



March 10, 2013

RE: SB 837

Chair Dingfelder, Committee Members,

As Brett Brownscombe has indicated, the amendments provided to LC in concept have met the approval of the parties in the work group. We are pleased to be part of a coalition that provides an opportunity to promote the benefit of our fishery resource at the same time that we can support more green, renewable energy to meet the goals of our state's energy plan.

As we introduced at the last hearing there are two federal agencies that have authority to approve hydropower projects that are exempt from the regular licensing process: the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Reclamation now has enacted a program that allows other entities to develop hydropower on their federally-owned facilities. that process will allow irrigation districts operating federal facilities to develop small projects on their system.

The language proposed in the -2 amendments meets the approval of our work group to allow not only projects FERC authorizes but also those on Reclamation facilities, to use the expedited process. We support the language as written on behalf of our irrigation district members affiliated with Reclamation as well as on behalf of our other developers, engineering consultants, financiers and manufacturer members of our association building a hydropower infrastructure to promote clean energy.

JAN LEE
Executive Director

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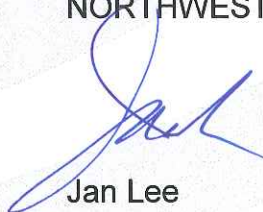
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*For a list of Directors,
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Sincerely,

NORTHWEST HYDROELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



Jan Lee
Executive Director