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Feb #31

February 15, 2001

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

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

This letter transmits the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Addendum: Response to Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) Comments which is intended to compliment the CBFWA February 1, 2001 submission for Fiscal Year 2001 High Priority Project Recommendations. This Addendum is comprised of 24 project specific responses to ISRP comments by project sponsors in order to provide additional support to the CBFWA February 1, 2001 High Priority Project Recommendations.

The CBFWA recommendation to the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) regarding the High Priority Projects is to fund projects that have been categorized as High Priority "A" (HP"A") and "B"(HP"B"). Under the HP"A" category, CBFWA identified 46 projects which meet the solicitation criteria and totaled approximately \$45 million. These projects were generally land and water acquisitions and habitat improvement projects. The HP"B" rated projects, totaling approximately \$45 million, are considered by CBFWA as High Priority but likely do not meet the solicitation criteria. However, these projects have an expedited need for funding and do address the transitional needs identified by the NWPPC including subbasin assessment and planning; research, monitoring and evaluation; needs of the Biological Opinions; and other projects that should be funded outside of the Rolling Provincial Review. Table A in the Addendum enumerates the specific projects in more detail. This Addendum includes responses from HP"A" and HP"B" projects because these are the only categories CBFWA is recommending. The project specific responses to the ISRP comments are intended to help the NWPPC better clarify those projects in HP"A" and HP"B" categories which did not receive consensus agreement between CBFWA and the ISRP. It is our hope that this Addendum will give the NWPPC added information by which to make a more informed decision. As point of clarification, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide the NWPPC more detailed comments supporting the merits of specific projects relative to the NMFS BiOp by February 26, 2001.

CBFWA understands that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is also reviewing the High Priority proposals. CBFWA has not received the BPA comments at this time but when we do we would be happy to submit additional responses to the NWPPC.

Since our February 1, 2001 submission to the NWPPC we have gained consensus agreement on CRITFC Project 23082, Protect Fish Habitat through Education and Enforcement. The ranking for this project is HP"A".

Finally, CBFWA comments relative to Selah Moxee Irrigation District Proposal 23093, Evaluate the Feasibility of Modifying the Selah Moxee Irrigation Canal to Increase Water Available for Fish by 15,000 Acre Feet, have been included in Table A.

Thank you for your consideration of the CBFWA High Priority Project Recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Allee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more legible than the last name "Allee".

Brian Allee, Ph.D., Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

cc: NWPPC Members and Staff
Sarah McNary and Bob Austin, BPA
Proposal Sponsors
Fish & Wildlife Managers