Dear Council and Board Members:

Recently you received a request from the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) to endorse a Columbia River pump storage concept known as the Columbia River Energy Storage Project ("CRESP"). The YBSA requested that you adopt a resolution supporting the proposed project, and provided you with a draft resolution.

The Yakima Basin Joint Board ("Joint Board") is a coalition of irrigation districts, private water companies and municipalities that use and rely on surface water and groundwater rights in the Yakima River Basin. The Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group ("Work Group") is comprised of a diverse group of municipalities, irrigation districts, environmental organizations and tribal, state and federal fish and natural resources agencies, as well as YBSA.

Over the past two years the Work Group has compiled a very detailed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan ("Integrated Plan") to improve water supplies, flows for fish, and conservation in the Yakima River Basin.

The Joint Board urges you to take no action in support of the CRESP, because it is not included in the Integrated Plan, and has not been included in the environmental review process for the project in the Integrated Plan. The CRESP concept was presented to the Work Group in early 2011, and the simple fact is that, after Work Group review, the Work Group did not include the CRESP concept in the Integrated Plan.

Approval of the draft resolution supplied to you by YBSA will detract from the collective effort to obtain federal authorization for the next phase projects that have been incorporated into the Integrated Plan. As such we ask you not to pass the resolution.
Thank you,

[Signature]

Dave Brown, Board Chair
Yakima Basin Joint Board

Copy: Representative Doc Hastings
Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology Office of the Columbia River
YRBWEP Work Group Members
Cities in the Yakima Valley
Port Districts