

MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS

FROM: Mayor Anderson and City Council

DATE: July 10, 2014

REGARDING: Skagit River General Investigation Study Comment Period

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: July 21, 2014

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Skagit County recently published the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Skagit River General Investigation Study. This study includes a tentatively selected plan for providing flood control on the Skagit River system called the Comprehensive Urban Levy Improvement plan. The urban levy improvements are designed to protect Burlington and Mount Vernon and also include protection for Sedro-Woolley's wastewater treatment plant and United General Hospital.

Post-project modeling is not complete enough to know the extent to which flood risk will be transferred from current flood zones to current non-flood zones, but it is clear that some transfer of risk is contemplated by the draft report. Commissioner Dillon told the City Council that she was told that she would be walking through water at her house during a 100 year flood event. Her house is located on Fidalgo Street.

The Sedro-Woolley City Council and Mayor Anderson are very concerned that providing taller levies for Burlington and tying those levies to higher ground will back water up to Sedro-Woolley, causing flooding where none has existed in the past and forcing property owners who have never been in the flood zones to purchase federal flood insurance (\$\$\$). The draft report does not have adequate detail to understand the possible transfer of risks and impacts to Sedro-Woolley.

The City Council adopted Resolution 902-14 on July 9, 2014 which provides the City's comments on the plan. As a resident or property owner on the south side of the city, you are encouraged to provide your comments and questions as part of the process. **The deadline for comment to be received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is July 21, 2014.** A form is attached and may be mailed or comments may be emailed to Hannah Hadley at Skagit.River@usace.army.mil; she may also be contacted at (206) 764-6950.

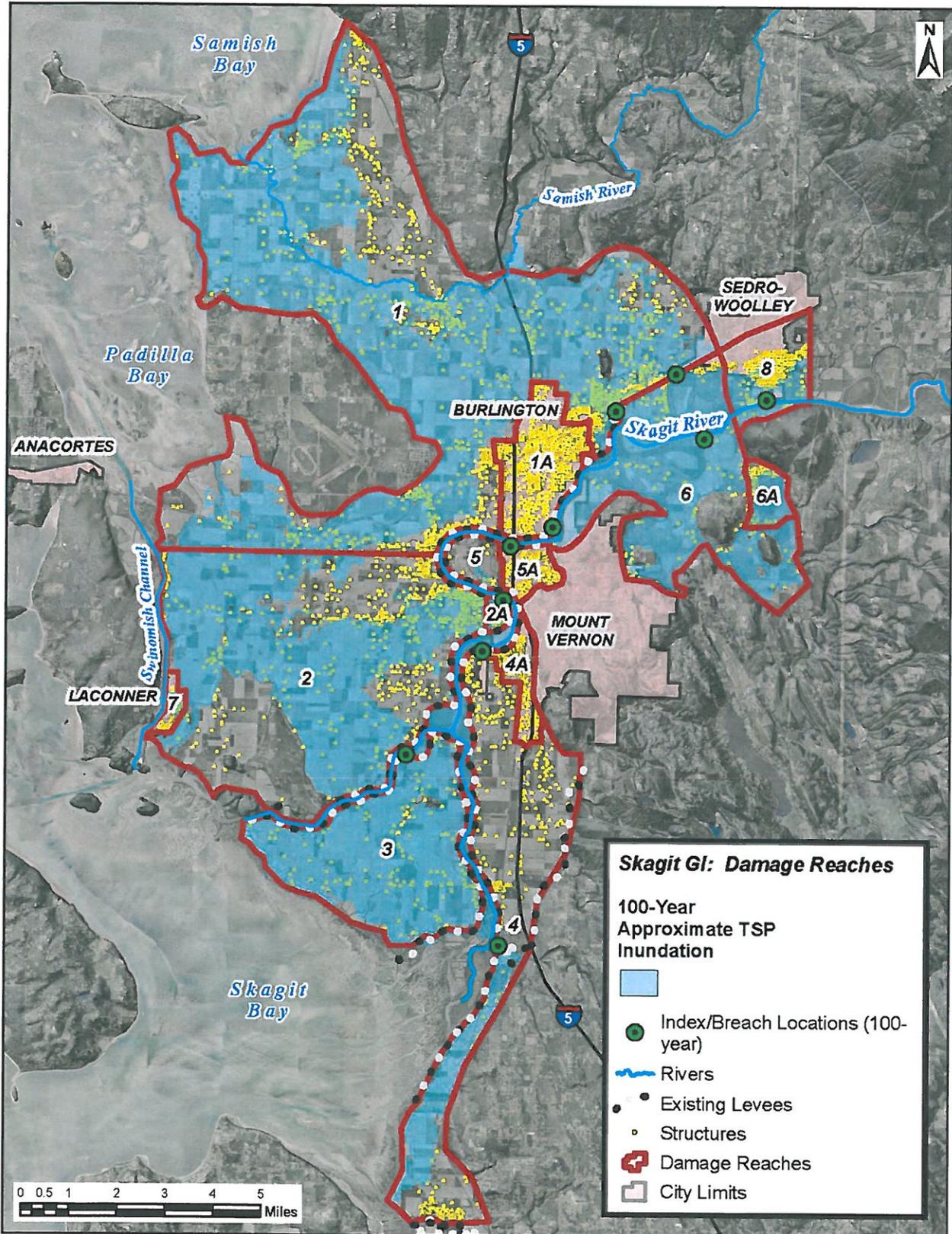
WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE COMMENT TODAY.



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SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

General Investigation With Project Condition



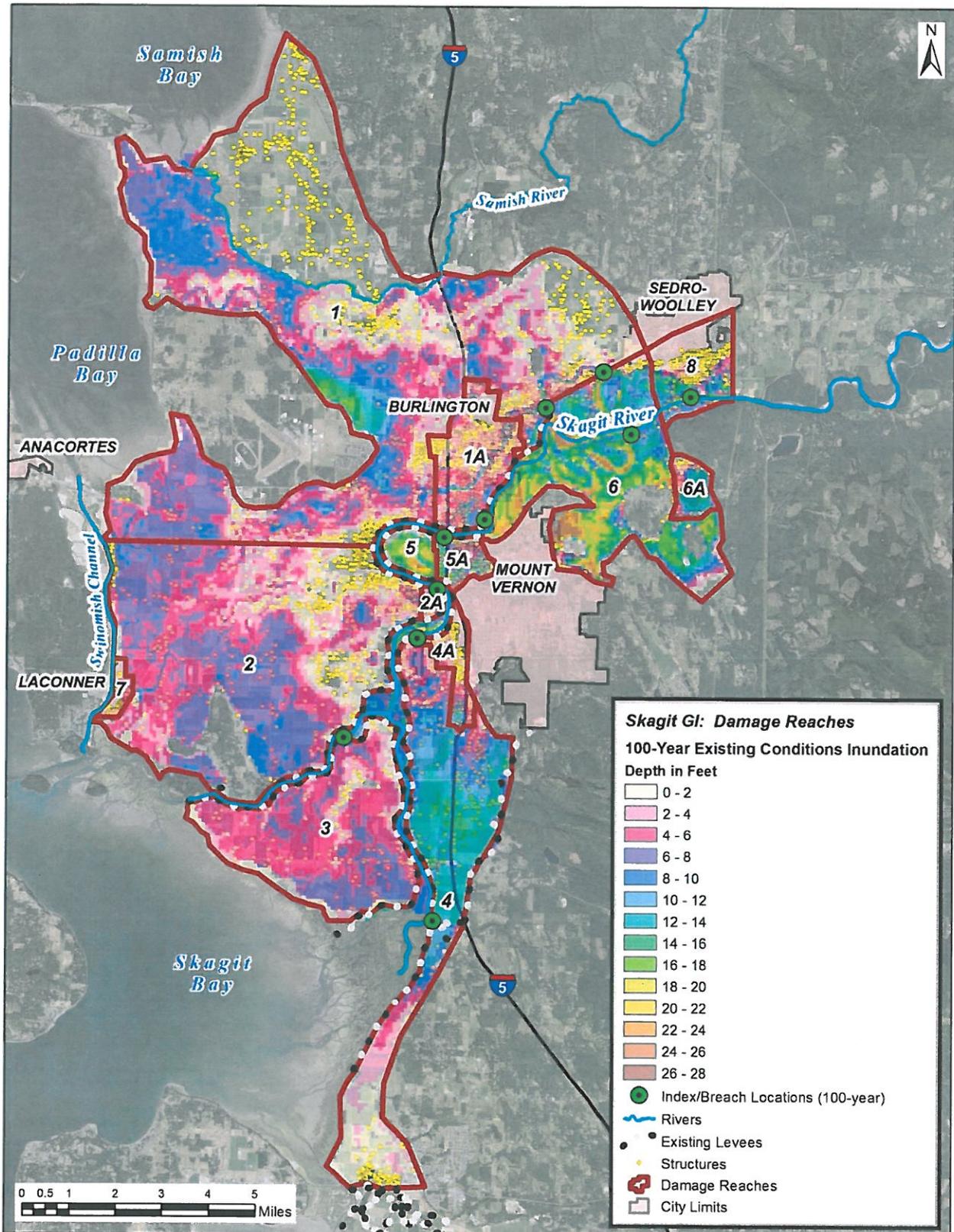


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SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

General Investigation

Without-Project Condition



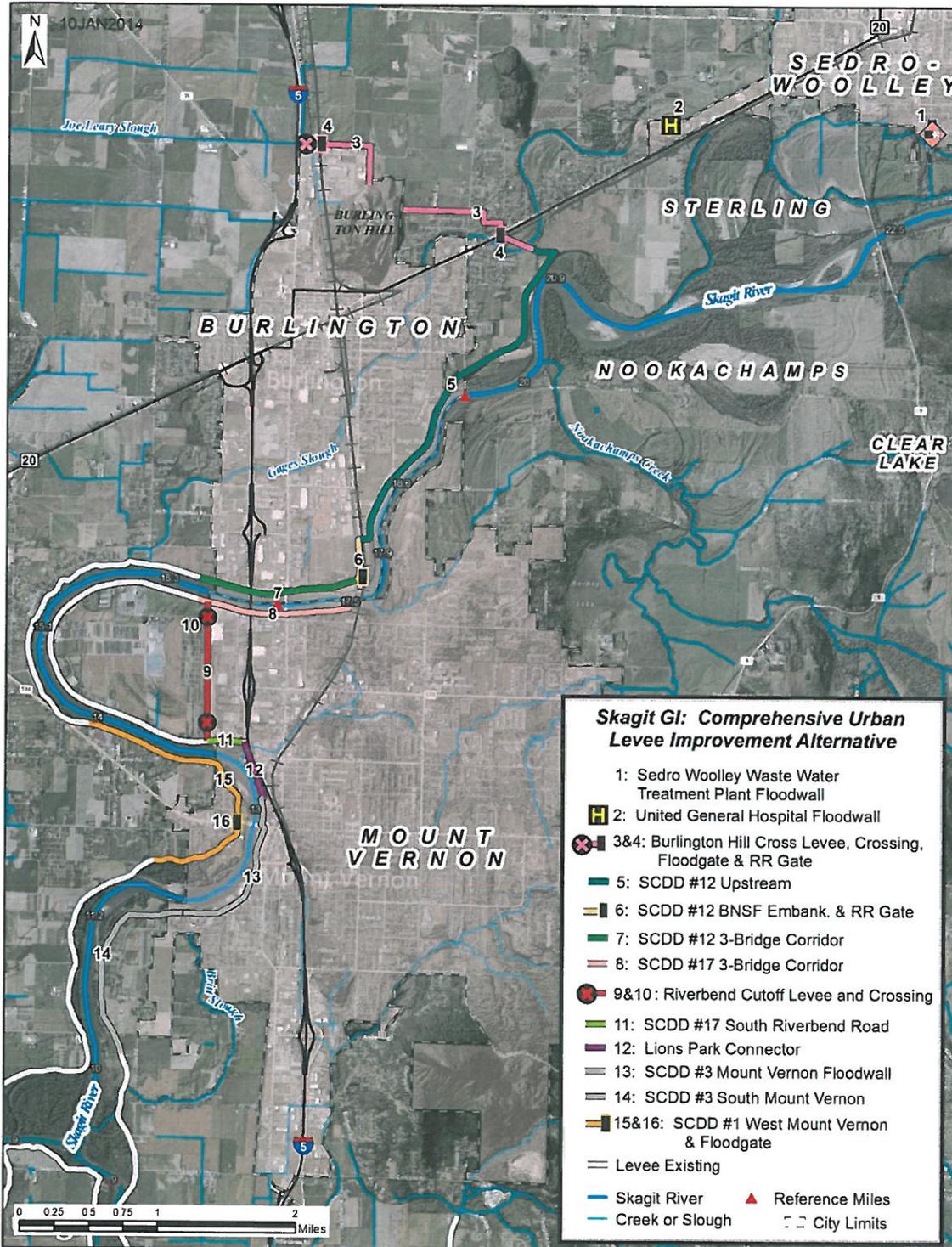


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SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

General Investigation

Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP): Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement (CULI) Alternative



- New Northern Burlington levee
- Improve approximately 9 miles of existing levees
- New Riverbend levee
- Non-structural (as needed)

- No modifications to I-5 or bridges
- Operation modification to Upper and Lower Baker Dam
- Least environmentally damaging

RESOLUTION NO. 902-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT GENERAL INVESTIGATION

Whereas, the City of Sedro-Woolley was an active partner in the Corps of Engineers General Investigation of flooding on the Skagit River until recently when the City was no longer included in meetings and discussions about flood reduction alternatives including the process for identifying the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), and

Whereas, the original intent of the Skagit River GI Study was to include a comprehensive, system-wide approach to flood risk mitigation which included the City of Sedro-Woolley and was the reason the City of Sedro-Woolley was so engaged in this process and helped fund the local match, and

Whereas, the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Skagit River Flood Risk Management General Investigation that was issued by the U.S. Army Corps Engineers (USACE) and Skagit County in May of this year does not include information that is adequate to allow the City of Sedro-Woolley to understand the consequences of the TSP, and

Whereas, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) does not include a careful analysis of the post-project conditions, and

Whereas, prior studies and analysis has demonstrated that raising the dikes downriver from Sedro-Woolley raises the flood levels within and around the City of Sedro-Woolley to include critical infrastructure, human lives, and real property, and

Whereas, it is not possible for the community in general and the City of Sedro-Woolley in particular to provide meaningful comments on the TSP without the post-project conditions clearly studied, and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley supported the GI Study in an effort to find a Skagit River system wide flood reduction solution rather than a transfer of risk plan from a higher assessed value community to a lower assessed value community,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley:

Section 1. The DEIS is inadequate to allow the City and the community to understand the TSP as it fails to provide post-project modeling which is necessary to fully describe the impacts to the people and infrastructure of the City of Sedro-Woolley including

impacts to the environment, economic losses, lives, property, on-going future risk and reductions to quality of life and impact on low-income households who may be at risk of losing their homes as a result of consequential changes to the base flood elevation from the TSP that may trigger mandatory participation in the federal flood insurance program and other intended and unintended consequences.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley has grave concerns about the possible transfer of flood risk from historical and traditional flood prone areas which have been heavily developed in recent decades to areas that developed over a century ago and which have never been at significant risk of flooding as may be possible if the TSP is constructed.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley requests Skagit County and the USACE to fully study the impacts of the TSP on the City of Sedro-Woolley and include the results within the scope of the final environmental impact statement and to further include as part of the finally selected plan all necessary measures to ameliorate the harm to the people, property and infrastructure of Sedro-Woolley that result from the finally selected plan.

Section 4. The City Council requests personal follow-up from Skagit County and USACE regarding these critical issues.

PASSED by majority vote of the members of the Sedro-Woolley City Council this 9th day of July, 2014, and signed in authentication of its passage this 10th day of July, 2014.



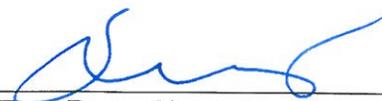
Mike Anderson, Mayor

Attest:



Patsy Nelson, Finance Director

Approved as to form:



Eron Berg, City Attorney

Skagit River General Investigation Study

Public Review of Draft Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement

June 6 – July 21, 2014

Is there anything additional that should be addressed or considered during this study? Please be specific.

Do you reside within the Skagit River Basin? Yes No

Would you like to be added to the Skagit River General Investigation Study mailing list? Yes No

If yes, provide us with your contact information so we can add you to the project mailing list (please print):

Name: _____ Affiliation (Optional): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

For more information or to submit other comments, please contact Hannah Hadley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Skagit.River@usace.army.mil or at (206) 764-6950. Comments must be received no later than July 21, 2014. Thank you!

*Affix
Postage
Here*

Ms. Hannah Hadley
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CENWS-EN-ER
P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA, 98124

Please fold form in half and tape closed to mail