

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Policy Memorandum

Date: May 29, 2013

To: Mr. Steve Oliver
Mr. Rick Pendergrass
Bonneville Power Administration
U.S. Entity Coordinator, Columbia River Treaty

Mr. Dave Ponganis
Mr. Jim Barton
United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Entity Coordinator, Columbia River Treaty

From: Commissioner Leann Rea

Subject: Morrow County comments on the Columbia River Treaty Review

As an entity of the Umatilla Basin and Mid-Columbia region, we are directly affected by the upcoming decision to renew, amend or terminate the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) between the United States of America and Canada. Our economic base and quality of life are unequivocally connected to the CRT, and the after-effects to the northeastern Oregon economy should changes be considered in 2014, or thereafter, that effect electricity rates, navigation, flood control, recreation or consumptive use water supplies.

The Canadian Entitlement and its benefits to the United States warrant consideration for amendment. Should a decision be made to amend the Canadian Entitlement, coordination with the State of Oregon could result in multi-beneficial projects that could assist BPA and the Corps of Engineers in the shaping of flows that are no longer delegated to Canada. We request that strong consideration and weight be given to additional infrastructure development in the United States compared to a continuation of the full entitlement program with Canada.

Additionally, we understand that detailed plans, technical work and engineering studies may result from any determination to deviate from the current provisions of the CRT. We respect the sensitivity, complexity and scope of such an undertaking. We also consider it necessary for the United States to negotiate the best possible outcome for its citizens in the event of amendment or termination. We request continued outreach and coordination with effected states and local governments should these detailed studies progress

Lastly, we would like to voice our strong concern for additional obligations that would further, either directly or indirectly, bind the U.S. Federal Columbia River hydropower and water management agencies to further fish “mitigation” measures; or create new “Ecosystem Management” stipulations that further restrict hydroelectric power production, increase the costs to rate payers or bar new, incremental increases to water supply diversions for industrial, municipal, or high-efficiency irrigation purposes without first obtaining sound scientific data that confirms these measures to be sound and effective for native fish recovery.

We appreciate the opportunities provided to participate in the CRT review process and provide comments. Should you desire additional comments, clarifications or consultations please contact Commissioner Leann Rea at 430 Frank Gilliam Dr., Heppner, OR 97836, or phone 541-676-5289.