

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2011

Major General Merdith W.B. (Bo) Temple
Acting Chief of Engineers and Acting Commanding General
United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, N.W., Room 3K05
Washington, DC 20314

Re: Puyallup River Flood Control General Investigations Study

Dear Major General Temple:

The need for flood control improvements along the Puyallup River remains an issue of regional significance in Pierce and King Counties. Homes, businesses, regional transportation systems and the vital Port of Tacoma are potentially in danger of a serious flooding event. The economic and national security impacts from a prolonged closure of Interstate 5 and/or State Route 167 would be staggering. Adequate measures must be taken to ensure the safety and protection of people and property up and down this important flood plain.

In 2006, the Puyallup River experienced a near catastrophic flood. Tens of thousands of lives in the flood plain were jeopardized and there were millions of dollars in property damage. Furthermore, the major trade corridor up and down the West Coast, Interstate 5, was temporarily shut down causing traffic disruptions, severe economic damage, and degrading operations at the Port of Tacoma. As a result, Pierce County, the Washington State Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, impacted municipalities and others formed the Puyallup River Executive Task Force. Since 2007, this Taskforce has been working with the Corps to analyze, evaluate, and determine what flood control measures are needed to properly mitigate future floods that endanger the citizens and livelihood of the region. This group typically meets on a monthly basis and the Corps has been an active partner.

The Puyallup River Executive Taskforce continues to build regional consensus and support for this major undertaking. As previously mentioned, the Taskforce members represent all of the communities along the Puyallup River as well as a number of State agencies. Although there is a strong local commitment to address these regional issues, a comprehensive solution requires federal assistance. Without that federal commitment adequate flood control on the Puyallup River will not take place.

In support of the long term solution the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has initiated the Puyallup River General Investigations, a 6 year study of flood control alternatives. Funding

for the \$500,000 annual local match has been assured through commitments from 19 separate local entities. To date, the Corps has been an active partner in the funding of this project.

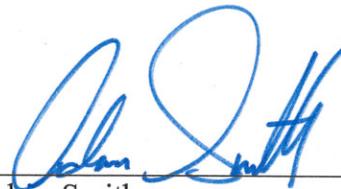
While we understand the difficulties of our fiscal environment, we are asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue to support funding for this critical project. Specifically, we are requesting for enough discretionary General Investigations funding for FY2012 to continue the study in a meaningful way, once the FY2012 budget is finalized. We are also asking that the Puyallup River Flood Control General Investigations Study be included in the President's budget for FY2013.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' continued support for this project is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



David Reichert
Member of Congress

cc: Colonel Bruce A. Estok, Commander of the Seattle District, U.S. Corps of Engineers
CJ Klocow, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers