

**Support for Federal Government Standing by its Assurances to the City of Port Angeles Regarding the Elwha Water Facilities**

WHEREAS, in 1992 the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (the "Act") was passed, with the goal of river and fish restoration, and the Federal Government provided assurances to the City of Port Angeles that it would continue to be able to obtain large quantities of affordable high quality water from the Elwha River after removal of the Elwha River dams;

WHEREAS, such assurances were essential for the City of Port Angeles agreeing to the dam removal because of the considerable increase in sediment carried by the river post dam removal;

WHEREAS, the Elwha Water Facilities ("EWF") replaced a low cost, low maintenance industrial water supply system with complex, high cost facilities requiring a maintenance expense higher by approximately a factor of ten;

WHEREAS, there will also be considerable future replacement costs of the new, expensive water treatment and pumping equipment once it reaches the end of its life span;

WHEREAS, Clallam County is economically distressed, with an unemployment rate 70% higher than that of Washington State;

WHEREAS, the City of Port Angeles can not bear the burden of the higher cost of water resulting from this federal project, and placing it on its citizens would have disastrous consequences on the City's ability to keep its current industrial employers and attract new ones;

WHEREAS, this is not a partisan issue but one of the Federal Government keeping its promises, and one of jobs and economic prosperity for our struggling community; and

WHEREAS, river and fish restoration in the Elwha basin is a public good pursued as a result of Federal Government action, the cost of which should be borne by all taxpayers through the Federal Government rather than burdening our local community as yet another unfunded federal mandate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federal Government should stand behind its assurances and pay for the increased costs of operating, maintaining, and future replacement of the EWF.