

1492.

This bill creates the Flood Control Construction Program within the Department of Natural Resources, for the purpose of financing the construction of flood control projects throughout the State. The bill provides that, upon application by any county, municipality having the authority to adopt and enforce land use and control measures, or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the Department may contribute up to one-half of the cost of a flood control project.

House Bill 839, which was enacted in this past session and which I have signed into law, provides for a comprehensive program of designating, mapping, and controlling the flood hazard and watershed areas of the State. Maps showing the interim flood hazard areas are required by April 1, 1977, and the subdivisions are required to adopt rules and regulations governing uses within these areas by November 1, 1978.

By January 1, 1977, the Department of Natural Resources is required to delineate the State's watersheds for the purpose of flood control planning and management. Thereafter, a cooperative study is to be made of the watersheds, and as part of the study alternative management techniques are to be defined. Based upon the study, the subdivisions are required to prepare a flood management control program, to be implemented within one year after adoption.

It may well be the case that, after the flood hazard and watershed areas are designated and the flood control program are adopted, there will be a need for a program of financial assistance of the type envisioned in House Bill 1492. Until these studies are completed, however, we run the risk of financing the wrong projects and in the wrong manner. Notwithstanding the requirement in the bill that the Department of Natural Resources establish criteria for evaluating requested projects, it is not clear at this time that the method of, and procedures for, funding contemplated by the bill will be the most appropriate ones. In summary, I think that the bill is premature.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1492.

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor
