

RESOLUTION 1322

A RESOLUTION A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM, RECOGNIZING ITS ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND OPPOSING REMOVAL OF THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

WHEREAS, customers of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County, Washington (the District) receive 93 percent of their electricity from the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS); and

WHEREAS, the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) has been, is and will continue to be a critical component of life in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide navigable waters, irrigation, flood control and recreation for generations of residents in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the 31 federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide a reliable source of clean energy for millions of residents of Washington state and the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the four Lower Snake River Dams, which are Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite; annually produce 1,000 aMW of carbon free power, enough to serve nearly half a million Northwest businesses, industries and households; and

WHEREAS, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has identified the Lower Snake River Dams as critical components of the FCRPS mission of supporting peak power generation; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Snake River Dams are some of the least expensive to operate and, with the cost of power generated by the dams ranging from \$10 to \$14 per megawatt-hour, provide some of the greatest value for BPA customers; and

WHEREAS, removing over 3,000 megawatts of firm winter capacity generated by the Lower Snake River Dams would add to a forecasted Northwest shortfall in energy capacity; and

WHEREAS, the hydro system is in large part responsible for the clean air, water and lands enjoyed by millions in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has passed legislation calling for 100% of all retail energy sales to come from carbon free resources by 2045; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Substitute Senate Bill 5116 included existing hydropower as an eligible resource for utilities seeking compliance with the 100% clean requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Energy & Environmental Economics (E3) study has found that the cost of achieving 100% clean energy “leads to exponential cost increases and is impractical due to massive renewable overbuilds”; and

WHEREAS, the clean and renewable energy generated by the hydro system has made Washington state a national and world leader in responsible environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams would do irreparable damage to Washington and the Pacific Northwest’s role as a leader in clean, carbon free energy production; and

WHEREAS, BPA has spent nearly \$17billion on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978 including projects that address hydroelectric operations, habitat, hatcheries and harvest; and

WHEREAS, those investments, made in accordance with Biological Opinions approved by National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, have successfully improved fish runs resulting in greater than 96% of young salmon making it past each of the Snake River dams on their down river passage; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, there were more chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon that returned to Bonneville Dam than any year since the dam was built in 1938; and

WHEREAS, reports from NOAA Fisheries indicate that Columbia/Snake River chinook salmon returns increased in 2018; and

WHEREAS, while 2017 and 2018 saw significant declines in overall salmon returns, studies by NOAA Fisheries have attributed those declines to ocean conditions that are expected to dissipate by 2020, leading experts to forecast improved overall salmon returns in that year; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners (the Commission) of the District support the continued operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System in general and particularly the Lower Snake River Dams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that studies like those carried out by E3 strongly indicate that the removal of elements of the FCRPS, including the Lower Snake River Dams would negatively impact the District's responsibility to provide reliable, efficient, clean and affordable power to its customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based on studies and BiOps carried out by NOAA Fisheries, the Commission endorses the position that hydroelectric dams and salmon can and do coexist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District undertake the task of educating its customers and others as to the benefits of hydropower to the District, the State of the Washington and the Pacific Northwest and of the threats posed to salmon runs by factors such as lost habitat, predation and ocean conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District supports the four Lower Snake River dams for the carbon-free, renewable, reliable, low-cost energy they provide making them an important component of a clean energy future;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District opposes the removal or breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County, this 25th day of June, 2019.

Roger Wright, President

William Gordon, Vice President

Stuart Nelson, Secretary