

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kate Dean, Commissioner
DATE: August 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for NODC/ PNNL grant application

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The North Olympic Development Council, of which Jefferson County is a member, is included in an application that the Pacific Northwest National Lab is submitting to the Department of Energy.

This grant, if awarded, would provide funding to PNNL to look at opportunities for leveraging marine energy technologies into microgrids to support resilience in coastal and island communities. Remote coastal communities are subject to more frequent weather-driven outages. Marine energy (ME) may be able to supplement other generation sources in providing resilience for coastal communities by integration into a microgrid, but there is currently no standardized methodology for valuing the benefits of ME. PNNL will develop a framework to allow a diverse range of community stakeholders to evaluate potential benefits and impacts of ME projects and build on existing lab-developed microgrid analysis software to evaluate how different renewable resources, including ME, can support critical loads under a large range of extreme weather conditions when disconnected from the larger grid. The NODC will perform outreach to determine needs and priorities to help evaluate trade-offs between resource options to meet resilience objectives.

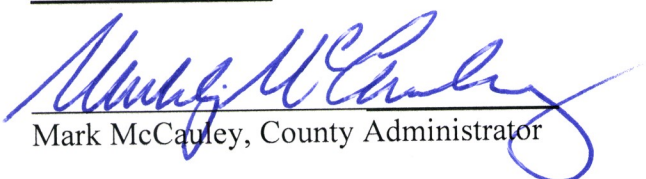
ANALYSIS: This grant would provide important information for our rural communities (and others) to assess using marine energy to decarbonize their energy use and enhance resilience.

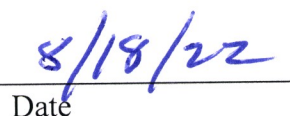
FISCAL IMPACT:

none

RECOMMENDATION: The BOCC will sign and send the letter of support for this grant application in support of energy innovation and resilience.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

August 22, 2022

Simon Gore
Technology Manager
Water Power Technologies Office
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: Marine Energy FY22 Lab Call, LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR “Framework for Building Grid Resiliency of Coastal Communities using MRE-Based Microgrids”

Dear Simon Gore,

Jefferson County, WA is deeply committed to innovation as we prepare for a new energy future. As such, we are glad to support the efforts of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the North Olympic Development Council to explore opportunities for marine energy.

As we work toward meeting community goals around energy resilience, decarbonization and economic development within the Olympic Peninsula we are interested in exploring opportunities for using our marine resources to help meet our energy needs. Through collaboration with the North Olympic Development Council and in concert with our on-going regional energy planning activities, we are pleased to participate in the proposal led by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory entitled, “*Framework for Building Resiliency of Coastal Communities using MRE-Based Microgrids*” in response to the Marine Energy FY22 Lab Call.

We will act in an advisory role with the objective of guiding project direction to ensure that the outcomes provide value to our community.

We look forward to collaborating with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the North Olympic Development Council, and the Department of Energy in evaluating opportunities for marine energy to meet our community’s energy, resilience and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair, District No. 2

Kate Dean, District No. 1

Greg Brotherton, District No. 3