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January 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: John Ogan and Doug Marker

SUBJECT: Long-term Bonneville fish and wildlife agreement

We have continued to have informal discussions with Bonneville representatives about a long-term Bonneville funding agreement for the fish and wildlife program. In those discussions, the Council staff has continued to emphasize that the primary objective of this exercise is the completion of an agreement that establishes what Bonneville's fish and wildlife funding commitment is for the next rate period, and how that program is tracked in both a budget and performance sense. While recognizing the desirability a funding agreement for the next rate period, and its willingness to work to complete one, the Bonneville representatives add that they want to begin to more specifically define Bonneville's fish and wildlife obligations.

We believe that the development of a funding agreement and a more definite specification of Bonneville's fish and wildlife obligations are related. However, we do believe that we have reached agreement in our discussions that it is not necessary to complete one of these products before the other. Our recent discussions have been at a conceptual level about how to construct a funding agreement around performance standards for the next rate period, while advancing a more definite specification of Bonneville's fish and wildlife obligations on a longer-term schedule.