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September 1, 2026

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Kym Buzdygon
Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: Authorization to renew contract for government relations services

PROPOSED ACTION: Seek authorization to contract with Bluestone Strategies to continue government relations consulting services for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000

BACKGROUND

The Council has contracted with Chris Huckleberry of Bluestone Strategies since July 2023.

Mr. Huckleberry has provided invaluable services for the Council. In August 2025 he helped the Council staff organize and deliver on a successful Congressional staff tour, and he is currently coordinating the September 2026 Council trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congressional members and staff on the Council's recently released Columbia River Basin Fish & Wildlife Program, draft Ninth Power Plan, and other Council priorities. He led the ongoing communications and strategy effort with Congressional members and staff that resulted in an adjustment to budget language in the Northwest Power Act that will allow for inflation moving forward. Overall, he continues to serve the Council well as the lead on ongoing contacts with Congressional members and staff, and always provides a useful government affairs perspective for Council members and staff. Going forward, Mr. Huckleberry will continue to engage on behalf of the Council with the Congressional delegation and other policymakers.

We are asking the Council to authorize the staff to renew this contract for government relations consulting services for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 total. This is the same total contract price as last year.