

RESOLUTION NO 12-026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROSLYN, WASHINGTON SUPPORTING THE GENERAL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN

WHEREAS, the Roslyn City Council wishes to express its general support for the goals, concepts and implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (aka "Yakima Basin Integrated Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan proposes a balanced package of actions rooted in 30 years of collaboration, negotiation, and compromise among diverse stakeholders in the Yakima basin including local irrigators, county commissioners, the Yakama Indian Nation, the Governor's Office, Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Representative Doc Hasting (R-WA)'s Office, the conservation community, and others; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan presents an important opportunity to work with a diversity of interests to make these potential water and environmental protections a reality in the Yakima basin; and

WHEREAS, demand for irrigation water cannot always be met in years with below- average runoff, leading to reduced (pro-rationed) irrigation water for junior water-right holders that in turn reduces farm and related income, and puts the basin's perennial crops at extreme risk; and

WHEREAS, the Integrated Plan also includes an adaptive management framework to address potential future changes in water needs or hydrology, including potential climate change effects; and

WHEREAS, five drought years have occurred in the Yakima Basin since the early 1990s that have severely impacted the basin economy and ecosystem functions, and the potential for future climate change would likely increase the frequency and severity of future droughts; and

WHEREAS, dams, changes in water temperatures, other obstructions, and inadequate stream flows, block fish passage to Yakima tributaries and spawning grounds; and

WHEREAS, floodplain modifications and riparian habitat degradation prevent proper floodplain functions; and

WHEREAS, surface water rights are fully appropriated in the basin, and groundwater pumping for irrigation, domestic and municipal uses can reduce surface water flows in many locations, and hydraulic continuity between groundwater and surface water in the basin creates uncertainty over the status of groundwater rights, with most of these rights junior to surface water rights; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality and quality of life in Roslyn is dependent on the Yakima Basin's clean, cold water for agriculture, fish and people as well as the health of our lands that

provide for these water values, thriving wildlife populations and provide diverse, world-class recreational experiences; and

WHEREAS, in March 2011 after 21 months of planning, the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup, comprised of representatives of the Yakama Nation, federal agencies, Washington State and local governments, an environmental organization (American Rivers), a local business organization and five irrigation districts unanimously approved the Integrated Plan elements and actions; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Integrated Plan are to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; provide increased operational flexibility to manage instream flows to meet ecological objectives; and improve the reliability of water supply for irrigation, municipal supply and domestic uses; and

WHEREAS, the Integrated Plan includes seven elements collectively essential for realizing the plan goals: 1) fish passage, 2) structural and operation changes, 3) surface water storage, 4) groundwater storage, 5) habitat protection and enhancement, 6) enhanced water conservation, and 7) market-based reallocation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROSLYN, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Roslyn City Council endorses the general concepts, goals, objectives and implementation of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, with the understanding that information on specific projects and funding are still in progress with an opportunity for further comment or support.

Section 2. The Roslyn City Council calls on our elected state and federal officials, and government agency leaders to fully support authorization and appropriations necessary to implement the Integrated Plan, including associated environmental reviews, technical analyses, refinements to specific actions, project designs and program development/implementation, and project permitting and construction.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF THE 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012.


Neal R. Lockett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Brandi Taklo, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer