



Nor'wester newsletter

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Columbia River Treaty negotiations scheduled to begin next week

Negotiations between the United States and Canada to modernize the Columbia River Treaty will take place May 29th and 30th in Washington, D.C. The Treaty is a worldwide model for transboundary water cooperation and has many benefits including supporting navigation, hydropower, irrigation, municipal water use, recreation, and environmental requirements. Modernizing the Treaty ensures benefits will continue to be protected in the future.

The U.S. negotiating team will be led by the U.S. Department of State and will also include the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The U.S. government will continue to engage regional stakeholders, Tribes, state government officials, and other interested groups.

PNWA members and staff were in [Spokane on April 25th](#) for a meeting with State Department staff as well as the public town hall. PNWA will publicize additional meetings which are made available to the public, or you can be added directly to the list at ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov. For PNWA's position on the Columbia River Treaty, check out our [fact sheet](#), or contact [Kristin Meira](#).

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House transportation bill includes funding for port projects

The House Appropriations Committee released their [FY2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development \(THUD\) bill](#) designating \$750 million for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program (formerly TIGER). This includes \$250 million for port facility and multimodal connector projects and \$250 million each for urban and rural projects. The House bill also includes \$300 million in funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grants to eligible ports and rail access projects, with \$150 million dedicated to positive rail control projects. USDOT recommends ports should clearly identify a project's reach into rural communities in their BUILD applications in the executive summary or early in the application.

FY2018 port security funding opportunity

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has opened their FY2018 funding opportunity for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) . \$100 million is available to address critical security needs at our nation's ports, with priority given to projects that enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and cybersecurity capabilities, conduct training and exercises, implement physical security, and strengthen governance integration. Grant applications are due by 2:00pm PDT on June 20th. For additional information, click [here](#).

Port of Morrow accepting applications for Executive Director position

The Port of Morrow has announced that they are soliciting applications for the Executive Director position. Ideal candidates will have operations, business management, administrative and leadership skills. The Port is governed by a five-member commission elected by the district's voters. The Executive Director is appointed by the Port Commission. A detailed job description is available [here](#), and application information can be found at www.portofmorrow.com.





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