

# EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

55 North 8th  
P.O. Box E

OTHELLO, WASHINGTON 99344

Phone 509 488 9671  
Fax 509 488 6433

February 8, 2013

Columbia River Treaty Review (DKE)  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293

Dear Mr. Oliver and Mr. Ponganis:

Thank you for continuing to provide an opportunity for us to present our input for your consideration as we approach the 2014 threshold for Columbia River Treaty (Treaty) decisions. The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (District) remains interested in this process and any potential changes that may affect our water supply from Lake Roosevelt.

The District's desired outcomes from this process have not changed since our involvement with the process in early 2011. However, as a result of a recent Biological Opinion for a Columbia Basin Project withdrawal, we have an additional request to be considered. You may find it aligns with other comments that we've heard presented at previous stakeholder meetings, workshops or listening sessions.

The District would like to have the United States Entity work toward providing adequate river flows to meet requirements for ESA listed salmonids to the extent that it allows the CBP the opportunity to withdraw irrigation water from the USBR Storage Certificate for Lake Roosevelt to complete the Columbia Basin Project development without creating an impact on listed endangered species. Indications are that under current conditions it may be difficult for future diversions to access the Columbia Basin Project Certificated Storage in Lake Roosevelt without a determination of impact on listed species. There are still hundreds of thousands of acres of Congressionally authorized irrigated cropland to be developed in the Columbia Basin Project. The Project continues to be developed incrementally as intended. These lands will be of increasing value to our nation as population continue to increase and the availability of domestically produced food becomes more of a priority.

We continue to support the desired outcomes we have previously mentioned. We would like there to be no impact on the Columbia Basin Project water supply. Specifically, no harm done to the USBR's Columbia River certificates and permits.

The water surface elevation of Lake Roosevelt needs to be kept at elevations necessary for the USBR to meet their water supply obligations for the Columbia Basin Project. The John Keys Pump/Generating Plant, our lift station, has limitations on available pumping units depending on Lake Roosevelt surface elevations. Current operations, as well as future operations adjusted for future development, need to be considered in any changes to the Treaty. Currently 673,000 acres, generating billions of dollars of annual economic value nationally, are dependent on the ability of the John Keys Pump/Generating Plant to deliver water to the Columbia Basin Project. Ultimately, 1,029,000 acres will be dependent of the Keys Plant. The value of this desired outcome cannot be overstated.

If future operations of the river result in lower Lake Roosevelt elevations, the Columbia Basin Project is likely to see increased costs for pumping at the John Keys Pump/Generating Plant. These changes for flood control purposes should not result in an additional economic

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burden for Columbia Basin Project landowners. Flood control interests should bare the economic burden that is imposed upon our landowners for their protection.

If opportunities present themselves during this process, additional storage should be considered to aid in the completion of development of the Columbia Basin Project. This desired outcome aligns with the specific request to provide sufficient flows for ESA purposes.

We thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this forum. We hope that our comments will be given serious consideration. The Columbia Basin Project is vital to our local, state and national economies. We provide water for the largest agricultural production project in Washington State, where agriculture is the leading economic industry. The federal presence in the Columbia River is anchored by Grand Coulee Dam. The original purpose of the dam was to provide irrigation water to the Columbia Basin Project. The nation cannot afford to allow any alterations in the Columbia River Treaty that jeopardizes or diminishes the value we have created by developing the Columbia Basin Project. We appreciate your consideration of our perspectives.

Sincerely,



Craig N. Simpson, P.E.  
Secretary - Manager

CNS:wI

cc: ECBID Board of Directors  
Dave Solem, SCBID Manager  
Darvin Fales, QCBID Manager  
Richard Lemargie, ECBID Attorney