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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

September 10, 2019

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Idaho

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Idaho

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Ben Kujala

SUBJECT: Authorization to enter into Regional Portfolio Model (RPM) software support contract for FY2020

PROPOSED ACTION: Council staff recommends authorization to contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC for technical support for the Regional Portfolio Model (RPM or Model) on an as-needed basis. Tasks to be covered as part of this software support contract would include work to update, enhance and troubleshoot the RPM, and assisting staff with RPM setup and simulations in support of the 2021 Power Plan scenario analysis. The authorization is for a contract for FY2020.

SIGNIFICANCE: There is a need to contract for RPM software support to assist staff in refining and troubleshooting issues that arise in running the RPM in preparation for and development of the 2021 Power Plan.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Total contract budget not to exceed \$75,000.

BACKGROUND

Lumidyne Consulting, LLC is a firm established by Cory Welch, the principal developer of the Regional Portfolio Model software currently used by the Council.

ANALYSIS

This contract will assist staff in developing the 2021 Power Plan, including updates and enhancements to the Model that will support staff in scenario analysis.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is to have Council staff perform the troubleshooting and any additional updates or enhancement work necessary on the Model. This would require significant utilization of staff time, which would be better suited to performing analytical work in development of the 2021 Power Plan. It is also possible, however, that outside expert assistance may still be required, and it is prudent to have a support contract already in place before the need arises.