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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Steve Crow

SUBJECT: Extension of time for mainstem amendments

The Council has received two requests for an extension of time on the schedule for the mainstem amendments. On November 14, a number of Northwest environmental and conservation groups asked for the Council to postpone its hearings until winter or early spring 2003. On November 20, Council Members Gene Derfler and Melinda Eden requested that the Council extend the comment period for the mainstem amendments until February 28, 2003 and extend the time period for a final decision until the April Council meeting.

The current schedule calls for the end of written comment on January 10, 2003, with a final hearing on January 14, and a final decision scheduled for the February 18-20 meeting.

We have allocated some time at the Council meeting to consider any revisions in the mainstem amendment schedule, including the reasons for requesting more time and the potential impacts of a delay on other issues such as mainstem/systemwide projects and summer mainstem operations.

enclosures