

RESOLUTION 1099

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT OF KALAMA IN SUPPORT OF DAMS WITHIN THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM:

WHEREAS, the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide navigable waters to sustain the region's marine-dependent economy, irrigation, flood control and recreation for the residents of Washington state and the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Kalama handles cargo shipped on the Federal Columbia-Snake River System ("FCSRS") and exports that cargo globally;

WHEREAS, the Lower Snake River Dams enable irrigation for over 7 million acres of farmland producing \$8 billion in agricultural income; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Snake River Dams enabled barging of approximately 9 million tons of cargo in 2014 valued at over \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, the FCSRS is the top wheat export gateway in the U.S. handling over half of the country's exported wheat from 11 U.S. states, is the second most important export system in the U.S. for corn and soybeans, and is the west coast's largest export system for wood products and minerals; and

WHEREAS, the 465-mile federal waterway provides access to internal markets for Washington state farmers and farmers as far as the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, over 3.5 million tons of cargo were barged on 244 four-barge tows on the Snake River in 2017, a year when the locks were closed for three months for maintenance. In comparison, it would have taken over 35,140 rail cars or 135,000 semi-trucks to carry this same cargo; and

WHEREAS, annually the river cruise boat industry brings approximately 30,000 passengers and crew up the Columbia River to the Snake River, providing once-in-a-lifetime personal experiences and creating a positive economic impact to the region; and

WHEREAS, many of Kalama's industries located facilities in here because of the availability of reliable, carbon-free hydropower, creating jobs and boosting local economies; and

WHEREAS, the federal agencies responsible for the management of

the FCRPS (Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation) operate the dams in compliance with the Biological Opinions (BiOps) approved by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries in 2008/2010 (as supplemented in 2014), and in 2019; and

WHEREAS, BPA has spent nearly \$17 billion on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978 including projects that address hydroelectric operations, habitat, hatcheries and harvest; and

WHEREAS, those investments, made in accordance with Biological Opinions approved by NOAA Fisheries, have successfully improved fish runs resulting in greater than 96% of young salmon making it past each of the dams on their down river passage; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, there were more chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon that returned to Bonneville Dam than any year since the dam was built in 1938; and

WHEREAS, reports from NOAA Fisheries indicate that Columbia/Snake River chinook salmon returns increased in 2018; and

WHEREAS, while 2017 and 2018 saw significant declines in overall salmon returns, studies by NOAA Fisheries have attributed those declines to ocean conditions that are expected to dissipate by 2020, leading experts to forecast improved overall salmon returns in that year;

WHEREAS, the most recent Washington State budget set aside \$750,000 to study the economic and social impacts of the potential breaching or removal of the Lower Snake River Dams and the proposed study duplicates a more comprehensive effort that is several years underway by the federal agencies in the Columbia River Systems Operations Environmental Impact Statement (CRSO EIS) process.

WHEREAS, the FCRPS has been, is and will continue to be a critical component of life in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the 31 federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide a reliable source of clean energy for millions of residents of Washington state and the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Snake River Dams annually produce 1,000 aMW of carbon free power, enough to serve nearly half a million Northwest businesses, industries and households; and

WHEREAS, the BPA has identified the Lower Snake River Dams as critical components of the FCRPS mission of supporting peak power

generation; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Snake River Dams are some of the least expensive to operate and, with the cost of power generated by the dams ranging from \$10 to \$14 per megawatt-hour, provide some of the greatest value for BPA customers; and

WHEREAS, removing over 2,000 megawatts of firm winter capacity generated by the Lower Snake River Dams would add to a forecasted Northwest shortfall in energy capacity; and

WHEREAS, the hydro system is in large part responsible for the clean air, water and lands enjoyed by millions in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has passed legislation calling for 100% of all retail energy sales to come from carbon free resources by 2045; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Substitute Senate Bill 5116 included existing hydropower as an eligible resource for utilities seeking compliance with the 100% clean requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Energy & Environmental Economics (E3) study has found that the cost of achieving 100% clean energy "leads to exponential cost increases and is impractical due to massive renewable overbuilds"; and

WHEREAS, the clean and renewable energy generated by the hydro system has made Washington state a national and world leader in responsible environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams would do irreparable damage to Washington and the Pacific Northwest's role as a leader in clean, carbon free energy production;

NOW THEREFORE, the Port Commission of Kalama does hereby resolve as follows:

The Port of Kalama supports the continued operation of the dams within the Federal Columbia-Snake River System due to their importance to irrigation, flood control, recreation, fuel-efficient, safe, low-emission cargo transportation, and reliability of the Northwest electric grid as well as for the carbon-free, renewable, reliable, and low-cost energy they provide making them an important component of a clean energy future.

Based on studies and BiOps carried out by NOAA Fisheries, the

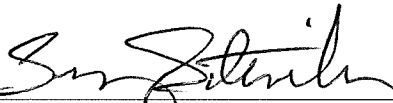
Commission endorses the position that hydroelectric dams and salmon can coexist.

Given that the CRSO EIS process is well-underway and expected to be concluded in 2020, the Commission believes the \$750,000 allocated to study the impacts of the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams to be duplicative and should have been allocated to science-based, high-priority salmon restoration projects, increased hatchery production and law enforcement activities in the Puget Sound region that will have a direct impact on Orca survival in their primary habitat.

The foregoing Resolution of the Port of Kalama was duly adopted by its Board of Commissioners at its meeting of the 26th day of February, 2020.

DATED and SIGNED this 26th day of February, 2020.

THE PORT OF KALAMA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Stariha, President

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Sweet, Vice President

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Basso, Secretary