

Renewable Energy Discussion

October 9, 2006

Environmental Stewardship Philosophy:

Chelan County PUD has long demonstrated a commitment and leadership role in environmental stewardship, renewable energy and conservation.

Examples:

Environmental Stewardship – 50-year license settlements and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) that protect fish and provide certainty of power generation.

Renewable Energy – Efficient/hydro turbine replacements, Solar/SNAP program, Nine Canyon Wind Farm

Conservation – Resource Smart, Home Energy Loans, Low-Income Weatherization, “Wiser Way” conservation tips and Xeriscape

Considerations:

Chelan County PUD has a clear position on renewable energy and conservation, which affirms:

Our environmentally sound hydropower is a renewable resource and all renewable energy should be encouraged and treated equally.

We strongly support and continue to encourage conservation.

The current and future role of renewable energy is an important part of Chelan County PUD’s strategic planning process with the public.

Alternative renewable resources are already being developed throughout the region without government mandates

The SNAP solar program should be treated as favorably as other types of solar resources.

Local control is important to the customer/owners of Chelan County PUD

Regional transmission planning is a critical part of integrating new resources.

Staff has been directed as follows:

Advocate that both our hydro and our SNAP program are renewable resources

Continue to support existing renewable and conservation programs at Chelan County PUD, while evaluating the expansion of conservation and energy efficiency opportunities.

Evaluate possible renewable projects in Chelan County.

Chelan County PUD actively supports renewable energy and conservation. However, the initiative raises several concerns, including those noted above, the potential future costs to be borne by our customer/owners and whether the initiative’s mandates reduce local decision-making authority regarding future resource planning. Should the Board determine to take a position, this should not be construed as the District opposing renewables or conservation.