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December 2, 2014

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Committee members

**FROM:** Council staff

**SUBJECT:** O & M long-term funding strategy framework

### **BACKGROUND:**

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

**Summary:** Initial thoughts and schedule will be presented regarding one of the highest priorities the region defined as part of the 2014 F&W Program (Program).

**Relevance** As part of the Program implementation, an investment strategy is outlined (Part Six; Section II, and Appendix P). Within this strategy long-term maintenance of past investments was prioritized as one of the highest Program priorities.

**Workplan:** A long-term maintenance framework of the assets created by prior Program investments is one of the top priorities of the draft 2015 Fish and Wildlife work plan.

**Background:** The Council has determined that adequate and dependable operation and maintenance support is needed to ensure proper function of infrastructure investments by Bonneville and the other Action Agencies intended to benefit the fish and wildlife in the Columbia basin.

Adequate funding for operation and maintenance will ensure that existing Program funded infrastructure remains properly functioning, and will not

only continue to benefit the fish and wildlife in the basin, but will continue to help Bonneville meet its mitigation requirements.

There are several types of program-funded projects that require a long-term financial maintenance plan to ensure their longevity and integrity, including fish screens, fishways and traps, hatcheries, lands, and habitat actions.

In addition, changing regional priorities may result in the need to decommission or upgrade some fish or wildlife infrastructure emplacements. An adequately funded plan will also help to ensure that decommissioning will occur as necessary.

In an effort to initiate this strategy and develop a framework, the Council staff in the near future will be drafting a letter to the principals in the region to assist the Council in defining the scope, magnitude and priority needs of this framework. In addition, the IEAB (Independent Economic Analysis Board)<sup>1</sup> is pursuing a task intended on providing insight into this issue.

Concurrent to this and as outlined in the Program, the Council will work with the FSOC (Fish Screening Oversight Committee) and WAC (Wildlife Advisory Committee) to ensure needs are prioritized through their policy staff.

More Info: [2014 F&W Program](#) (Part Six, Section II, page 114; and Appendix P, Maintenance of Fish and Wildlife Program Investments, page 199)

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Task for 2014, *Fish and Wildlife Project Guidance for Improved Project Cost Reporting*