



Board of County Commissioners
BENTON COUNTY

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Max Benitz, Jr.
DISTRICT 2

December 16, 2010

Anchor QEA
Attn. Ben Floyd
1060 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 275
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ben:

Benton County has reviewed the Integrated Plan summary documents and supports this plan as characterized in the summary document. We would like to have one item in Section 3.3.4 clarified. Add language to say that Step 1 of the feasibility study for the Columbia River transfer would be included as part of the Feasibility-level Planning Report and EIS process referenced in Section 1.0 paragraph two.

Not critical to summary document approval, but important as the process moves forward, is to clarify the feasibility scope of work described in Section 3.3.4. The following are some of the important points to include in the development of a more detailed scope for this study:

- Water availability should include determining monthly volumes that could be diverted to provide a reliable supply for exchange with irrigation entities currently diverting water in the Yakima Basin
- Alternatives should include various volumes of water to exchange and consideration of how pump storage can be incorporated to enhance integration of renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest Power System
- Develop appraisal level cost estimates to construct and operate, and also conduct a preliminary assessment of potential non-Federal cost sharing for construction and operations
- Describe how the December 2004 Reclamation notice for water withdrawal filed with Ecology and DNR would be maintained
- Workgroup would participate in the decision on whether to proceed with step 2 analysis

We recognize other important scope elements would also need to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Max Benitz, Jr.
Commissioner, District 2