



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Seattle District Levee Vegetation Variance



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History

- State Resource Agencies and Corps developed draft MOA on levee vegetation in 1993
- Seattle District adapted the draft MOA to create a Seattle District variance for levee vegetation guidelines in 1995.
- Discussions and working groups continued but the MOA was not signed.



Variance Approach

Public Safety and Levee Integrity are not compromised.

Not all rivers and levees have the same characteristics.

- ▶ Duration of flooding
- ▶ Levee materials and geometry
- ▶ Setback
- ▶ Velocity, sedimentation, & debris load.



Evaluation Factors

- Inspection
- Access
- Slope Stability
- Erosion
- Seepage



Inspection Consistency

- Trained and Experienced Inspectors
- Prior inspection reports
- Performance data
- Appropriate review process



National Standard



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Acceptable Seattle Variance



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Acceptable Seattle Variance



TRONG®

Vegetation Variance



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Unacceptable Seattle Variance



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Unacceptable Seattle Variance



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Summary

- ▶ Levee reliability is key. However, not all rivers and levees are the same.
- ▶ Assure proper engineering evaluation is conducted.
- ▶ Continue to use the Seattle District vegetation variance.

