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September 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: BOG management decision - Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design & Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP).

At the October Council meeting Council staff will present an overview of a BOG management action associated with Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design & Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP). The decision addressed a mitigation proposal for wetland impacts (i.e., Tillman Creek site) associated with the operation of a groundwater well (i.e., Well #3) at the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility (CESRF). Washington Department of Ecology and Bonneville have reached an agreement that the proposed Boones Pond action will provide the necessary mitigation required for the Well #3 wetland impacts.

The presentation is for information only and no action from the Council is needed.

BACKGROUND

As part of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 project review, the budget oversight group (BOG) deferred one (i.e., the above project)¹ of the four requests to the BOG management group.

A BOG management decision was initially deferred until additional detail² was received and on August 16, 2011 a confirmation receipt was received from Bonneville on the request.

At the September Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting Council and Bonneville staffs provided an overview of the BOG management decision. The request (see below) is supported by Bonneville³, but due to the amount (i.e., \$425,000) and possible future concerns the Fish and Wildlife Committee requested additional information on the history of Well #3 at the CESRF.

¹ The request was presented at the June BOG meeting.

² Information was requested regarding an agreement with WDOE, legal review and alignment to out-year planning.

³ BPA supports this request. This is a non-Accord funding request to increase the budget available for required Cle Elum Hatchery CE-6 Well dried wetland mitigation. These wetland losses occurred as a result of the operation of the CESRF hatchery. Ecology has determined that additional wetland deterioration has occurred requiring additional regulatory mitigation.

On September 13, 2011 additional information was provided to the Fish and Wildlife members indicating that groundwater conditions have stabilized and are improving such that there is high confidence in available water supply to support continued hatchery operations and that the proposed mitigation action at Boones Pond will fulfill Bonneville's responsibility relative to the wetland.

Project No.: 1988-115-25

Project Name: Yakima River Design & Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP)

Proponent: YN/BPA

BPA Project Manager: Patty Smith

Bi-Op Association: This project does not support a BiOp

Source of funds: General Within-year fund

Request: Through operation of the groundwater wells at the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility (CESRF), associated wetlands have been impacted by lowering of the groundwater table. Mitigation for wetland impacts has been undertaken at Tillman Creek, however additional mitigation is needed due to the magnitude of impact.

The Boones property acquisition/conservation easements and restoration proposal presents an opportunity for mitigation that is geographically strategic, cost-effective and ecologically significant. The Boones Pond mitigation project includes channel creation, wetland creation, flow control structures, and habitat enhancement. Creating this side channel would create productive habitat, would be relatively low cost and allow BPA to complete mitigation responsibilities for CE-6 Well dried wetlands. A feasibility study is being conducted to evaluate the potential for creating a side channel to flow to the east, entering the private pond (Boone) to the east. The private landowners are supportive of this concept. The restoration project would require excavation of a new high-flow channel to link the river across an isthmus that floods in existing conditions, and create a new channel link into the Boones pond. Dredge spoils would be strategically placed in the pond to enhance wetland habitat, by creating planting benches on shoreline banks.

The original Tillman Creek mitigation construction was completed as well as three of the four years of monitoring as prescribed by Ecology. Due to the success of the Tillman restoration efforts, we are counting on eliminating the last year of monitoring work and using the saved associated dollars toward design of the Boones Pond project.

Ecology has confirmed the Tillman Creek mitigation/restoration (after final report in 2012) is complete and that the Boones Pond project will provide the necessary additional mitigation required for the Well 3 wetland impacts.

Thus the budget need and timing is:

2012 - \$100,000 for land acquisition/easements

2012 - \$50,000 for baseline analysis, surveys, design and engineering

2013 - \$200,000 for construction (construction must be done in October; if easements are

obtained by October, 2011, then work may be able to start in FY12).
2014 - \$75,000 Monitoring

Recommendation by BPA: BPA supports this request. This is a non-Accord funding request to increase the budget available for required Cle Elum Hatchery CE-6 Well dried wetland mitigation. These wetland losses occurred as a result of the operation of the CESRF hatchery. Ecology has determined that additional wetland deterioration has occurred requiring additional regulatory mitigation.