

# Ideas for PAG to Discuss 2019

Follow-up from Strategic Planning discussions in 2017

# What was the 2017 Strategic Planning session?

- Held December 2017
- Reviewed statutory direction for CR Water Supply Development program
- Reviewed past policy questions that have been reviewed by PAG
- Developed list of broad goals and potential specific actions for PAG

# Broad Goals

- Establish long term funding for current and future water supply projects
- Continue progress on Odessa and Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, so that these projects can be brought to fruition
- Improve dialogue and collaboration with tribal governments, legislators, and other stakeholders
- Further develop water for instream and out-of-stream uses (including storage and conservation, as directed by the statute)

# Specific potential tasks

- Stay current on Columbia River Treaty re-negotiations and opportunities to meet in- and out-of-stream demand through Treaty and non-Treaty Canadian storage.
- Identify data gaps to understand the array of potential impacts of climate change and associated avenues for adaptation
- Begin including groundwater integration and mitigation actions
- Continue advising Ecology on legal and technical water supply solutions.

# Other ideas raised during discussion

- Initiate outreach efforts with western WA stakeholders [the Hirst legislation adopted by Legislature in January includes this]
- Focus more on groundwater and groundwater decline – tied to water availability
- Seek to expand the approach of an integrated water resource management plan to other river basins, as has been done in the Icicle Creek and the Walla Walla River Basins – look to a creative, “big picture” approach
- Priority of finding stable long-term funding – OCR is discussing with Ecology’s budget office what another long-term bonding approach would look like

# Thoughts from PAG Member

- Columbia River Treaty potential (or non-treaty side agreements?)
- Tributary projects like Walla Walla
- How to help address temp and well as flow probs in tribs and mainstem

# Thoughts from Exec Comm

- How to use groundwater in conjunction with surface water (e.g. ASR work has been useful)
- Basin approach may be difficult; successful efforts have come out of difficult issues in specific areas
  - A laudable goal but difficult
- PAG should not go beyond original scope of enabling legislation
- Continuing to look at the Columbia River Treaty and related issues makes sense

# Thoughts from Executive Committee (cont)

- PAG is an advisory group for OCR and should primarily respond to requests from OCR
  - Based upon OCR's vision of its future for Short Term and Long Term, the CRPAG can respond with input for OCR consideration