

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

Petitioners Oppose Avon Bypass

Petitions opposing the Avon bypass and, in particular, any modifications for other than flood control purposes, were filed with the Skagit county commissioners Wednesday by a group calling itself the Citizens Association for Skagit County Improvement.

An accompanying letter said there were 823 signatures on the

petitions. It was signed by Norman H. Dahlstedt as chairman and Ray Billups as secretary.

The petition headings "oppose any plans to modify the structure of the Avon Bypass for any purpose other than flood control." They go on to say the signers "are in fact opposed to the Bypass itself because as presented to us it will not provide pro-

tection from major floods." adding:

"The cost of construction and maintenance is beyond Skagit county's means and this project would endanger a new area to flood hazard and eventual silting up of shallow Padilla bay."

The association's letter asked the commissioners to consider

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Petitioners Oppose Avon Bypass, Ask For County Poll

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calling for a vote on the bypass "to determine taxpayers' acceptance or rejection . . ." It noted that the (U.S.) Engineers are about to further expend \$30,000 in a restudy of the bypass intake location."

The letter expressed the belief the public was "nearly 100 per cent" in favor of lower river (below Mount Vernon) improvement. The Engineers' plans would increase the downstream capacity by 30,000 cubic feet per second, which the association contended would represent half the bypass' capacity "for one-quarter the cost."

There will have to be an election before the bypass project can be undertaken, Chn. Claude Wilson of the County Commissioners told The Argus.