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September 3, 2025

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: John Ollis
Manager of Planning and Analysis

SUBJECT: Adequacy and Hydro Operations Modeling Support

PROPOSED ACTION: Staff recommends authorization to continue to contract with Gwendolyn Shearer in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for adequacy modeling support throughout the fiscal year 2026.

SIGNIFICANCE: In FY26, staff will be conducting multiple needs assessments and adequacy checks on OptGen resource strategies in support of the development of the Ninth Power Plan. The power division uses the Council's GENESYS model to assess resource adequacy and understand hydro operations. Continuing to contract with Ms. Shearer will expand the team's capabilities to conduct the modeling necessary for the power plan development.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

For fiscal year 2026, staff recommends authorization to contract with Ms. Shearer in the amount not to exceed \$75,000. This support was included in the Council's budget for FY26 and expands the team's capability in the most economical way possible.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Shearer has continuously supported the Council staff in the redevelopment, testing, and running of the GENESYS model since 2010. She has deep familiarity with both classic GENESYS and redeveloped GENESYS. She is the only person outside Council staff (and the developers of

the model) that understands the model and how to operate and interpret results. In addition to her extensive knowledge of GENESYS, Ms. Shearer has a deep background in pacific northwest hydropower operations.

The redeveloped GENESYS model is complex and takes more time and effort to set up and run. This added effort results in more meaningful analysis to inform our power planning. Staff believes a focused contract with Ms. Shearer is the best approach to make the most effective use of the division's budget while ensuring that the division continues both to produce the analysis required by the Council and region and to meet the timelines for power plan development.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council could proceed without this added contract support. This would delay the timeline for delivering the plan needs assessments and adequacy checks (or alternatively, staff could reduce the level of rigor of analysis to stay on timelines). Staff does not see a viable alternative of pursuing an alternative contractor, as the learning-curve required would be costly and less efficient, further reducing our capacity to complete our deliverables in a timely fashion.