

RESOLUTION NO. 952

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO.1 OF KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON SUPPORTING H.R.3144 FEDERAL LEGISLATION ADDRESSING FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM BIOLOGICAL OPINION

WHEREAS, Customers of Public Utility District No. 1 of Kittitas County, Washington, hereinafter referred to as "the District", receive 86 percent of their electricity from the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS); AND

WHEREAS, Hydropower provides 70 percent of Washington state's renewable, affordable and reliable electricity and 60 percent of the Pacific Northwest's electricity which the majority of it is produced by the FCRPS; AND

WHEREAS, hydroelectric dams also provide many benefits to the region, including flood control, navigation, irrigation, and recreation: AND

WHEREAS, federal legislation requires the federal agencies responsible for the management of the FCRPS (Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Army Corps, Bureau of Reclamation) to operate the hydro system in compliance with the Biological Opinion (BiOp) approved by NOAA Fisheries in 2008/2010 and supplemented in 2014, AND

WHEREAS, The FCRPS Biological Opinion (BiOp) has successfully improved fish runs including 97% of young salmon successfully making it past the dams proving that both dams and fish can coexist; AND

WHEREAS, BPA has spent \$15.28 billion in total spending on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978; AND

WHEREAS, Despite the success of the current FCRPS BiOp, in March 2017, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon (Court) directed the federal agencies to undertake a comprehensive review of hydro operations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and strongly urged the federal agencies to include analysis of the removal, bypass or breaching one or more of the four lower Snake River dams; AND

WHEREAS, H.R. 3144, "To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time", was introduced in the United States House of Representatives to ensure the FCRPS BiOp remains in effect until 2022, AND

WHEREAS, The federal legislation would continue federal hydro operations through September 30, 2022 or until the court-ordered, comprehensive environmental NEPA process concludes, a new Biological Opinion is in place and judicial review is complete, AND

WHEREAS, The federal legislation would prohibit studies, plans or structural modifications at the dams which would impair hydroelectric power generation or navigation on the Columbia River; AND

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Kittitas County, Washington, supports federal legislation H.R. 3144 introduced to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time;

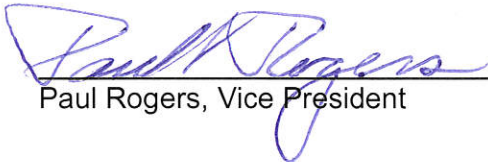
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District supports this legislation as it:

1. Offers a creative solution that is good for both listed salmon and the economy of the Northwest and Kittitas County.
2. Provides relief in the endless litigation of federal hydro system operations by directing the federal agencies to implement the current federal salmon plan, known as the 2014 Supplemental BiOp. This BiOp was vetted and supported by the Obama Administration's top scientists and has resulted in wild salmon numbers trending significantly upward due to changes in operations and the installation of new passage technologies.
3. Provides time for the federal agencies to complete the court-ordered NEPA environmental review process analyzing federal hydro system operations and focuses the general agencies limited resources on getting that process right. Without the legislation, the agencies would be compelled to author a new 2018 BiOp without the benefit of the new science and public input provided by the comprehensive NEPA review.
4. Avoids experiments or spill tests at the eight Columbia and Snake dams, and studies and modifications at the dams which would restrict electrical generation, which would create uncertainties in BPA's power costs and supply and raise Northwest electric customers' rates.

ADOPTED at an open meeting as required by law this 29th day of August, 2017.



Shan Rowbotham, President



Paul Rogers, Vice President



Joe O'Leary, Secretary