

RESOLUTION NO. 252

RESOLUTION NAMING THE WANAPUM DAM

WHEREAS, it has been recognized by the Commissioners of the Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County that it is necessary to provide more electric power to meet the requirements of the growing Northwest; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that such electric power can be financed by electric revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is legally proper and technically and economically feasible for the District to develop the resources of the Columbia River in the reach between the foot of Priest Rapids and the Rock Island Dam; and

WHEREAS, studies and investigations of the Harza Engineering Company have indicated that these resources can be better developed by the construction of two dams, one to be located at the foot of Priest Rapids, and another across the channel just north of Sentinel Gap; and

WHEREAS, it has been deemed proper that the lower site should continue to be identified by the designation "Priest Rapids," a name known to the area since 1811; and

WHEREAS, Sentinel Gap marks the northern gateway to the original home of a people who were known as Wanapums, or River People; and

WHEREAS, These people greeted Lewis and Clark at the junction of the Snake and Columbia Rivers, which marked the beginning of the development of the Pacific Northwest by the white man; and

WHEREAS, the peaceful friendliness of these people assisted and encouraged the expedition, and those who were to follow; and

WHEREAS, they have at all times since then maintained those friendly relations, meanwhile retaining their ancient culture, following religious ceremonies that recognize a Supreme Creator, believe in adhering to the soil on which their ancestors were born, and where they were buried near the relics which are sacred to them; and

WHEREAS, the few remaining members of the tribe continue to follow the customs and traditions of their ancestors, which customs and traditions have won the respect and friendship of all who have dealt with them; and

WHEREAS, their friendship and cooperation has been of the utmost encouragement to us in our efforts in the development of the river;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the dam to be located north of Sentinel Gap, which is the gateway to the ancestral homes of this people, be named WANAPUM, or DAM OF THE RIVER PEOPLE: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public notice shall be given of this naming, and henceforth all reference to this dam shall be by the name WANAPUM.

PASSED by the Commission of PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2 OF GRANT county this 12th day of May, 1955.

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Commissioner