

An Alternate Resolution Regarding the Lower Snake River Dams Removal

WHEREAS, the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) has been and will continue to be critical for electrification of life and the economy in Clallam County, especially when combining hydro’s flexibility with variable energy and storage resource technologies particularly useful for energy resilience in remote locations like Clallam County; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, the Board of Commissioners of PUD No. 1 of Clallam County (CCPUD1) adopted Resolution 2194-21 in support of retention of the lower Snake River dams as part of the FCRPS, and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the proposal to remove the four lower Snake River dams, it is apparent a portfolio of clean-energy resources including development of energy storage and adequate transmission systems are essential to meet our clean-energy policies within the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022, after an extensive investigation and public process, Senator Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee concluded, “The science is clear that – specific to the lower Snake River – breach of the dams would provide the greatest benefit to the Northwest salmon resource”, adding that extinction of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead is “categorically unacceptable”; and

WHEREAS, also in August 2022, the Biden Administration, agreeing to settlement talks and a pause in litigation challenging the federal salmon recovery plan adopted in 2020, affirmed that it was “...committed to supporting development of a durable long-term strategy to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels”, and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a definitive summary of the science of salmon and steelhead recovery (“Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead”), which concluded that, “Significant reductions in direct and indirect mortality from mainstem dams, including restoration of the lower Snake River through dam breaching”, was “essential”, and

WHEREAS the Northwest American Indian Tribes in Clallam County and throughout the Northwest, commercial and recreational fishers in the county, as well as Southern Resident orcas, have suffered real and grave harm from the decline of salmonid stocks, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State legislature is considering proposals from Governor Inslee and members of the legislature to fund detailed analyses of replacement, or mitigation for the loss, of the energy, transportation and irrigation services now provided by the four lower Snake River dams, a necessary precondition to breaching those dams, according to both Senator Murray and Governor Inslee, now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 2194-21, regarding the four lower Snake River dams, no longer represents the views of PUD No. 1 of Clallam County; and

2. That the Board of Commissioners of PUD No. 1 of Clallam County affirms that there is a conclusive scientific basis for breaching the four lower Snake River dams as an essential step towards recovery of threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead as well as serious effects on Southern Resident orca populations; and
3. That the Board of Commissioners urges our legislators representing Clallam County and the 24th Legislative District to support funding for the analyses of and plans for dam services replacement or loss mitigation, as proposed by Governor Inslee and legislative champions.

PASSED by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Clallam County, Washington, this 13th day of March, 2023.

RESOLUTION 2266-23