

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PRIEST LAKE WATER  
MANAGEMENT PROJECT CONTSTRUCTION  
(PHASE 4)**

**RESOLUTION TO COMMIT FUNDS AND  
PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY**

1           WHEREAS, the State of Idaho owns the Priest Lake Outlet Dam (dam) which was constructed in  
2 1950 and reconstructed in 1978 as an outlet control structure to maintain lake levels in the Priest Lake in  
3 accordance with Idaho Code §70-507; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1261 passed and approved by the 2018 Legislature updated Idaho Code  
6 §70-507 to 1) clarify that management of the state-owned dam on Priest Lake at Outlet Bay is under the  
7 jurisdiction of the Idaho Water Resource Board, and 2) to allow for flexibility of the management of the  
8 lake level to a range between 3 feet and 3.5 feet on the USGS Priest Lake Outlet gage (located upstream  
9 of the dam) after run-off of the winter snowpack until the close of the main recreational season; and  
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11           WHEREAS, as a result of drought conditions in northern Idaho in 2015 and 2016, it was difficult  
12 to maintain required lake pool levels and downstream minimum flows in the Priest River during the  
13 recreational season; and,  
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15           WHEREAS, the Priest Lake, Upper Priest Lake and Priest River are significant draws for tourism  
16 and recreation, and are highly valued environmental and economic assets for Bonner County and the  
17 State of Idaho; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in 2016 the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) authorized the expenditure of up to  
20 \$300,000 from the Revolving Development Account to complete the Priest Lake Water Management  
21 Study (Phase 1) to evaluate strategies to meet long-term water management objectives for the Priest  
22 Lake and Priest River system; and  
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24           WHEREAS, the study has been completed and recommended temporarily raising water surface  
25 levels 6 inches during the recreation season of dry years/low water years and integrating real time  
26 streamflow data to allow more operational flexibility; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the study also recommended outlet dam structural and operational improvements;  
29 and  
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31           WHEREAS, the study also recommended replacing the current existing porous breakwater with  
32 an impervious breakwater structure and dredging of the Thorofare; and  
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34           WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these recommended improvements is approximately \$5  
35 million (in 2018 dollars); and  
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37           WHEREAS, in November 2017 the IWRB accepted and endorsed the recommendations in Phase  
38 1 and recommended proceeding with the project if and when funding becomes available; and  
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40 WHEREAS, House Bill 677 passed and approved by the 2018 Legislature included 1) a \$2.4  
41 million transfer from the General Fund to the Revolving Development Account, and 2) a redirect of  
42 \$2,419,600 in the Revolving Development from the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)  
43 to be used for the Priest Lake Water Management Project; and  
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45 WHEREAS, Mott MacDonald has been selected, through a competitive process, to assist the  
46 IWRB with this project; and  
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48 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2019 the IWRB authorized \$653,000 from the Revolving Development  
49 Account to complete the Final Engineering and Design (Phase 3), which included finalizing regulatory  
50 permitting and bidding assistance; and  
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52 WHEREAS, Final Engineering and Design (Phase 3) is concluding in August 2020; and  
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54 WHEREAS, IWRB staff has worked in coordination with Mott MacDonald to develop a scope of  
55 work for the (Phase 4) Construction Management for the Priest Lake Water Management Project at the  
56 Thorofare and Outlet dam sites at a cost of not to exceed \$579,744, which includes preconstruction  
57 submittal review, resident engineering, office engineering technical support, regulatory permit  
58 assistance, and construction progress observation; and  
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60 WHEREAS, bids were opened in July 2020 and a low bid of \$1,542,334 was received for the  
61 construction of the Outlet dam portion (consisting of dam modifications and scour protection  
62 improvements), and a low bid of \$2,047,058 was received for the construction of the Thorofare portion  
63 (consisting of dredging and stone breakwater construction) of the Priest Lake Water Management  
64 Project; and  
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66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes the expenditure of funds not to  
67 exceed \$5 million from the Revolving Development Account for the construction of the Outlet dam  
68 portion and Thorofare portion of the Priest Lake Water Management Project as well as for the  
69 construction management and for other costs associated with the project; and  
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71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee  
72 to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete the construction of the Priest Lake Water  
73 Management Project.  
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75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approval of this resolution is limited only  
76 to preconstruction activities until all necessary access agreements and permits are executed.

DATED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020



ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST



VINCE ALBERDI, Secretary