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MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: John Ogan

SUBJECT: Bonneville decision-making process on mainstem/systemwide project funding

Bonneville has been collaboratively working with the Council staff to consider the Council's funding recommendations for mainstem/systemwide project funding decisions. The Council made its funding recommendations on this group of projects at its June meeting. When the Council made that funding recommendation decision, there was substantial variance with what Bonneville had suggested for funding in this group.

Following the Council's June decision, Bonneville immediately convened a working group to review the Council's funding recommendations and to work towards its own response and funding decisions. That group included participation from NOAA, the Council, and CBFWA staff observed. At the July Council meeting, Bonneville reported that it had made funding decisions consistent with the Council recommendations for approximately \$25 million worth of projects. These were the projects that Bonneville and the Council agreed upon, both in terms of work proposed and budget. The total mainstem/systemwide allocations was \$31 million, and so approximately \$6 million remained to allocate to projects that had been recommended by the Council, or that Bonneville seeks to have funding.

The working group has met several times since July, and have narrowed the list of projects and issues considerably. The goals have been to fully implement the Council's recommendations, meet Bonneville's needs including Biological Opinion and Fish and Wildlife Program responsibilities, and stay within the \$31 million allocation. At this point, it is not likely that each of these objectives can be fully met. This should not be interpreted to suggest that the discussions have not been productive -- quite the opposite is true, and all of these objectives have been met at least in part. At the Committee meeting the Bonneville and Council staff will update the Committee on the status of Bonneville's funding decisions. Bonneville seeks the Committee's perspective on outstanding issues as it prepares to finalize its funding decision.

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