

**TOWN OF NACHES
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1**

A RESOLUTION of the Town of Naches, Washington,
supporting Senate Bill 1694: Yakima River Basin Water
Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2015

WHEREAS THE Yakima River Basin, including the Town of Naches and surrounding property, is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the nation, contributing approximately \$4.5 billion to the state of Washington's annual economy; and,

WHEREAS demand for irrigation water cannot always be met in years with below-average runoff, leading to reduced (pro-rated) irrigation water for junior water right holders that in turn reduces farm and related income, and puts the basin's perennial crops at extreme risk; and,

WHEREAS six drought years severely impacting the basin economy, ecosystem functions and reservoirs, have occurred since the 1990s, the most recent being the present year, with climate change models indicating that decreased snowpack and higher temperatures will be the norm throughout the 21st century; and,

WHEREAS the Yakima Basin was also historically home to one of the largest salmon populations in the Columbia Basin, second only to the Snake River in fisheries production; and,

WHEREAS the Yakima River Basin is affected by variety of water resource constraints that adversely impact ecosystem functions for endangered fish and other aquatic species, and water supply for agriculture, municipal and domestic uses; and,

WHEREAS the goals of the Integrated Plan as endorsed by S 1694 are to improve the reliability of water supply for irrigation, municipal supply and domestic uses; and to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; provide increased operational flexibility to manage in-stream flows to meet ecological objectives; and,

WHEREAS the S. 1694 build on two previous Yakima River water management Acts and provides authorization and funding for the Initial Development Phase of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan; and,

WHEREAS the Initial Development Phase put forward by S. 1694 authorizes projects of immediate importance to addressing the aforementioned challenges and opportunities, including fish passage, accessing reservoir storage, habitat restoration and increased water market efficiencies; and,

WHEREAS the Integrated Plan also includes an adaptive management framework to address potential future changes in water needs or hydrology, including potential climate change effects; and,

WHEREAS our economic vitality, the health of our lands, quality of life, municipalities, agriculture, fisheries, thriving wildlife populations and diverse, world-class recreational opportunities are dependent on the Yakima Basin's clean, cold water; and,

Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF NACHES, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town of Naches City Council supports a strong investment in the Yakima River Basin, including the Town of Naches and surrounding areas, by the federal government through passage and funding of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2015 (S. 1694) to help both the fish populations of the Yakima River Basin, as well as improve reliable sources of water for its water users, including municipal and agricultural water users, in the Yakima Basin.
2. The Town of Naches City Council urges Congress and our elected officials implement S. 1694.
3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and signatures hereto.

ADOPTED by the Town Council and approved by the Mayor at the regular meeting of the Town Council held on the 11th day of January, 2016.



Paul Williams, Mayor

Attest:



Elvira Birrueta, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Sara Watkins, Town Attorney