



## DOUGLAS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION & LAND SERVICES

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Douglas County Regional Council

FROM: Transportation & Land Services Staff

DATE: June 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Sales and Use Tax Distribution Proposal-Wenatchee Reclamation District

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The Wenatchee Reclamation District recently completed repairs to its bridge that spans the Columbia River between the foot of Ninth Street in East Wenatchee and Bridge Street in Wenatchee. The bridge has two primary functions: the first is to convey irrigation water from the Wenatchee side of the Columbia River to the East Wenatchee side. The second purpose is for a non-motorized transportation link between the two communities. The work by the Reclamation District involved structural improvements and serves both of these purposes.

The project was specified in the results of a detailed engineering analysis conducted in 2008. Approximately one-half of the cost of the project was funded by the Reclamation District, addressing its primary interest to convey irrigation water. The City of Wenatchee pledged to pay the remainder to address the non-motorized transportation purpose of the project, with the concept that the other involved entities and organizations would also contribute a share toward the pledge made by the City of Wenatchee.

This unusual approach was necessitated by urgency. The work needed to be completed by the time irrigation water was turned into the Reclamation District canal system. Given the length of time to prepare plans, specifications and get the project mobilized in time, there was not adequate time for the Reclamation District to approach the various interest groups and agencies for contributions, as was the case with the original study.

Both the City of East Wenatchee and Douglas County contributed toward the engineering study; the Eastmont Metropolitan Park District declined participation. All three of these entities have now again been approached to contribute toward the structural improvements.

The proposal before the Regional Council is to make a contribution of \$20,000 from the sales and use tax fund on behalf of the entire region: the cities and towns, the county and the Metro Park District. The Reclamation District bridge provides irrigation water to many of the orchards in the community. In this regard it is critical to the agricultural economy. The bridge also conveys non-potable water for use by businesses as part of their conduct of commerce.

The bridge is a part of the regional transportation network, providing a valuable and convenient link between two communities, a linkage that facilitates access to employment, and goods and services. The Reclamation District bridge is part of the metropolitan transportation plan adopted for the area and the metropolitan transportation plan serves as a portion of the transportation element of the city and county comprehensive plans. The bridge also contributes greatly to the tourism and recreation sectors of the area economy.