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November 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Briefing on analysis of operation and maintenance of Program wildlife acquisitions

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Project Funding Recommendations for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 includes interim funding recommendations for wildlife O&M projects, acknowledging that neither the Council nor Bonneville has conducted a detailed review of these projects to determine appropriate funding levels. The Council recommended that all wildlife operation and maintenance funding recommendations be considered interim until this analysis can be conducted.

In addition, the Council recognizes in its recommendations for fiscal year 2007-2009 that the fish and wildlife program is maturing and has made substantial investments in hatcheries, riparian improvements, fish friendly structures and screens, interests in land over the years, on the expectation that Bonneville would provide funding to operate and maintain these facilities to continue the flow of fish and wildlife benefits over time.

The programmatic recommendations identified this initial review of operation and maintenance funding for wildlife mitigation projects as not only a way to determine the appropriate operation and maintenance costs for these projects but as a "pilot" approach to how we can perform a comprehensive cost review of all of the long term operation and maintenance needs in the fish and wildlife program. A cost review such as this will likely be a key piece of the overall comprehensive operation and maintenance plan.

The staff will be meeting with Bonneville to begin initial discussions on this topic on December 4th (after the packet material is completed). Staff will report on the outcome of this initial meeting and next steps at the December Council meeting.