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June 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on submitted subbasin plans and summer review schedule

On May 28th, the Council received all the subbasin plans that were contracted to be developed. All parts of the 58 subbasin plans arrived on time and in good shape. This is an amazing success on the part of the Columbia River Basin planning groups.

Subbasin plan development began about a year and half ago, just after the three-tiered infrastructure was put in place and contracts could be signed. Planning groups in 58 subbasins pulled staff and resources together to develop these comprehensive plans in a short amount of time and with what many would consider a shoestring budget. Some of the planning groups were already in place when this process began, but most were not. Those that were not required creating an organizational structure complete with technical and policy teams, coordinators, writers, and a process for decision-making. Despite the variability in time, money and organizational structure between subbasin planning groups, each group submitted its plan, commendably, by May 28th.

Plan Review

The plans have been sent to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) members and are also available for public review and comment. The plans can be found on the Council's website, or also by going to www.subbasins.org. ISRP and public review will continue through August 12, 2004. The ISRP summer meeting schedule can be found on the website as well. During that time, Council staff will be reviewing plans based on the Council-approved adoptability standards, which were developed from requirements for program amendments in both the Northwest Power Act and the fish and wildlife program.

Budget Update

The amount of subbasin planning funding approved for release totals \$14,476,792 for work through May 28. This leaves \$772,700 remaining from the overall \$15.2 million subbasin

planning budget. This amount will be available to pay for limited travel, response to comments, potential “fixes” to plans, data management, and technical services during the review period.

Regional Coordination Group

The Regional Coordination Group had its last meeting on May 3, 2004. Chair Judi Danielson expressed thanks to the group at the end of the meeting for having served the purpose the Council envisioned as an advisory and first-strike response effort, and for working through many issues related to subbasin planning. Chair Danielson and Doug Marker acknowledged that the RCG might be useful in working through issues during the review and adoption phase and suggested recalling the group to meet in the future if that would be helpful. Attached is a copy of Chair Danielson’s letter of thanks to RCG members for their work over the last year.