

## Flood Control Plans Presented To Voters By Planning Council

Attorney R. V. Welts Outlines Proposition In Detail For  
Skagit Residents' Study Before Special Election  
Which Will Be Held Tuesday, Dec. 3

Recognizing flood control as an emergency the Skagit County Planning Council took action at a meeting here Tuesday night to bring the proposal to form a Skagit County Flood Control District more fully before the voters. A statement was outlined which was written out in detail by Attorney R. V. Welts, head of the council. The statement follows in full.

### Council's Proposition

The Planning Council believes the formation of our Flood Control District is the most important thing this county has attempted to do. The Skagit and Samish Rivers have always presented a serious problem. Through the years, instead of growing better, the dangers have constantly increased.

Something must be done or the entire valley faces disaster.

In the past we have tried to work single-handed. This has failed.

The land in this valley has been reclaimed from overflow by rivers and salt water at tremendous cost. Fifty years ago the individual tried to dike and drain his land. In a few years he learned that he could not succeed alone. His neighbors joined with him and formed dike and drainage districts designed to protect and reclaim small isolated units. Neighboring farmers formed similar districts; each trying to protect its property, regardless of what happened to the adjoining district. We now have 27 independent diking and drainage units.

Through the years they have spent over \$1,000,000.00 of the taxpayers' money for protection.

### Worth Protecting

The fertility of the land in this valley is without comparison. We have, as we know, one of the most highly developed communities in the Northwest. It has been built up through the expenditure of millions upon millions of dollars. We have recently realized, through the flood of two years ago, when over 20,000 acres was under salt water, and through the fact that each winter we now have floods from the Skagit and Samish rivers, that we must have help.

As we have been building our dikes, the timber has been logged from our hills. They are now bare. They no longer hold back the rainfall and melting snow. This water comes into the rivers more rapidly than before. At Hamilton, Lyman, Stirling and a

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