CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

August 26, 2011

Major General William T. Grisoli
Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 "G" Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear General Grisoli:

I continue to take a personal interest in pending flood levee vegetation management decisions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I am pleased to report that the state and other participants are actively participating in the Seattle District process. That effort has made real and substantial progress on this important topic. All of us working on this issue also appreciate the attention that you and the senior Corps staff have spent following my letter of January 7 of this year to General Van Antwerp.

You should be reassured from the recent meeting you had with state, federal and local representatives that we have a strongly held common value with the Corps for making sure our levees are structurally safe and well-maintained in a manner that is timely and cost-effective. I was pleased to hear from my representatives that you share a commitment of providing functional habitat to meet endangered species requirements and the responsibilities regarding Indian Treaty rights. We also share your conviction that these programs must be based on good science and adaptively managed.

I'm looking forward to hearing how our shared goals can be accomplished. As you prepare to make a decision on the Corps national guidance, please know that we remain committed to working with you to reach a path forward for the Corps and the state. With your leadership and the leadership of the other participants in Puget Sound, I remain optimistic that we can move ahead together.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor