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June 3, 2014

### DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

**SUBJECT:** Within-year Project Funding Adjustments for Implementation

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Approve the within-year project funding request as presented by staff.

### BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total amount associated with the recommended requests is \$80,000 in expense Fiscal Year 2014 funds<sup>1</sup>.

### BACKGROUND

In 2004, Bonneville and the Council formed a Budget Oversight Group (BOG) to conduct a budget tracking process for within year change requests of the Program's reviewed and recommended projects. The BOG consists of Council state and central staff, and BPA staff. The meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. The procedures have changed since 2004 in response to the needs of the Program and contracting and budgeting processes at Bonneville. A \$1 million placeholder for within year requests was established for Fiscal Year 2014 and is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2015.

The principal role of the BOG is to validate whether a change request is a budget or scope change, and to place the request into the appropriate category in order to determine next steps towards funding the request. There are three categories and related processes that a budget change request can follow to reach a decision to fund -

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<sup>1</sup>The balance for the Fiscal Year 2014 within-year (BOG) placeholder at the end of the May 2014 is \$963,000 (out of \$1,000,000).

Emergency<sup>2</sup>, Quarterly<sup>3</sup>, and Threshold<sup>4</sup>. Requests that are determined to be a change in project scope are also reviewed through the BOG process and may require additional ISRP review. This type of request includes projects that have a change in intent, location, objectives, or work elements that changes the project from the original Council reviewed and recommended project.

The actions associated with the BOG are routed through the BOG Management Group comprised of BPA's Fish & Wildlife Director and Council's Fish and Wildlife Director for a decision to move forward to the Council for a recommendation. The requests are generally pooled together and reviewed quarterly by the Council, unless it is of an urgent nature or have time sensitivities. The Council recommendation is then submitted to BPA to fund and implement.

At the May 14, 2014 BOG meeting two requests were reviewed. Both requests have either an emergency/urgent or time sensitive need. The requests were presented to the BOG Management Group and notice was transmitted to the Council members to concur with the BOG recommended process associated with each of the requests. As indicated in the transmitted notice the Sunnyside Wildlife Area request was treated as an emergency/urgent request and is currently being addressed.

The following provides an overview of the remaining time sensitive request and provides a staff recommendation for the Council's consideration at your June meeting.

## ANALYSIS

- Project #1992-009-00, *Yakima Phase II Fish Screens Operations and Maintenance (O&M)*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are rescinding their previously approved request for \$575,000 and are instead submitting a new request for \$80,000 to perform a feasibility study on the consolidation of the Glead diversion with the City of Yakima diversion (CoY), which is upriver of the current Glead site. The Glead fish screen/water diversion was built in 1993 on the Naches River and is part of the existing comprehensive operation & maintenance program of irrigation diversions by the WDFW and BOR of BPA-owned Yakima Phase II fish screening facilities in the Yakima River Subbasin. The project supports RPA 35 of the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (BiOp) with a link to the listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead. The

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<sup>2</sup> Acts of nature or the unforeseen loss of mechanical infrastructure that necessitates an immediate, unexpected or unplanned action to avoid the imminent loss of fish and/or wildlife resources or to avoid serious human health or safety issue unplanned action to avoid the imminent loss of fish and/or wildlife resources or to avoid serious human health or safety issue.

<sup>3</sup> All other requests for additional funding that do not fall within the emergency or threshold categories.

<sup>4</sup> A change request meets all the following criteria: the change is within the scope of the project; is within 10 percent of the approved BPA SOY budget; and is less than \$75,000.

Fiscal Year 2014 budget associated with this project is \$291,391 and the project does not have the capacity to absorb the associated needs with this request<sup>5</sup>.

The needs for the Glead fish screen/water diversion are well established, and the Council has taken action to support three<sup>6</sup> within year requests in the past to correct the fish passage deficiencies that exist during the spring outmigration period and other related design issues. As part of the planning associated with the last design a final hydraulic assessment was conducted and concerns were identified that lead to productive conversations between the local water users, WDFW, the City and County of Yakima and the BOR. Conversations determined that a consolidation of the Glead diversion with the CoY was the best option to resolve the ongoing issues. The CoY diversion is located 1500 feet upriver of the Glead site and their diversion is piped over the Glead canal. This consolidation option had been discussed in the past, but there was not an opportunity for collaboration until recently. Consolidation with the CoY was proposed by the City as part of their instream and intake work scheduled for 2014.

As part of this request the WDFW and BOR are rescinding their within year request approved by the Council on November 9, 2011<sup>7</sup> - *\$575,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 expense funds to cover construction costs associated with the renovation of the Glead fish screen in the Naches River*. The previous request did not consider consolidation with the CoY, thus Council staff felt that a new request would be the most expeditious and transparent approach to moving this project forward. Also, it is important to note that any future design and construction funding associated with the Glead request will be addressed in the project's start-of-year budgets for Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016. In order to meet the design and construction schedules for FY 2015 and 2016 it was necessary for the BOG Management Group to request an expedited recommendation from the Council in June.

Staff Recommendation: Based on the extensive history and critical needs associated with the Glead fish screen/water diversion and the associated past recommendations by the Council, the Council staff recommends support for the within year budget request of \$80,000 to perform a feasibility study on the consolidation of the Glead diversion with the CoY diversion. The funds for this request will be taken from the Fiscal Year 2014 BOG placeholder.

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<sup>5</sup> The project conducts operation and maintenance of fish protection, mitigation and enhancement facilities in the Yakima River Basin with BOR and WDF. BOR operates and maintains five sites exclusively and shares responsibility of 28 other fish screen sites with WDFW.

<sup>6</sup> November 19, 2008 at \$27,000; August 18, 2010 at \$124,000; November 9, 2011 at \$575,000.

<sup>7</sup> To date approximately \$87,000 has been invested in the Glead work.