

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

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3 **10-06 Archived Resolution**

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5 **SUPPORT FOR NORTHWEST IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**

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7 Irrigated agriculture is an important and significant economic base
8 for communities and utilities within the Bonneville Power Administration
9 (BPA) service area. Irrigated crop production accounts for billions in
10 cash receipts and supports numerous jobs in the Pacific Northwest.
11 Over 7 million regional acres are irrigated.

12 BPA sales to irrigation customers account for seven percent of its
13 regional load. Also, including secondary effects, irrigation accounts
14 indirectly for about 10 percent of BPA's regional load.

15 Recognizing the importance of the regional rural economies and
16 summer loads to the operation of its hydroelectric system, BPA has
17 historically designed rates and programs to maintain irrigation, and the
18 region's utilities have worked cooperatively to keep the electric rates paid
19 by irrigators stable and at their lowest possible level. NWPPA hereby
20 supports the continuation of the BPA Irrigation Mitigation Product
21 through 2011, and urges BPA to maintain or enhance the current
22 product benefit levels. Energy and water efficiency improvement
23 programs have also been offered to irrigators focusing on education, cost
24 sharing of hardware retrofits, and irrigation water scheduling.

25 All of these efforts underscore the importance irrigated agriculture
26 has to local communities, utilities and the regional economy of the
27 Pacific Northwest. NWPPA strongly encourages the agriculture industry,
28 its utilities, and BPA to aggressively pursue and implement measures to
29 conserve water and electricity. In addition to strengthening the economic
30 viability of Northwest irrigated agriculture; benefits can also be derived in
31 our regional effort to preserve and enhance salmon stocks.

32 NWPPA supports and encourages efforts by BPA, the region's
33 utilities, and others to maintain the economic viability of this important
34 industry.

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38 Origination Date: 1997