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State Water Board Scoping Comments for Klamath Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

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Some 10 years ago, PacifiCorp started the relicensing of their Klamath River Hydroelectric Project. The tsunami that followed has divided the Klamath Basin community. Water for fish, fish passage, Endangered Species designation for fish entering a new region on the Klamath, Shasta and Scott River flows, Klamath River flows, elimination of dredge mining, decline in fisheries production for coastal fisherman, threats to agricultural production, loss of clean renewable hydroelectric power, residential landowners property at risk, loss of recreational use at water storage facilities, and the state of tribal fisheries are all critical to the basin.

When PacifiCorp started the relicensing process, they advocated for trap and haul methodology for fish passage above the dams. Trap and haul is the most productive, efficient process for salmon on rivers north and south of the Klamath River. Environmental interests did not agree, requiring Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) fish passage mitigation that would cost an estimated \$350 million. PacifiCorp did not desire to invest \$350 million in fish passage and opened a stakeholder settlement process that resulted in a proposal for dam removal. This proposal capped costs for PacifiCorp and protected the company from future liability, but it also resulted in the dead end we face today.

Today, the State of California has designated \$250 million for the Klamath settlement in the water bond. California and Oregon have collected over \$100 million from a surcharge on PacifiCorp ratepayers and have committed to collect a total of \$200 million by 2020.

At least \$450 million is available for the cures to the Klamath issues without further consequence to ratepayers, taxpayers, and PacifiCorp stockholders.

Proposal:

\$275,000,000 for fish passage. Tunnels, ladders, water cannon, for most productive, cost efficient new technology mechanism.

\$75,000,000 for water treatment plant in the Oregon region of the Klamath River to fix water quality issues entering downstream.

\$60,000,000 for off stream storage facilities in the Oregon region of Klamath River for Oregon agricultural water user interests and fisheries.

\$35,000,000 endowment fund to assure funding of fisheries restoration on the Klamath River. Yakima Nation Fisheries model could be implemented with a tribe (i.e. Yurok Tribe) designating the tribe as Klamath River Fisheries Trustee.

\$5,000,000 to fund Safe Harbor and No Surprise Agreements to timber and agricultural interests for fisheries best management practices in Klamath and Siskiyou counties.

Restore suction dredge mining in key areas of Klamath River fish disease outside fish migration timing, to clean river bed and provide spawning gravels.

Klamath Compact Commission would be authorized to implement projects under the Klamath Compact, the Oregon and California bi-state compact authorized by Congress for Klamath Basin oversight.