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March 19, 2007

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Mr. William C. Maslen
Manager, Fish and Wildlife Division
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council's decisions regarding a within-year request, for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007 for Bonneville funding in Fiscal Year 2007. This recommendation was an action taken by the Council at its meeting on March 14, 2007.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status of this Council action. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting in March.

Quarterly Review on Within-year Project Funding Adjustments for Implementation

On January 16, 2007, the Council staff presented the requests and reviewed the schedule associated with the within-year budget adjustment requests for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007. The comment period associated with these requests closed on January 24 (no comments received) and as anticipated, after the close of the comment period, Bonneville submitted a final list of the recommended within-year requests for a Council recommendation at the February meeting.

The Council's FY 2007 - 2009 funding decision for the Yakima Side Channels project directed the sponsor (the Yakama Nation) to "go through the within-year request process" for their acquisitions. At the November budget oversight group (BOG) meeting two parcels were submitted totaling \$1,853,000.¹

¹ Burlington Northern Santa Fe/ Interchange Pond- Habitat Acquisition for \$628,000, and Hundley Property Acquisition for \$1,225,000.

On February 14, 2007 the Council discussed the request associated with the Yakima Side Channels Project, but was not prepared to support Bonneville's recommendation. The Council will return to the request at its March meeting for a decision.

On February 12, 2007 the Council received Bonneville's 2007 - 2009 implementation plan that provided \$500,000 per fiscal year for 2007, 2008 and 2009. As part of this recommendation, the sponsors were encouraged to seek cost share opportunities.

The recommended level of funding, defined by Bonneville, seems reasonable and will allow the Yakama Nation some flexibility to negotiate with potential sellers, and more importantly to pursue other funding sources to meet their project needs. As is evident over the past year, it has been difficult for the sponsor to secure properties in a timely manner without losing the opportunity. *AW 4/25*

Based on the reviews conducted by staff, BOG and correspondence received from Bonneville, the Council recommends that the \$500,000 as defined in Bonneville's 2007 - 2009 implementation plan per FY 2007, 2008, and 2009 be approved for the Yakima Side Channels, Project 1997-051-00.

Sincerely,



Peter Paquet

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

cc Michael Coffey, BPA
Mark Shaw, BPA
Peter Lofy, BPA
Patricia Smith, BPA
Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA
Tom Iverson, CBFWA
Amy Langston, CBFWA