

A RESOLUTION Supporting Breaching the  
Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD) to Aid Recovery of Threatened and  
Endangered Salmon, Steelhead and Southern Resident Orca,  
Provide Justice to Northwest Tribes and  
Invest in a Sustainable, Equitable Future

WHEREAS, the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) is 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, Clallam PUD supports a portfolio of clean-energy resources including development of energy storage and adequate transmission systems as essential to meet our clean-energy policies within the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA)'s interconnections requests in 2022 nearly doubled requests in 2021 (>11K GW) with record levels of Gigawatt requests (>7 GW) to receive next step agreements last year and in 2023 (>3.5 GW), to date (**August 2022 BPA Cluster Study Report**), surpassing the LSRD nameplate capacity, far surpassing the LSRD average annual output; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Order 890) requires Transmission Service Providers (TSR) to offer Conditional Firm Service (CFS), a form of Long-Term Firm (LTF) Point to Point (PTP) transmission services; and

WHEREAS, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) offers CFS; 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, Endangered Species Act-listed Columbia/Snake Basin salmon and steelhead stocks, and salmon-dependent Southern Resident orcas, are genuinely in near-term peril of extinction; and

WHEREAS, 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 costs to operate, repair, maintain, and mitigate the impacts of the four lower Snake River dams are projected to escalate, increasing their financial liability to the entire Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) taxpayers and to local utility ratepayers; 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; now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, 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 and steelhead as well as Southern Resident orca populations; and

2. That the Board supports breaching the lower Snake River dams; and
3. That the Board supports a comprehensive solution that restores a free-flowing lower Snake River, replaces the services the lower Snake dams now provide, and works to bring communities across the region forward together; and
4. That the Board urges the Washington State Legislature to expedite moving forward with approved funding allocations to:
  - a. Enable the State Department of Commerce to analyze how hydropower produced by the dams can be replaced;
  - b. Enable the State Department of Transportation to determine how wheat now barged down the Snake River can be transported via other means such as rail and road;
  - c. Enable the State Department of Ecology to analyze how to continue to withdraw irrigation water from the Snake River above the Ice Harbor dam after breaching;
  - d. Enable breaching actions to go forward, addressing the immediate and critical needs of the identified endangered species; and
5. That the Board sees within the challenges of breaching, opportunities to move forward existing, emerging, and other new technologies that benefit the state, the nation, and particularly small, remote, rural counties like Clallam, today and into the future, with clean resilient and independent energy resources for safe, reliable, and affordable electric power to PUD customers-shareholders.

PASSED by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Clallam County, Washington, this 24th day of April, 2023.