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## City leaders might change their minds on flood protection after Corps study results

Fargo, ND (WDAY TV) - Local leaders could be changing their minds about permanent flood protection. This comes after news today that the locally preferred North Dakota plan won't protect against a 500 year flood. These findings come on the heels of a study by the Corps of Engineers on annual flood damage costs. That number is 177 million dollars, not 77 million dollars as originally thought.

Engineers say everything changed because of the new 100 year flood plain. They say that map shows most of the F-M area in that plain, meaning more damages in the event of a big flood. Now engineers will have to go back to the drawing board, doing additional studies on plans to see what works best.

They say the good news in all of this is they believe they have a more accurate picture what's been going on in the Valley. In the event of a 500 year flood, local leaders want to keep the Red at 36 feet; with the new numbers during a 500 year flood the North Dakota 35k diversion puts the river at 40 feet.



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Engineers say a wider diversion is needed to protect the area, which could mean an additional cost of one million dollars, but it also means more federal dollars. They say right of entry forms is critical to their job of finding the best protection for the area.

"We're also going to send follow up letters to all the folks that we haven't heard back from yet and hopefully that'll encourage them to participate. The reason we need to do studies is to find out things like this so that we actually can tell the locals what the cost to implement this really will be."

Engineers aren't sure of the additional costs yet; they're still in the process of studying the numbers and hope to have them in two weeks. In the mean time, they hope local leaders can give them an idea on if they want to stick with the current locally preferred plan, or move to something bigger.

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