

# **YAKIMA BASIN JOINT BOARD**

*A Partnership of Public Entities Promoting  
the Multiple Uses of the Yakima Valley's  
Water Supply*

## **IRRIGATION ENTITIES**

*KENNEWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
KITTITAS RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
SUNNYSIDE DIVISION  
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT*

## **MUNICIPALITIES**

*CITY OF YAKIMA*

1726 Gregory Ave., PMB 318  
Sunnyside, WA 98944

July 7, 2011

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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