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May 4, 2004

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Bruce Suzumoto

**SUBJECT:** 2004 water conditions and hydro operations

Cathy Hlebechuk of the Corps of Engineers' water management group will update the Council on current water conditions, river and reservoir operations and water forecasts for 2004. Water supply forecasts have deteriorated as the season has progressed. The spring water supply forecast for the Snake now stands at 66 percent of normal while the spring water supply forecast for the Columbia River is 77 percent of normal.

Low water conditions in the Snake River have caused the elimination of spill at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams and a reduced spill operation at Lower Monumental Dam. Under the 2000 Biological Opinion, spill is eliminated at the Lower Snake collector dams when seasonal average flows in the Snake River are projected to meet or exceed 85 kcfs. When the decision was made to reduce spills, projected average flows (in kcfs) for the Snake River was in low 70's. Operationally this also means that juvenile transportation is being maximized at both Lower Granite and Little Goose dams.

Additional materials about 2004 water conditions and project operations will be supplied to Council members prior to the discussion.

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