



# SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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## **Skagit River General Investigation Project Status Summary May 6, 2013**

In 2012, the Skagit River General Investigation (GI) Project Delivery Team (PDT) presented six preliminary alternatives to the community to solicit feedback. The six alternatives were then narrowed down to three at the Alternatives Milestone Meeting, a vertical team meeting that included the non-federal sponsor (Skagit County), USACE Division, District, and Headquarters.

The PDT is now analyzing the three alternatives. The USACE is overseeing a contract with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC) to examine the effectiveness of the three alternatives:

- **Joe Leary Slough Bypass/Overland Flow**
  - Initial Concept: Remove floodwaters from river system upstream of three bridge corridor and high economic damage areas. Either channel water (bypass) or guide water (overland flow) towards Joe Leary Slough which outlets into Padilla Bay.
  - Recent Refinement: The PDT selected the wide confined channel to hydraulically model. Overland flow was ruled out due to numerous constraints. The approximately 1500' wide channel would begin at SR-20 (near where Lafayette Rd. runs parallel to SR-20) and follow Joe Leary Slough to its outlet.
  
- **Levee Setbacks (Now Urban Protection)**
  - Initial Concept: Increase conveyance of floodwaters throughout the river system by setting back levees and modifying river bridges.
  - Recent Refinement: Various levee setback scenarios were modeled by NHC. No levee setback scenario reduced the amount of economic damages to an acceptable level. This alternative then changed to the Urban Protection alternative. The concept with this alternative now is to raise urban levees and build new levees to protect urban areas.
  
- **Swinomish Bypass/Overland Flow**
  - Concept: Remove floodwaters from river system just downstream of three bridge corridor on the right bank. Either channel water (bypass) or guide water (overland flow) towards Swinomish Slough which outlets into Padilla Bay.
  - Next Step: this alternative is next for modeling/refinement.

Each alternative contains individual projects and non-structural components that work in concert for a comprehensive solution to flood risk management, such as optimizing Puget Sound Energy's Baker Project Dam Storage and city/town/region specific flood walls and levees.

NHC's current tasks include:

- Optimizing the hydraulic model at the BNSF bridge crossing
- Analysis of early season flood storage at Upper Baker
- Analysis of flood storage at Lower Baker
- Hydraulic modeling of the 3 alternatives
- Update the USACE Hydrology and Hydraulics Technical Reports
- Creating model inputs for damage assessment

General Timeline:

Spring 2013:	Alternative Analysis/Compare Alternatives
Summer 2013:	Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
Spring 2014:	USACE Decision Milestone
Fall 2014:	Submit Final Draft of Integrated Feasibility Study/EIS
Spring 2015:	Chief's Report Finalized

For More Information:

Please visit [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net) and search Skagit River GI. The website contains maps of the alternatives and recent reports and studies. Or contact:

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