

**CITY OF NEWPORT
RESOLUTION NO. 3841**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE BIG CREEK DAMS PROJECT
AND ASSOCIATED FUNDING AND OUTREACH EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Newport is home to 10,000 citizens, is a vital regional hub, and is the heart of the central Oregon Coast, attracting 2.5 million visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newport's population and economy are solely reliant on water supplied from the Big Creek Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, research now shows that the Big Creek Dams are seismically deficient and may be damaged or completely destroyed by an earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon's Dam Safety Engineer identified the Big Creek Dams as the second and third most seismically deficient dam structures in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, complete failure of the Big Creek Dams would result in an unfathomable disaster, financial losses quickly reaching billions of dollars, and loss of water for an indefinite period; and

WHEREAS, without water for business and industry, a significant number of jobs would be lost resulting in a major population exodus from the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newport has explored potential solutions and has developed a preliminary engineering design and cost estimate to replace the Big Creek Dams; and

WHEREAS, if the City of Newport cannot replace the dams, the state will require the city to lower the water level to make the dams safer, resulting in significant water curtailment and shortages; and

WHEREAS, most common measures of affordability show that constructing the recommended approximately \$75 million Big Creek Dams Project without considerable state and federal funding sources would place a substantial financial burden on significant portion of the City's households in terms of property tax and/or water rates necessary to support such an investment.


THE CITY OF NEWPORT RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Newport remains highly committed in its support of the Big Creek Dams Project to address significant life-safety issues and the city's economic security.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Newport fully supports efforts to advocate on behalf of its citizens and businesses by seeking state and federal funding to off-set the costs of the Big Creek Dams Project, thereby addressing the affordability of this solution.

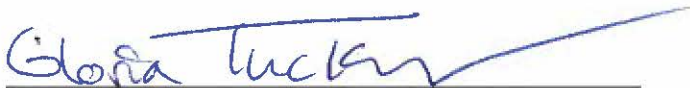
Section 3. The City Council of the City of Newport authorizes the implementation of a communications effort to build community awareness and support for the Big Creek Dams Project through the associated Save Our Supply Campaign.

Section 4. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.
Adopted by the Newport City Council on February 19, 2019.



Dean H. Sawyer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria Tucker, Deputy City Recorder