



Pierce County

Office of the County Executive

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Tacoma, Washington 98402-2100
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KEVIN R. PHELPS
Deputy Executive
(253) 798-7477
kphelps@co.pierce.wa.us

September 29, 2009

Colonel Anthony Wright
District Corps Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Wright:

The purpose of this letter is to express support of the Puyallup Basin General Investigation Study for Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration. I would also like to express Pierce County's willingness to perform the role of the lead non-federal sponsor and to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with the Corps of Engineers to pursue feasibility studies and ultimately project construction.

While not as well publicized, Pierce County has the potential of flooding at least as significant - in terms of economic and human impact - as the failure of the Howard Hansen dam. For over a year, Pierce County has convened what we call the Puyallup River Executive Task Force. This Task Force is composed of elected members and staff from most of the jurisdictions in the area, representatives of State agencies and the Port of Tacoma, and elected and staff members of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The Task Force has been educating itself as to the severe flooding potential and to the habitat issues and the options for solving them. All of the agencies on the Task Force have expressed support for proceeding with the General Investigation to address the flooding potential in a holistic manner. Many have provided Pierce County written support to this effect. We understand from Corps staff that having this level of community support will make the process more efficient, effective, and timely.

We have reviewed the reconnaissance 905(b) report and are in agreement with the findings. We understand there is a federal interest in pursuing a cost-shared feasibility study to further investigate the viability of implementing projects to reduce flood damages and restore the ecosystem in the basin. As conveyed by this letter, there is also a strong non-federal interest in quickly moving forward with this study and ultimately project construction. Pierce County is willing to act as the lead non-federal sponsor. In this role, Pierce County will work with Corps of Engineers staff to refine the scope of necessary studies to be conducted during the cost-shared feasibility phase. We understand that once the feasibility studies are defined, agreed to and documented in a Project Management Plan (PMP), we will be asked to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA).

We understand that the preliminary feasibility study cost has been estimated at approximately \$6 million dollars over a 5 to 6 year period. We further understand that the first year's effort has been estimated at \$500,000, and that the non-federal share is 50%. Pierce County and the supporting agencies, intend to meet this requirement through provision of in-kind services and cash contributions. All of the local participants want to convey the urgency of solving the severe flooding



Colonel Anthony Wright

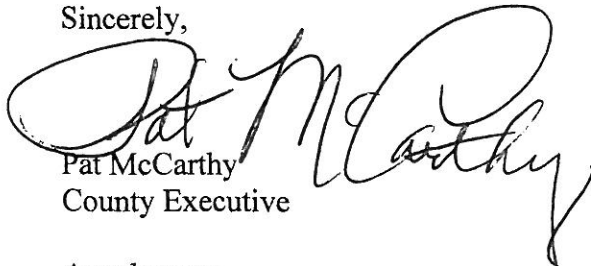
September 29, 2009

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potential in an expedited manner. We are excited about the opportunity to resolve these issues in a manner that will benefit both our individual agencies and the region as a whole.

In conclusion, we look forward to expeditiously working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers on this high priority watershed project. Please contact Harold Smelt, Surface Water Manager at 253-798-2952 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Pat McCarthy
County Executive

Attachments

cc: Pierce County Council
Offices of all Congressional delegates
Patrick Kenney, Director, Pierce County Budget & Finance
Brian Ziegler, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Harold Smelt, Water Programs Manager, Public Works & Utilities



cc: Kevin
Brian Z.
Harold S.

RECEIVED
SEP 21 2009
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

September 14, 2009

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SEP 21 2009
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ms. Pat McCarthy, Executive
Pierce County Executive's Office
City-County Building
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 737
Tacoma, WA 98402-2100

RE: Puyallup River Executive Task Force Support

Dear Executive McCarthy:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is pleased to be participating in the Puyallup River Executive Task Force looking at solutions to address flooding on the Puyallup River. The Executive Task Force has been discussing the potential for Pierce County to partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to move forward with a Puyallup Basin General Investigation (GI) Study for Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration. The purpose of this letter is to express Ecology's support for such a partnership between Pierce County and the Corps. It is our understanding that the GI Study will assess benefits to the entire Puyallup River system, in addition to the lower eight miles outlined in the Corps' 905(b) report.

Ecology supports Pierce County signing on as the local sponsor to this cost-sharing agreement with the Corps. We recognize that Pierce County cannot shoulder the local share of the cost (50%) of the General Investigation without support. We believe that Ecology, along with all of the local jurisdictions and other organizations participating in the Puyallup River Executive Task Force, should contribute to the local share for this important study. Our Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) would be a viable source for a portion of this funding and we would consider providing funding should the FCAAP fund become fully restored in future biennia. We commit to work with the Executive Task Force and the County to determine how we can all share in the





City of Tacoma
City Manager

cc: Kevin
Harold S.
Bianchi

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 18, 2009

Pat McCarthy, Executive
Pierce County Executive's Office
County-City Building
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 737
Tacoma, WA 98402-2100

Dear Executive McCarthy:

The City of Tacoma is pleased to be participating in the Puyallup River Executive Task Force in seeking solutions to address flooding on the Puyallup River. The Executive Task Force has been discussing the potential for Pierce County to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to move forward with a Puyallup Basin General Investigation (GI) Study for Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration.

The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Tacoma's support for this partnership between Pierce County and the Corps. It is our understanding that the GI Study will assess benefits to the entire Puyallup River system, in addition to the lower eight miles outlined in the Corps' 905(b) report.

The City of Tacoma supports Pierce County signing on as the local sponsor to this cost sharing agreement with the Corps. We recognize that Pierce County cannot shoulder the local share of the cost (50%) of the General Investigation without support. We believe that the City of Tacoma along with all the local jurisdictions and organizations participating in the Puyallup River Task Force must contribute to the local share. The City of Tacoma commits to work with the Executive Task Force and Pierce County to determine how we can all share the costs of the General Investigation local match, as well as future costs for design and construction of the preferred alternative.

We are excited about the opportunity to work cooperatively to identify and implement flood risk management solutions, which will benefit both our jurisdictions and the region as a whole. We look forward to working with Pierce County and the Corps on this high priority flood risk management project.

Please contact Charlie Solverson, P.E., Building and Land Use Services Division Manager at 253.591.5017 or via email at csolverson@cityoftacoma.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Anderson
City Manager

September 18, 2009

Pat McCarthy, Executive
Pierce County Executive's Office
County-City Building
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 737
Tacoma, WA 98402-2100

Dear Executive McCarthy:

We are pleased to be participating in the Puyallup River Executive Task Force looking at solutions to address flooding on the Puyallup River. The Executive Task Force has been discussing the potential for Pierce County to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to move forward with a Puyallup Basin General Investigation (GI) Study for Flood Risk Management of the Ecosystem Restoration. The purpose of the letter is to express City of Orting's support for such a partnership between Pierce County and the Corps. It is our understanding that the GI Study will assess benefits to the entire Puyallup River system, in addition to the lower eight miles outlined in the Corps' 905(b) report.

City of Orting supports Pierce County signing on as the local sponsor to this cost-sharing agreement with the Corps. We recognize that Pierce County cannot shoulder the local share of the cost (50%) of the General Investigation without support. We believe that City of Orting, along with all the local jurisdictions and organizations participating in the Puyallup River Task Force, must contribute to the local share. We commit to work with the Executive Task Force and the County to determine how we can all share the costs of the General Investigation local match, as well as future costs for design and construction of the preferred alternative.

We are excited about the opportunity to work cooperatively to identify and implement flood risk management solutions, which will benefit both our jurisdiction and the region as a whole. We look forward to working with Pierce County and the Corps on this high priority flood risk management project. Please contact Ken Wolfe (360) 893-2219 x124 or Mark Bethune (360) 893-2219 x111 if you have any questions.

This letter is in direct response with the City of Orting's \$4,000.00 annual cost share for the next five (5) years.



Sincerely,

Mark Bethune
City of Orting,
City Administration