



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Columbia-Cascades Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, Washington 98901-2058



CCA-1100
PRJ-3.00

JUL 23 2010

Mr. Max Benitz Jr.
Benton County Commissioner
P.O. Box 190
Prosser, WA 99350-0190

Subject: Final Report, Preliminary Integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the Yakima River Basin, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup (Your letter dated May 26, 2010)

Dear Commissioner Benitz:

Thank you for your letter providing comments on the Final Report of the Preliminary Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP) and the direction of the Yakima Basin Study. We appreciate your continued support of the "consensus recommendation" reached at the December 17, 2009, Workgroup meeting.

We do not, however, agree with your assessment that the Workgroup lacks a common understanding of the components of the recommendations, project components, or the project phasing scenario that were agreed to in December. We believe the planning methodologies being employed by the Workgroup and the areas of focus are consistent with the provisions of the Final Preliminary Report.

Again, thank you for your comments, and we encourage you to bring any further concerns regarding the Basin Study, its process, and/or the IWRMP to the Workgroup.

We look forward to working with you all, and the entire Workgroup members in coming to a final IWRMP.

Sincerely,

William D. Gray
Area Manager
Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Derek I. Sandison
Director
Office of the Columbia River
Washington Department of Ecology

Identical letter sent to persons on next page.

Identical Letter Sent To:

Mr. Mike Leita
Yakima County Commissioner
128 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Mark McClain
County Commissioner
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

cc: Mr. Dale Bambrick
Eastern Washington Branch Chief
NOAA Fisheries Service
304 South Water Street, Ste 201
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Mr. Alex Conley
Executive Director
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
1110 W. Lincoln Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Tom Davis
Washington Department of Agriculture
1111 Washington Street, SE
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Mr. Rick Dieker
Secy/Treas/Manager
Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
470 Camp 4 Road
Yakima, WA 98908

Mr. Urban Eberhart
Director
Kittitas Reclamation District
1601 Lawrence Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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cc: Continued from previous page.

Mr. David Fast
Fisheries Biologist
Yakama Nation-Yakama/Klickitat Fisheries Project
771 Pence Road
Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Michael Garrity
Washington Conservation Director
American Rivers
4005 20th Avenue W., Suite 221
Seattle, WA 98199

Mr. Bill Lover
City Government
City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901

Mr. Sid Morrison
Chairman, YBSA
503 Ballard Road
Zillah, WA 98953

Mr. Scott Revell
Acting Manager
Kennewick Irrigation District
P.O. Box 6900
Kennewick, WA 99336

Mr. Phil Rigdon
Director, Natural Resources
Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Mr. Dan Silver
Facilitator
606 Columbia Street NW, Suite 212
Olympia, WA 98501

Continued on next page.

Subject: Final Report, Preliminary Integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the Yakima River Basin, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup (Your letter dated May 26, 2010)

cc. Continued from previous page.

Mr. Jeff Tayer
Regional Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Jeff Thomas
Fisheries Biologist
USFWS – Mid-Columbia River Fishery Resources Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901

Mr. Jim Trull
Secretary/Treasurer
Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
P.O. Box 239
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Mr. Ron VanGundy
Roza Irrigation District
P.O. Box 810
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Ms. Dawn Wiedmeier
Deputy Area Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Cascades Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Mr. Derek Sandison
Director, Office of the Columbia River
Washington Department of the Ecology
303 S. Mission Street, Suite 200
Wenatchee, WA 98801