

August 1, 2001

Frank L. Cassidy, Chair Northwest Power Planning Council 851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

This letter is to request funding for Project Number 23074, *Lower Columbia River and Estuary Habitat Assessment and Mapping Project*. This project was reviewed under the High Priority project solicitation and was not funded (CBFWA HP "B", ISRP NA). The Lower Columbia River Estuary Program (LCREP) will be drafting the Estuary Subbasin Summary and believe that this project will contribute to the database for subbasin assessments and planning.

This proposal is to be joined with a Corps of Engineers \$150,000 cost share to complete mapping the lower Columbia River and estuary. Last year the lower 46 miles of the river were mapped and this funding would allow the completion of the remaining 100 miles up to Bonneville Dam. This would be a one-time expense to complete the mapping. The low water year provides a unique opportunity to complete the mapping with the greatest area of exposed shoreline and will provide important information for the subbasin assessments in this area.

The CBFWA Members recommend approval of this request by the NWPPC. The Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support funding this project from the subbasin planning and assessment placeholder the NWPPC and BPA have discussed over the past several months.

Thank you for your consideration of this action.

Sincerely,

Rodney W. Sando, Chair

Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

cc: Bob Lohn and Doug Marker, NWPPC

Bob Austin, BPA

CBFWA Members, Fish and Wildlife Managers

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