

LEXINGTON FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT  
of Cowlitz County, Washington

207 Fourth Avenue North, Rm 101 ☐ Kelso, Washington 98626 ☐ Phone (360) 577-3030

April 25, 2000

Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Lower Snake River Study  
201 N Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

SUBJECT: **Salmon Recovery**

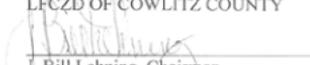
The Lexington Flood Control Zone District encompasses an area of approximately 3,000 acres along the banks of the Cowlitz River and includes roughly 2,200 residents. The District provides, operates and maintains 3 miles of levees and a very expensive, complicated system to discharge runoff of up to 151,000 gpm into the river. We have an assessed valuation of \$120,000,000 and the residents provide for annual operation and maintenance costs of approximately \$290,000 per year.

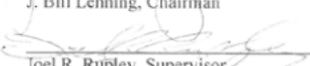
Breaching of existing dams is being discussed as a method of salmon recovery. Corps of Engineers information concludes that the storage capacity of the river systems result in flood levels of 5-6 feet lower at our location than if the dams were not in place. Because of the proximity to the lower Columbia River, these are backed up during high water in the Columbia River.

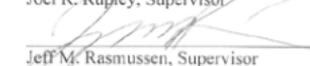
To raise the levees and modify all of our systems to accommodate higher levels would be extremely costly. A levee raise would require expanding the levee 9 feet landward for each foot of raise (riverward fill would be unacceptable). Discharge pumps would need to be upgraded to handle the increased head.

We object to any breach of dams anywhere in the system, whether those dams are deemed significant or not. A radical, costly, questionable method of recovery such as breaching dams, however well intentioned, would be virtually irreversible.

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cc: Senator Patty Murray  
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