

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MANY
BENEFITS OF HYDROPOWER AND OPPOSING
THE REMOVAL OF THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER
DAMS

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR ACTION

Hydropower is a premier renewable resource that optimizes river systems to accomplish multiple objectives and provide cost-effective electricity;

Hydropower plays an increasingly critical role in the modern electric system as our nation pursues a low-carbon, affordable, reliable and resilient grid;

Hydropower is unique among generating resources because it can provide all the attributes necessary for a reliable and resilient electric grid, including energy and capacity, regulation and frequency response, spinning and non-spinning reserves, flexibility, storage, inertia, and black start capability;

Hydropower provides a foundation for reliability that is necessary in a generation portfolio with high levels of variable energy resources;

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

The Lower Snake River Dams annually produce 1,000 average megawatts of carbon free power and represents 2,000 megawatts of firm winter capacity;

The Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council has forecasted that the region will be resource short and need to add an estimated 400 megawatts of new effective capacity by 2021;

A 2017 study by Energy & Environmental Economics has shown the value of hydropower in an increasingly carbon-constrained electric sector;

The State of Washington enacted the Clean Energy Transformation, which recognizes existing hydropower as renewable and calls for 100 percent of all retail energy sales to come from carbon free resources by 2045;

Fish runs have improved under the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion, with 96 percent of young salmon successfully migrating past federal dams, proving that fish and dams can co-exist;

A court-ordered environmental review process of federal hydropower system operations under the National Environmental Policy Act is underway and will be completed by 2020;

ACTION

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF CHELAN COUNTY, as follows:

Section 1. that Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County affirms hydropower is a cornerstone of a modernized, clean, reliable and affordable electric system that leads to a healthy economy and environment.

Section 2. that Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County recognizes the \$17 billion in significant investments of the Bonneville Power Administration and its electric customers in fish and wildlife programs.

Section 3. that Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County opposes the removal of the Lower Snake River dams because they are significant, carbon-free capacity resources in the Northwest.

Section 4. that Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County believes the NEPA review expected in 2020 will provide important information to regional stakeholders about current and future FCRPS operations.

DATED this 19th day of August 2019.

President

ATTEST:

Vice President

Secretary

Commissioner

Commissioner

Seal