



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

Regulatory Branch
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Public Notice Date: February 12, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT: Special processing procedures for NWS-2024-58, Skagit Co. Public Works

BACKGROUND: Per 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4), Division engineers are authorized to approve special processing procedures in emergency situations. An “emergency” is a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures. In emergency situations, the district engineer will explain the circumstances and recommend special procedures to the division engineer who will instruct the district engineer as to further processing of the application. Even in an emergency situation, reasonable efforts will be made to receive comments from interested Federal, state, and local agencies and the affected public. Also, notice of any special procedures authorized and their rationale is to be appropriately published as soon as practicable.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Special Public Notice is to publish the special processing procedures undertaken for the above-referenced project.

EMERGENCY WORK: Work would occur in North Osterman Creek at the Concrete Sauk Valley Road crossing near Rockport, Skagit County, Washington. During a 2021 event, culvert under the roadway was washed out and the road undermined. The County installed a temporary 120-foot long bridge spanning the channel from top of bank to top of bank to maintain access along Concrete Sauk Valley Road while a permanent fix was designed and implemented. During the highwater events at the end of 2023, North Osterman Creek rapidly eroded into the bank, putting the temporary crossing in jeopardy of failure. The County proposes to install temporary bank stabilization measures until a permanent bridge can be installed. An excavator will be used to construct an access road in uplands along the northwest side of the creek. Super sacks will be placed by a 350-series excavator along roughly 100 feet on the south side and 55 feet on the north side of the creek. The County estimates up to 85 super sacks would be needed. All super sacks will be monitored and replaced if wear or degradation is observed. They will all be removed prior to installation of the permanent bridge. The emergency work is depicted on the enclosed drawings dated January 16, 2024. The work may qualify for authorization under Nationwide Permit 14, Linear Transportation Projects.

DETERMINATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Seattle District) determined the proposed emergency work met the above definition of an “emergency” and coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Northwestern Division (NWD) Commander for approval to implement special processing procedures. On February 9, 2024, the NWD Commander approved use of special processing procedures.

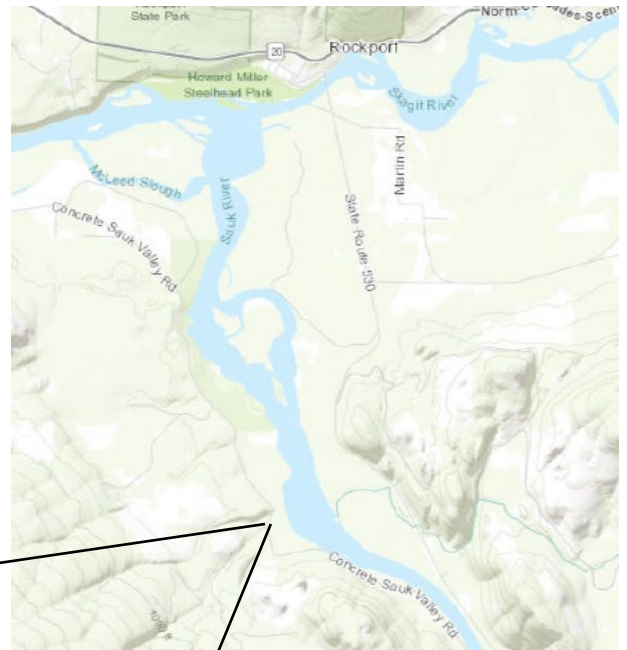
SPECIAL PROCESSING PROCEDURES: The Seattle District shall:

1. Ensure only the minimal amount of work is proposed to remedy the emergency.
2. Notify appropriate resource agencies and Tribes for their recommendations to minimize impacts to be considered for possible inclusion in the emergency authorization.
3. Special conditions can be added to the emergency authorization to ensure impacts are minimized.
4. After emergency authorization is granted, Seattle District will publish a public notice of these procedures.
5. Additional coordination with agencies and tribes may occur as necessary to complete certain processes after the emergency authorization is granted.

On February 9, 2024, emergency authorization was granted to the applicant. Publication of this public notice is part of the special processing procedures.

**Skagit Co. Public Works
North Osterman Creek Emergency
Bank Stabilization**

**Lat: 48.44235°
Long: -121.60147°**



**Corps Ref# NWS-2024-58
16 January 2024**

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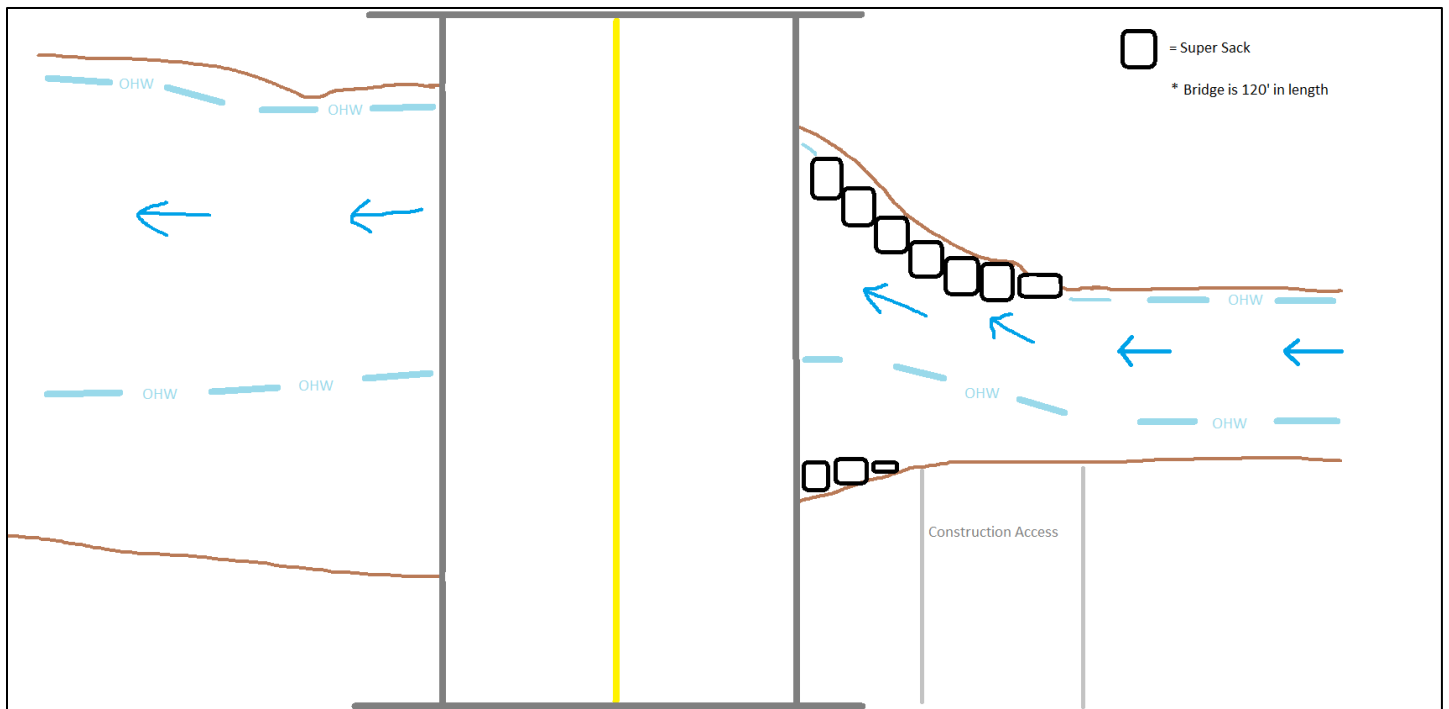


Figure 12. Plan view showing super sack placement, construction access, ordinary high water, thalweg, and bridge.

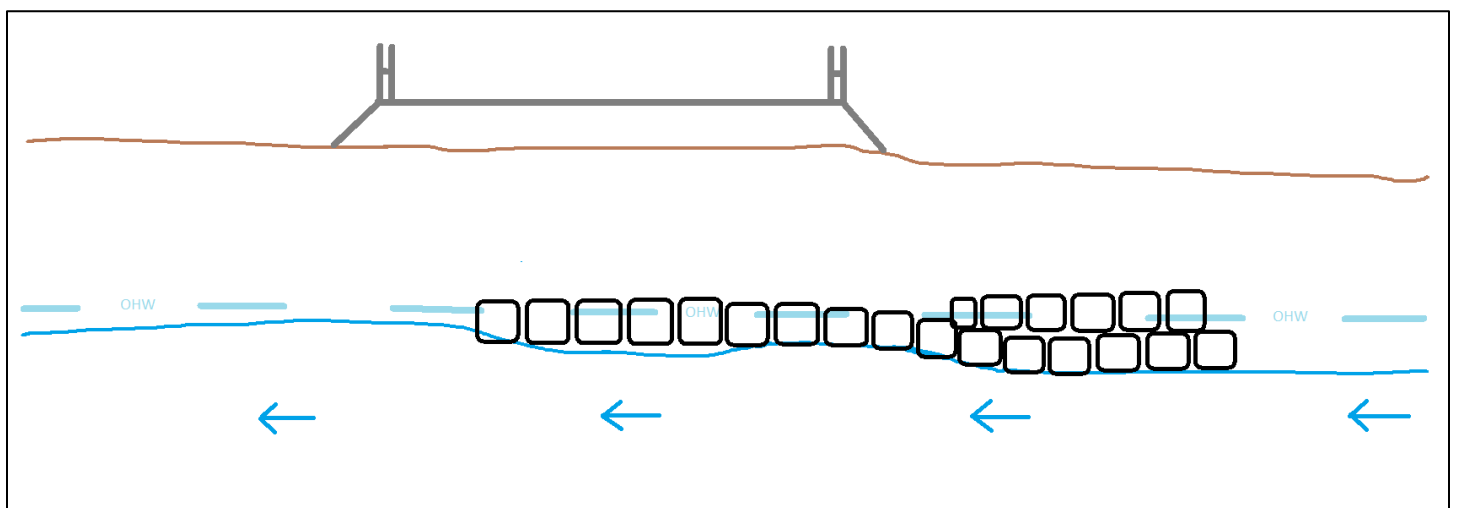
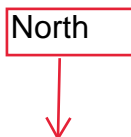


Figure 13. Supersack placement beginning upstream of the bridge site and extending to the downstream extent. Upper sacks will be stacked two high to secure them in place.



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