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January 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Bruce Suzumoto

SUBJECT: Presentation by the Corps of Engineers on the Ice Harbor removable spillway weir (RSW)

The Council's 2003 Mainstem Amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Program highlights the development of removable spillway technology as an important issue. It states that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with other regional entities, "should place a priority on designing, testing, and evaluating methods and devices that could produce the same or greater benefit to fish while spilling less water, especially what are known as removable spillway weirs. If these methods and devices produce positive results, they should be implemented as soon as it is practical to do so" (p. 20, 2003 Mainstem Amendments).

In response to a Council request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will brief the Council on the status of the design and development of a removable spillway weir (RSW) at Ice Harbor Dam. The Corps will present the latest biological information obtained from 2003 studies as well as discuss the benefits, risks and uncertainties with the future installation of an Ice Harbor RSW.

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