

## POLICY ON ANTICIPATED LAKE TAPPS RESERVIOR LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT

February 3, 2016

Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) has owned and operated Lake Tapps Reservoir Project since 2009. During that time, Cascade has managed Lake Levels in accordance with the provisions of the Lake Tapps Reservoir Water Rights, which incorporate relevant provisions from the *2009 Agreement Regarding Lake Tapps Between Cascade Water Alliance and the Lake Tapps Community* and the *2008 White River Management Agreement Between the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Cascade Water Alliance*.

The Water Rights and the agreements provide for Cascade to maintain Recreational Lake Levels or Normal Full Pool ("Lake Levels"), of between elevation 541.5 feet and 543.0 feet (gage height) from April 15 through September 30. They also anticipate that Cascade will reduce the Lake Level in the fall and winter, for safety and maintenance purposes. This drawdown has typically reduced the Lake Level to approximately elevation 533 to 535 feet (except when specific maintenance projects have required the Lake Level to be lower, as in 2014/2015 when the Lake Level was reduced to approximately elevation 500 feet).

Based on its experience since 2009, Cascade has determined that typical Fall drawdown to a Lake Level of approximately elevation 538 – 539 feet is sufficient to protect the integrity of the Lake Tapps dikes and for any routine maintenance and inspections to occur. In making this determination Cascade also sought to minimize both the wear on the valves in the powerhouse during fall drawdown and the risk of problems refilling the Lake Tapps Reservoir during periods of water shortage. Therefore, it is Cascade's intention to regularly maintain fall and winter Lake Levels in this range.

Exceptions to this typical management of Lake Levels would be:

- To perform extensive dike inspections and/or maintenance and repairs
  - Require drawdown to approximately elevation 530 – 535 feet
  - Anticipated approximately every 3 to 5 years, with the next event anticipated in 2018
- To perform major new project or maintenance/repair activities
  - Require drawdown to approximately elevation 520 – 525 feet
  - Anticipated approximately every 5 to 10 years, with the next event anticipated between 2019 and 2022
- To perform extraordinary new project or maintenance/repair activities
  - Require drawdown to approximately elevation 500 – 505 feet
  - Anticipated approximately every 20 to 50 years, with the next event not anticipated before 2035