

22 April 2011

Mr. Guy Gregory
Water Resources Program, Eastern Regional Office
Washington Department of Ecology
N. 4601 Monroe St.
Spokane, Washington 99205

RE: Submittal of Revised Lincoln County Passive Rehydration Project Prefeasibility Assessment Report

Dear Mr. Gregory:

The Lincoln County Conservation District is pleased to submit to the Department of Ecology the attached Revised Prefeasibility Assessment Report (the Revised Report) for the Lincoln County Passive Rehydration Project. This project was funded by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) under Grant Number G1000097 from the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Developments Account. Also attached to this submittal letter we have included the comment-response forms we compiled for Ecology's comments and public comments on the review draft of the Prefeasibility Assessment Report. As we note in the Revised Report, the basic goals and objectives of the Prefeasibility Assessment Phase of the Rehydration Project are to identify water right needs for future project phases, possible mechanisms by which those water rights may be secured, how a potential future project might be governed and operated, and present the results of a preliminary, qualitative geographic/hydrologic/hydrogeologic review of drainages that could potentially host a future passive rehydration project(s). In the Revised Report we also describe basic project elements for the potential next phase of the Project, the Feasibility Evaluation.

In response primarily to Ecology's comments (see attached comment-response form) the Prefeasibility Assessment Report has been revised and reorganized generally as follows:

- 1. Chapter 1: Introduction** has been rewritten to better describe the overall project goals and objectives, and more importantly the goals and objectives of the Revised Report within the context of the very first phase, the Prefeasibility Assessment Phase, of a potentially much longer project. Future elements of the larger project, including more detailed feasibility evaluations of a 10 to 20 cfs Pilot Project, permitting, Pilot design, operations, and performance, and a potential future 100+ cfs project will be described in future reports if the project proceeds beyond the Prefeasibility Assessment Phase.
- 2. Chapter 2: Study Area Description** focuses on presenting the basic background physical setting to the extent we deemed appropriate for a Prefeasibility Assessment for the whole project area, and not a specific well defined project location.
- 3. Chapter 3: Water Availability and Governance** identifies water rights availability and governance issues associated with implementing a potential Pilot Project, if such a project

comes out of the next proposed phase of the Lincoln County Passive Rehydration Project, the Feasibility Phase. These issues will be resolved in the Feasibility Phase and Pilot Project Phase.

4. **Chapter 4: Drainage and Routing Assessment** describes drainages assessed for their potential suitability for use in a Pilot Project, and includes our basic recommendations from that assessment. Based on the Prefeasibility Assessment we do conclude the Lake Creek, and possibly nearby Canniwai Creek and Marlin Hollow might be viable candidates for a Pilot Project and warrant further study in a subsequent Feasibility Evaluation.
5. **Chapter 5: Prefeasibility Phase Conclusions and Recommendations** presents our conclusions and recommendations, *which as noted above are to proceed to the Feasibility Evaluation Phase*, and describes the basic work activities that need to be done in the Feasibility Evaluation.
6. **Chapter 6: Next Steps** provides a basic outline of the entire project concept beyond the current Prefeasibility Assessment Phase. As we point out in Chapter 6 these next steps are largely conceptual and will be refined and changed as work is conducted in a phase-by-phase approach, starting with the materials described in the attached Revised Report.

For your information you also will find included with this submittal letter a copy of the comment-response form for the public comments received during public review of the draft Prefeasibility Assessment Report. Copies of these public comments are on-file, and available for review, at the Lincoln County Conservation District Office in Davenport, Washington.

We appreciate the opportunity of providing Ecology with the Revised Report, we look forward to discussing it with you and your colleagues on the PAG, and we eagerly anticipate moving forward to the next phase of the project – designing a Pilot Rehydration Project if it feasible.

Sincerely,



David Lundgren,
Manager, Lincoln County Conservation District

Cc: A. Josephy, CRO
D. Sandison, CRO

Attachments (3)