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Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

December 6, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Committee members**

FROM: **Leslie Bach and Tony Grover**

SUBJECT: **Update on Toxics Workgroup pilot mapping project**

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Leslie Bach and Tony Grover

Summary: Council staff have been hosting meeting space for a group of regional agency representatives exploring the feasibility of mapping toxic contaminants through development of a pilot map of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Staff will give an update on the status of the pilot mapping project.

Relevance: The Fish and Wildlife Program Water Quality sub-strategy includes a provision for the Council to "…assist regional parties in advancing public education and information on toxics issues" (page 55, Water Quality Strategy). The emerging program priorities section calls for the Council to preserve program effectiveness by supporting "mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants" (page 116, Investment Strategy – Emerging Program Priorities).

Background: Council staff has been hosting a regional group consisting of staff from NOAA, CRITFC, Washington Ecology, ODEQ, LCEP, UCUTs, Yakama Nation, USGS, EPA and others. The purpose of the group is to demonstrate tools for identifying and displaying toxic contaminant issues

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in the Columbia River Basin. After evaluating the feasibility of mapping various contaminants, the group decided to focus on PAHs, which are widespread and ubiquitous in the Basin. PAHs are known to cause both short- and long-term adverse effects on salmon and steelhead, and there is a reasonable amount of available data to facilitate demonstration of a pilot mapping project.

The workgroup has a tentative timeline to:
- compile existing data (December-February)
- organize it in a consistent manner using a standard template (March-April)
- evaluate the cost and effort to produce a pilot map to display the information. The pilot map would use the same mapper tool as being used for O&M and Objective maps (May)
- if approved to move forward, produce a pilot map (June-July)