives en una zona

de inundaciones, ¿tu póliza de seguros—de propiedad o de alquiler—cubre una inundación? (La mayoría de las pólizas de seguro excluyen específicamente las inundaciones de aguas crecientes.)

Seguro contra inundación:

Sí

No

_____ Si tu póliza de propiedad o de alquiler no cubre una inundación, obtén una póliza por separado que cubra inundaciones.

Compañía de seguros: _____

_____ Mantén copias actualizadas de todos tus documentos importantes y objetos de valor en una caja de seguridad.

Ubicación de la caja de seguridad: _____

_____ Prepara un equipo de suministros para desastres en una caja bien identificada y fácil de llevar.

Ubicación del equipo de suministros para desastres: _____

_____ Escribe las instrucciones de cómo y cuándo desconectar los servicios públicos—electricidad, gas y agua.

Instrucciones escritas: _____

_____ (fecha)

_____ Decide a dónde se dirigirá tu familia si deben desalojar su vivienda. Dá a conocer tu plan a los parientes o amigos con quienes piensas quedarte o vé a un refugio de la Cruz Roja. Obtén también un mapa extra y marca dos rutas alternativas para llegar a tu destino. Incluye el mapa en tu equipo de suministros para desastres.

Plan de desalojamiento terminado el: _____ (fecha)

Y recuerda...si ocurre una inundación, un tornado, un terremoto, un incendio u otra emergencia en tu comunidad, puedes contar con que la oficina local de la Cruz Roja Americana de tu localidad estará allí presente para ayudarte a ti y a tu familia. La Cruz Roja no es una agencia gubernamental y depende de tus donaciones de tiempo, dinero y sangre

Para más información, pónete en contacto con la oficina local de la Cruz Roja de tu localidad, la oficina del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología o la oficina de administración de emergencias. También puedes visitar los siguientes sitios de Internet:

Cruz Roja Americana (American Red Cross): www.redcross.org

Servicio Nacional de Meteorología (National Weather Service): www.nws.noaa.gov

La Radio del Tiempo de la NOAA (NWR): <http://weather.gov/nwr/indexexp.htm>

Agencia Federal para la Administración de Emergencias (Federal Emergency Management Agency): www.fema.gov/spanish/

LLAME EL DEPARTMENT DE SALUD DE CON-DADO DE SKAGIT PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN A (360) 336-9380

O VISIT EL WEBSITE A WWW.SKAGITCOUNTY.NET



Efforts to relocate Town of Hamilton moving forward

The Town of Hamilton began relocation efforts years ago by successfully moving the town's water system, shop and fire station to high ground. During the past 12 months, they have been working with Skagit County and Community Action on detailed planning efforts initiated to address the many legal and practical details with moving residents, services, and businesses out of the floodway. The program being developed is voluntary, and residents won't be forced to participate.

Last year, the Town created a Public Development Authority (PDA), and appointed a volunteer board to help manage the overall project. This structure enables the program to access expertise and resources from different organizations beyond what the Town can offer. The board has 11 seats, with five currently being occupied. Currently, both Hamilton and Skagit County has two seats each, with Community Action in the fifth.

The next steps for the PDA over the next 12 months include:

- Appraising prospective relocation site properties.
- Preparing the existing water system for relocation and expansion.
- Planning for other infrastructure needs.
- Pursuing State and Federal grant funds for site purchase development.
- Developing the mechanisms to purchase and transfer development rights at fair market value.
- Coordinating with Skagit County flood mitigation efforts.
- Refining town management practices to govern a growing community.

"This is a very positive collaborative effort with Hamilton, Skagit County and Community Action to make a difference in the lives of Hamilton residents," said Skagit County Commissioner Ted Anderson. "The 2003 Flood was devastating. We were fortunate there wasn't more damage or loss of life."

Skagit County Earns CRS 6 Rating

SKAGIT COUNTY - Skagit County residents already enjoy reduced flood insurance premiums as a result of their county's active participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). According to FEMA Regional Director John Pennington, they're about to pay even less.

"The CRS rewards communities for implementing programs and policies which protect their citizens from flooding," said Pennington. "Such activities can range from mapping, regulations and flood damage reduction to flood preparedness and public awareness programs. Skagit County's higher regulatory standards and innovative community outreach initiatives earned a CRS Class 6 rating."

Skagit County Surface Water Management's CRS Coordinator Delores McLeod agrees. "With the recent flood event, awareness has never been more important," said McLeod. "We can't stop the rain - but we can help protect our citizens from the worst effects of flooding, and that's what the CRS is all about."

Flood insurance premium reductions resulting from "above and beyond the minimum" initiatives run in five percent increments, from five percent to 45 percent. Class ratings range from Ten to One. The higher the flood protection activity, the lower the Class rating. Skagit County's new 6 rating has earned policyholders

a 20 percent reduction on flood insurance premiums. Policyholders collectively will save more than \$200,000. The average annual policy in Skagit County is approximately \$550. The new classification saves each policyholder an average of \$110.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.



Delores McLeod displays a plaque recognizing Skagit County's improved CRS rating. She is pictured with Skagit County Commissioners Don Munks and Ken Dahlstedt.



Doty home on Sauk River.

Historical flood newspaper articles and documents available online

A vast collection of newspaper articles on floods on the Skagit River has been collected, indexed and archived by Larry Kunzler, Josef Kunzler, and Dan Berentson, and is now available to the public. The threesome undertook a massive research endeavor by leafing through every available page of the Argus, Burlington Journal, Sedro-Woolley Courier Times, and the Skagit Valley Herald. They are currently working on the Concrete Herald. Articles date from 1897 to 2005.

In addition to the historical newspaper archives now available online at www.skagitcounty.net listed under "flood information", there is also an index with hyperlinks to the Skagit Valley archive for current flood stories from 1997 to present. This index was completed thanks to the hard work of Josef Kunzler.

Larry Kunzler, a local flood expert who has been studying the Skagit River since 1975, has launched his own website entitled www.skagitriverfloodhistory.com. This site includes a combined index of the above mentioned flood articles, plus several articles on Skagit River flooding authored by Kunzler. It also contains scores of pertinent documents from several government agencies on Skagit River Flood issues. Kunzler, with the help of his son Josef, have created a resource for citizens, government and agency and officials which is receiving a significant amount of traffic and interest.

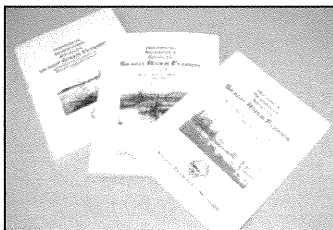
Recently Skagit County received a "Project of the Year" award for "Project of Historical Significance" from the Washington Branch of

the American Public Works Association, for a historical newspaper archive on Skagit River floods. The Kunzlers worked with Skagit County Communications Director Dan Berentson on the project.

The Skagit County Commissioners recognized Larry Kunzler for more than 30 years of research and community activism on issues pertaining to Skagit River floods. "We recognize your diligence, tenacity, intelligence and generosity in sharing your valuable work," said Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt.

Josef Kunzler was recognized for his work as a Skagit County Public Works intern processing, organizing and posting vital information for public use.

"We plan to continue with this research by completing the Concrete Herald this year. Providing the historical information to the public is a worthy endeavor," said Berentson. "We can't thank the Kunzlers enough for their hard work."



Copies of the historical articles on Skagit River Floods.

Bank Erosion from River Channel Migration

Besides risk from losses due to flooding, another risk from living near a river can be losses due to bank erosion from channel migration. Recently, some landowners along the Sauk and upper Skagit Rivers have experienced property losses, not from being flooded but from severe bank erosion. In at least one instance an entire residential structure on the Sauk River was lost. The home, built on a bank well above the river's surface, even during flood events, and hundreds of feet back from the river's edge at the time, toppled into the river following severe bank erosion from channel migration in 2003. There have been other recent occurrences where structures built years ago and hundreds of feet back from the river's edge, suddenly become "river front" property and at risk due to bank erosion. These landowners have subsequently learned that their losses may not be covered by federal disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In some cases, insurance coverage can help, but it depends on the specific language in the insurance policy. With more development occurring along the rivers as Skagit County continues to grow, landowners along the Sauk River and upper Skagit River concerned about this are advised to check carefully their insurance coverage ahead of time to be sure they will be eligible should they suffer property losses from bank erosion due to river channel migration.



Skagit County continues efforts to increase dam storage during catastrophic flood events on Skagit River

The recent events on the Gulf Coast magnify the importance of finding a long-term solution for flood control in the Skagit Valley. "In the event of a 100-year-flood, Mount Vernon and Burlington will very likely look just like New Orleans," said Skagit County Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt. "It's time to stop talking, studying, and pontificating and put more flood protection in place."

After a significant investment in research and studies, the Skagit County Commissioners are convinced that utilizing available flood storage behind dams in the Skagit River system is critical to protect property and life. Skagit County is committed to obtaining additional storage in the Baker Project, and in Ross Lake in the Skagit system through existing licensing agreements.

The utilization of additional storage also requires improved management of dam levels so that water is released in ample time before the peak of the flood keeping the pools behind the dam low to allow the maximum amount of storage when flood danger is at its peak.

In addition to preventing substantial flood damage and loss of life, significant scientific research shows that additional storage will

reduce scouring of salmon redds. In fact, an Interim Protection Plan now in place already requires additional storage.

In the recent negotiations with Puget Sound Energy, the license holder for the Lower Baker Dam, Skagit County negotiated for:

Continuation of 74,000 acre feet of storage behind Upper Baker Dam plus operational buffers and drawdown in advance of an imminent flood.

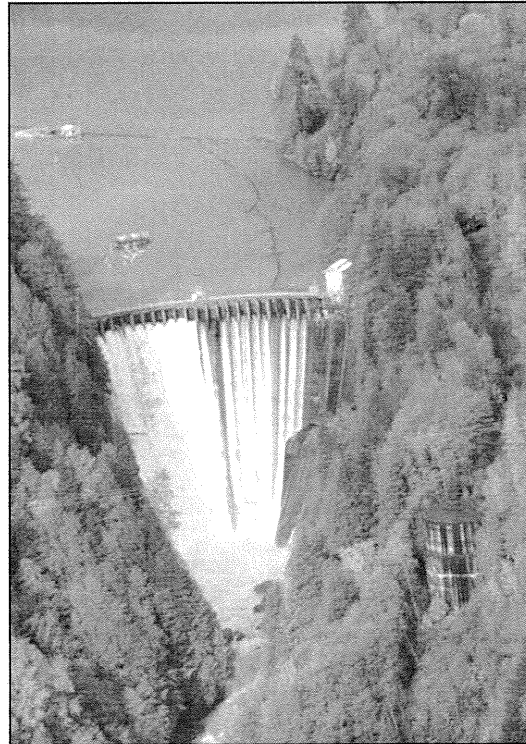
Addition of 29,000 acre feet of storage in Lower Baker plus operational buffers, contingent on Corps of Engineers approval.

"We've spent a substantial amount of time, energy and resources trying to find a long-term solution for flood control. The process has been extremely frustrating," said Dahlstedt. "We've looked at a diversion channel, more storage behind the dams, setting back the levees, and overtopping. We need to come together and find a solution to prevent a major catastrophe here."

Skagit County is encouraged by Puget Sound Energy's willingness to partner with the county to continue the lobbying at the federal level to implement flood control consistent with the

agreement. "The Baker system can be operated effectively for flood control even without any additional modifications. The 2003 Flood proved this," said Skagit County Commissioner

Ken Dahlstedt. "It is unfortunate that officially established flood control in the Baker system could be years away."



Lower Baker Dam at full pool during 2003 Skagit River flood.

Skagit County receives "StormReady" designation

The Skagit County Department of Emergency Management completed the application process to make Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, Hamilton, La Conner, Lyman, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and unincorporated Skagit County StormReady Communities. The Washington State StormReady Advisory Board approved the application and has hereby recognized all of Skagit County as a StormReady Community.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives. This designation as a StormReady Community allows each of the jurisdictions in Skagit County who have participated in the National Flood Insurance - Community Rating System to apply for additional points (which will hopefully help to provide a further reduction in flood insurance rates).

The Department of Emergency Management is working with Skagit County Public Works to schedule the recognition ceremony during the Flood Awareness Week in October of this year.

For questions about this program, please contact Karla Strand at 360-428-3250 or visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready>.

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radios distributed in Skagit County

The Skagit County Department of Emergency Management recently placed NOAA Weather Radios in local school district offices, city halls, and other governmental offices in Skagit County. The placement of these radios will help insure emergency warning notifications are disseminated in a timely fashion to help prevent the loss of lives and property.

NOAA Weather Radio is an All-Hazards radio network that provides comprehensive weather and emergency warning information. All-

Hazards warning messages may be issued via NOAA Weather Radio for the following types of events: Flood, Earthquake, Severe Storm Event, Tornado, Hurricane, Chemical Release, Oil Spill, Maritime Accident, Train Derailment, AMBER Alert, and Terrorist Attacks.

NOAA Weather Radio is directly available to approximately 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. population. Coverage depends on the location of the transmitter, local terrain and the quality and location of the receiver. NOAA Weather Radio capability is

currently available on some automobile, aircraft, marine, citizens band, and standard AM/FM radios. Weather Radios, with or without special alerting features, are available from several manufacturers and can be purchased online or at most stores carrying electronics.

For more information about NOAA Weather Radios, please visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) website at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

Skagit County e-news service has 2,250 subscribers

If you would like to receive e-mails directly from Skagit County as news and information comes available, join 2,250 others who have already subscribed to this free service. Topics include:

- Skagit County Emergency Information
- Skagit River Flood Project
- Guemes Island Ferry Information
- Skagit County Road Closures
- Skagit County Health Department Food and Environmental Health News

This is another tool to

distribute vital information to Skagit County citizens in an efficient and affordable manner," said Skagit County Communications Director Dan Berentson

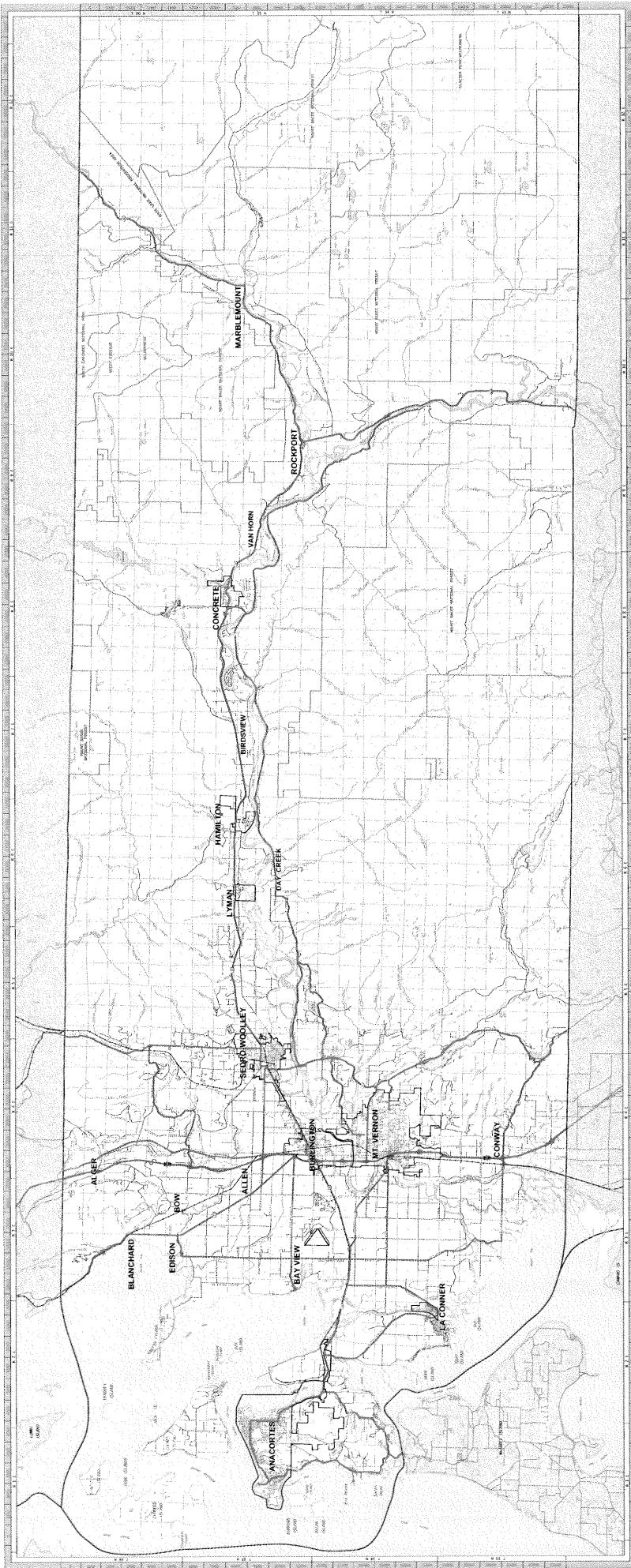
To sign up, go to www.skagitcounty.net and click "e-mail subscription lists" under "General Information" and then follow the instructions.

- Skagit County Planning and Development News
- Skagit County Press Releases

EXHIBIT "E"

SKAGIT COUNTY EVACUATION ROUTES

SKAGIT COUNTY Evacuation Routes



Legend

- Evacuation Route
- Road
- Boundary Line

Map Date: November 14, 2007

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

MAP AREA