



EMERALD PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

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October 3, 2006

Mark Walker  
Director of Public Affairs  
Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Subject: Fiscal 2007-2009 Fish & Wildlife Program Funding Review

Emerald People's Utility District (Emerald) is pleased to provide comments regarding the Councils F&W Program funding for Fiscal years 2007 – 2009. Emerald realizes the importance of preserving and protecting our natural resources including fish and wildlife. Simultaneously, we also realize the importance of providing low, cost-based power to our customers.

Thus, Emerald appreciates the Council's efforts in working with all of the various parties involved and establishing a program funding recommendation that focuses on the best use of program dollars. We also applaud your work in sorting through the hundreds of project proposals submitted and eliminating or re-prioritizing those projects that were not going to achieve quality results. This was a huge task that involved a lot of discipline and your efforts are not going unnoticed.

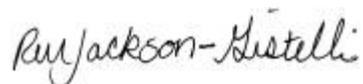
In order to best compliment the efforts already put forth, Emerald respectfully submits the following four suggestions and comments:

1. Continue focusing on the best use of dollars and require that the highest priority projects meet and complement the efforts already underway to enhance the salmon recovery in the region.
2. Build in flexibility so that the impacts of future BiOp decisions and/or negative project performance results can be mitigated without impacting the budget set forth in BPA's projected rate projections.
3. Continue to re-evaluate ongoing projects to insure that the already limited funding is being spent on projects that are meeting their intended objectives.
4. Do not set a budget that differs from what BPA has allocated in its rate making. Building in contingencies is acceptable, particularly considering the potential effect of future BiOp decisions, however the Council's budget including contingencies should not be different from what was used by BPA. With the ample opportunities (540 projects!!) to spend a significantly larger amount of money on additional projects, setting budgets above the contingencies will encourage over-spending.

Finally, to summarize, Emerald realizes the need to protect and preserve our regions Fish and Wildlife. Our hopes are that when our ratepayers money is being used to fund the programs or projects being implemented that the dollars being spent are well managed and result-driven.

Emerald thanks the Council for this opportunity to comment on this critical decision regarding the Fiscal 2007-2009 Fish & Wildlife Program Funding Review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard M. Jackson-Gistelli".

Richard M. Jackson-Gistelli, PE  
Power Resources/Key Accounts  
Emerald People's Utility District