

# Hydro Matters to the South Coast: Decisions Being Made Today Will Affect Local Electric Costs

*CCEC encourages members to speak up now for  
affordable, reliable energy.*



Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is urging members to make their voices heard as decisions affecting the Columbia River hydropower system move forward without meaningful input from the rural communities that depend on it. Members can act now at [voicesforcooperativepower.com/or-lsrd2026](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/or-lsrd2026) to send a letter to Gov. Kotek. It takes less than a minute.

Federal hydropower supplies approximately 84 percent of the electricity delivered to CCEC's 14,000 members in Coos and Curry counties. In February 2026, U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon granted a motion by the State of Oregon, under Gov. Kotek's leadership, to increase the amount and duration of spill on the Columbia and Snake River hydropower system. More spill over the dams results in less electricity generation.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which markets power generated by the federal hydropower system, estimates the order will result in lost revenue amounting to \$100 million annually, costs that will be passed on to utilities and the consumers they serve. For CCEC, the impact is projected to increase wholesale power costs by approximately 6 percent.

"Litigation is not where we will find the best solutions to protect healthy fish populations while retaining the benefits of clean, affordable energy from Columbia River hydropower system," said Brent Bischoff, CEO of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative. "The people who depend on the output of the Columbia hydropower system should have a seat at the decision-making table. That is what Oregon electric cooperatives are asking of Gov. Kotek."

Hydropower has long served as the backbone of the Pacific Northwest electric system. In addition to being carbon-free, it provides around-the-clock electricity that helps maintain reliability during winter storms, and periods of high demand. When hydropower generation is reduced, utilities must rely more heavily on other resources, which can increase costs and create additional reliability challenges. As electricity demand continues to grow throughout the region, the value of dependable hydropower becomes even more critical.

CCEC and 34 other consumer-owned utilities across Oregon are calling on Governor Tina Kotek to honor her commitment to include public power utilities in discussions about the future of the Columbia River hydropower system. Utility leaders have written to the Governor twice requesting engagement on the issue but have not received a response.

"Gov. Kotek is using taxpayer dollars to fight a lawsuit that is driving up our power costs," Bischoff said. "We think that is unacceptable, especially in a time when we are feeling the pinch of rising costs everywhere."

## TAKE ACTION TODAY

Protect your power source. Contact Governor Tina Kotek and state lawmakers through the Voices for Cooperative Power campaign. Visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com/or-lsrd2026](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/or-lsrd2026) to send your letter and protect clean, reliable, affordable hydropower for Oregon.

## About Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative has powered the farms, small businesses and rural communities along the southern Oregon Coast since 1939. Today, the member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative serves more than 14,000 members with 1,626 miles of power line. Approximately 84 percent of its power supply is sourced from the federal Columbia River hydropower system. As a member-owned utility, CCEC is governed by a board of directors elected from its membership and accountable to the people it serves. Learn more at [ccec.coop](https://www.ccec.coop).



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