

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0097

A resolution affirming the use and importance of dams as a sustainable and reliable source of essential functions on which the citizenry has come to depend.

WHEREAS, Spokane and Eastern Washington have come to depend on the life-enhancing services and purposes productive dams provide such as:

- (1) Ample amounts of inexpensive, fresh water – dams help recharge the aquifer by increasing water pressure through the created reservoirs upriver, creating an abundant supply of water resulting in inexpensive water for drinking and other purposes
- (2) Reliable source of irrigation water – Dam reservoirs provide year-round access to irrigation for tens of thousands of acres of farmland in Central and Eastern Washington
- (3) Electrical Generation – Over 50% of electricity provided to the citizens of Spokane is generated through hydropower and hydropower dams are the primary reason Washington ranks at the top of the states with the best energy infrastructure in the nation
- (4) Flood Control – Without the Spokane River dam system, Spokane would flood most years in the spring.
- (5) Water Storage – Without the Spokane River dam system, summer river levels would be greatly diminished
- (6) Navigation and Transportation – The Columbia-Snake system of dams provides the largest wheat export corridor in the nation
- (7) Recreation – Lake Spokane (Long Lake) is created by the Long Lake Dam (Nine-Mile Dam) and Lake Roosevelt is created by the Grand Coulee Dam. Without those dams and others, our communities would lose access to lake activities such as fishing, boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, birdwatching, and other recreational pursuits that are currently enabled by the dams.

WHEREAS, the Biden administration, Senator Patty Murray, and Governor Jay Inslee have spoken in favor of potentially removing the lower Snake River dams in Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, estimates for the destruction and replacement of the lower Snake River dams and their services range from \$11-77 Billion dollars with a congressional plan that costs \$33 Billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the destruction or dismantling of productive Eastern Washington Dams would have irreversible effects on the life, health, and prosperity of Eastern Washington residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Spokane recognizes the irreplaceable uses and functions of Eastern Washington dams, including the Upriver Dam in Spokane, and how our citizens have come to depend on them for essential services for life; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane discourages any plan or legislation that would promote the removal of productive Eastern Washington dams in thought or action; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane recognizes that dams and fish coexist and encourages the continued effort to protect salmon and other fish species by investments in fish ladders, safer turbines, and other reasonable measures.

Passed by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2022.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney