

# SKAGIT COUNTY DIKE DISTRICT #17

## Overview:

Dike District 17 was established on January 1907. The original goals of the Dike District were to keep fall and spring high waters off of the farmland in the district. There was no development in the area at the time and farmers simply wanted to preserve the land in order to maximize crop production.

As time went on, the levees were developed to provide increased flood control. As the citizens of Skagit County found security in the level of flood risk management of Dike District 17, residential and commercial encroachment began into the Districts' boundaries. The building of Interstate 5 created additional demand on flood risk management and the Dike District. Continued development and commercial sprawl creates a demand for larger levees to further lower flood risk.

Today, the demands on Dike District 17 for flood risk management are higher than ever. The proposed revisions of the FEMA flood mapping in Skagit Valley will place the 1% 100 year flood level well above the risk management level of the existing levees. Development demands are growing at an exponential rate as population growth continues. Environmental constraints on levee construction further increase costs to provide flood protection. In order for Dike District 17 to evolve to meet the new demands and environmental impacts, we will need to take a team approach to flood risk management with the Dike District as the lead.

The short term goal of Dike District 17 is to continue our current maintenance strategy in order to insure existing infrastructure meets or exceeds federal requirements imposed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers PL8499. The long term goal of Dike District 17 is to provide the best possible flood risk reduction to our district given the financial, geographic, ecological and biological constraints placed on the district. The district's long-term goals include:

1. Foremost, Dike District 17 will focus on efforts to reduce flood risk and promote life and property safety within the district.
2. In partnership with the City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Federal agencies, Dike District 17 will work to set back levees in the three bridge corridor in an effort to provide 100-year flood risk reduction for Mount Vernon and other properties within this portion of the floodplain.
3. Dike District 17 will partner with the City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County, State, and Federal entities to provide a minimum of 100-year flood risk reduction for the properties within the city limits of Mount Vernon.
4. Dike District 17 will partner with Skagit County, State, and Federal entities to provide a minimum of 50-year and a maximum of 80-year flood risk reduction for all properties in the district and outside the city limits of Mount Vernon.

Dike district 17 mitigation efforts will be ongoing for many years. These efforts will not be achieved without partnerships and cooperation from a multitude of other entities and stakeholders both within and outside Skagit County. Dike District 17 will continue its efforts toward achieving these goals.

**Dike District #17 Profile:**

Land Area Owned:	15 acres
Miles of Dike/Levee:	5.5 miles
Value of Dike/Levee (at \$3,000 per foot):	\$87,120,000
Number of Tide Gates:	1
Value of Tide Gates:	\$ 50,000
Value of Equipment Owned:	\$ 150,000
Value of Area Served:	\$370,238,800

**Critical Facilities (Owned by District):**

1. Dike Building/Headquarters; approximate value: \$450,000

**Outline of Area Served:**

Beginning at the Mount Vernon side of the Skagit River at the BNRR Bridge downstream to Lions Park in Mount Vernon.

**Current and Anticipated Service Trends:**

1. Continued maintenance and ongoing repair of the levee.
2. Continue efforts to improve the levee via raising and set-back efforts.
3. The district has purchased 13 properties (with an approximate value of \$350,000,000) to allow for future set-back of the levee; it is anticipated this effort will continue.

**Natural Hazard Event History:**

NATURAL HAZARD EVENTS (1975-PRESENT)		
Type of Event	Date	Total Public Damage
Flood	1990	\$ 300,000 to levee
Flood	1995	\$1,500,000 to levee
Flood	2003	\$ 850,000 to levee
Flood	2006	\$1,000,000 to levee

**Natural Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Rating**

This District is most vulnerable to the following natural hazards - ranked in order:

1. Flood
2. Earthquake
3. Volcanic Activity

**Existing Applicable Natural Hazard Mitigation Policies, Ordinances, and Codes**

1. Washington State RCW 85- PL 8499 – 500 – 1 – 1 COE Standards

**Proposed Natural Hazard Mitigation Measures:**

In 2003, Skagit County Dike District #17 listed only one mitigation measure, to purchase property towards an established long-term goal of setting the existing levee back to provide an increase in flood protection. Since 2003, Dike District #17 was successful in purchasing two additional properties towards this goal.

The mitigation measures proposed by Skagit County Dike District #17 for the 2008 – 2013 plan cycle are listed below:

<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Time Line</b>
Provide 50 year minimum flood risk reduction in rural areas within the floodplain	Dike District 17 Commissioners	Grants, Local taxes, PL8499 funding	Long term & on going
Provide minimum of 80 year with a goal of 100 year flood risk reduction in urban populated areas within the floodplain	Dike District 17 Commissioners	Grants, local taxes, PL8499 funding	Long term & on going
Set back levies from BNSF Bridge to Mount Vernon city limits along Hoag and Stewart Road	Dike District 17 Commissioners	Grants, local taxes, State and Federal funding assistance, WSDOT and Federal DOT funding	Long term & on going
Replace the BNSF Railroad bridge	BNSF Railroad	Federal grants and assistance	Long Term
Supplement levy system along I5 with goal of 100 year flood risk reduction	Dike District 17 Commissioners	Grants, local taxes, State and Federal funding assistance, WSDOT and Federal DOT funding	Long Term
Increase flood storage capacity in the Baker River system	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Local taxes & federal funding	Long term
Increase drainage in Riverbend area	Skagit County	Local taxes & Grants	Short Term
Evacuation plan for residents within the district	Skagit County	Local taxes & Grants	Short Term
Provide public information and education regarding flood risk	Skagit County	Local taxes & Grants	Short Term