



Washington State
Association of Counties

Columbia River Treaty Advocacy Assessment

The Columbia River County Commissioners' Policy Advisory Group is proposing a special dues assessment for 25 Columbia River Counties to fund an advocacy effort associated with the Columbia River Treaty Review. The proposed annual dues assessment is \$4,000 per county.

- ☐ Our County will financially support the Columbia River Treaty Advocacy Assessment
- ☐ Our County will tentatively support the Columbia River Treaty Advocacy Assessment
- ☐ Our County is unlikely to support the Columbia River Treaty Advocacy Assessment
- ☐ Our County will not support the Columbia River Treaty Advocacy Assessment

DATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

RETURN TO WSAC BY FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

VIA EMAIL: ejohnson@wsac.org

US MAIL: Eric Johnson
Washington State Association of Counties
206 Tenth Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501



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Washington D.C. Representation for Columbia River Treaty Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is being considered?

The Columbia River County Commissioners' Policy Advisory Group (Commissioners' PAG) is considering whether to retain representation in Washington, D.C. This would be to track issues related to the Columbia River Treaty and further county interests as treaty negotiations with Canada proceed. This FAQ sheet highlights the reasons to consider such representation.

Why is this important?

- We want to be sure county interests are continually brought forward to delegation members, agencies, and negotiators
- Other interests, such as power utilities and tribes, are very active in pursuing their own interests (power group has hired Norm Dicks)
- On-call piece - flood control operations shift from assured flood control for 8.95 MAF of storage in Canada to "Called Upon" flood control through which the US can request and pay for emergency storage to prevent flooding after it has utilized its own storage
- Addition of ecosystem functions to the major points of treaty could outweigh our community interests of water supply for municipal, industrial and agriculture uses
- May not be a good idea to wait for new administration; things are starting to happen

What would a federal policy advocate do for counties?

- They will track things happening in DC and let us know of key dates and meetings
- Follow and report on water supply issues in conjunction with treaty
- Talk regularly with our leadership and Commissioners' PAG Members
- They will engage our county elected and appointed officials with DC based delegation members and staff, agencies, and negotiators
- They can tell us when we should go back to DC and lobby and advocate our positions – and who with/too
- Seek to connect with BC ag and water interests, determine if they have a DC presence
- Can help sort out the BC politics, especially with the change in Canadian Prime Minister
- Identify other partners in advocating for our community and water supply interests including business, agriculture, and municipalities in the basin.

What would it cost?

The proposal is for an even split among the Columbia River Basin counties. Initial estimate is \$4,000 per county/year. DRAFT Budget and PROPOSED Assessment sheets are available.



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SPECIAL DUES ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATION
March 2016

	County		Assessment	
1	Adams		4,000	
2	Asotin		4,000	
3	Benton		4,000	
4	Chelan		4,000	
5	Clark		4,000	
6	Columbia		4,000	
7	Cowlitz		4,000	
8	Douglas		4,000	
9	Ferry		4,000	
10	Franklin		4,000	
11	Garfield		4,000	
12	Grant		4,000	
13	Kittitas		4,000	
14	Klickitat		4,000	
15	Lincoln		4,000	
16	Okanogan		4,000	
17	Pacific		4,000	
18	Pend Oreille		4,000	
19	Skamania		4,000	
20	Spokane		4,000	
21	Stevens		4,000	
22	Wahkiakum		4,000	
23	Walla Walla		4,000	
24	Whitman		4,000	
25	Yakima		4,000	
	Total Assessment		\$100,000	



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Draft Columbia River Annual Advocacy Budget

Revenue

Dues	\$100,000
Total	\$100,000

Expenditures

Advocacy Contract	\$72,000	Estimated
Member Travel	\$12,000	2 DC trips per year 3 Members per trip \$2000 per member
Communications	\$10,000	Material Development, Preparation & Earned Media
Total	\$94,000	