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# Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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September 3, 2025

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Steven Simmons  
Senior Forecast Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Contract with Itron for Load Forecast Support

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Staff is recommending authorization to contract with Itron Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$25,377 for licensing and support for the 2026 fiscal year.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** For FY 2026, staff is recommending renewing the license and support contract with Itron, Inc. The Itron model is our load forecasting model, which the Council uses for its power planning process.

## BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

For the fiscal year 2026, staff recommends authorization to contract with Itron, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$25,377 for load forecasting support. This amount includes the annual license for the tool and additional support for enhancements/updates that will be valuable as the Council continues development of its Ninth Power Plan. Staff has budgeted for this amount in the FY26 budget. These costs continue to represent a reduction in the annual load forecasting costs from previous planning cycles.

## BACKGROUND

In 2023, the Council contracted with Itron to develop a new forecasting modeling framework. This framework provided a much-needed upgrade in demand forecasting capabilities at the Council. This allowed the Council to develop a robust suite of long-term (20-year) load futures, which are a critical component of the development of the Ninth Power Plan. For FY 26, the power division recommends a contract to both renew the license and have a support contract. The renewed

license is important for the Council to be able to use this tool to develop the final 20-year load forecast required by the Power Act. The additional support will help us fine tune assumptions around hourly patterns and add more automation to the process, streamlining load forecasting efforts in the long-term.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Council could decide not to contract with Itron for this license and additional support. Staff does not recommend this, as without renewing the license the Council would be unable to develop its final load forecast required under the Power Act.

The Council could decide to renew the license, but not pursue additional support. Staff does not recommend this. The additional support is intended to improve modeling and streamline processes going forward, which will ultimately reduce staff time required to develop future load forecasts.