

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

Please see attachment.

To: Rebecca Inman
Department of Ecology
Water Resources Program
PO BOX 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Submitted via online form

March 15, 2019

RE: Chapter 173-566 WAC - Streamflow Restoration Funding Rule

Dear Ms. Inman,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comment on the proposal for Chapter 173-566 WAC known as the Streamflow Restoration Funding Rule.

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities is a local organization in northwest Washington, founded in 1982. RE Sources works to build sustainable communities and protect the health of northwest Washington's people and ecosystems through the application of science, education, advocacy, and action. Our North Sound Baykeeper program is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the marine and nearshore habitats of northern Puget Sound and the Georgia Strait. Our chief focus is on preventing pollution from entering the North Sound and Strait, while helping our local citizenry better understand the complex connections between prosperity, society, environmental health, and individual wellbeing. Our North Sound Baykeeper is the 43rd member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, with over 300 organizations in 34 countries around the world that promote fishable, swimmable, drinkable water. RE Sources has over 20,000 members in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan counties, and we submit these comments on their behalf.

We want to thank the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for including water conservation and efficiency as high priority projects. That aside, we do have two remaining comments we would like to see addressed:

1. What are examples of "streamflow retiming projects" as mentioned under 173-566-220 (p. 8, line 31)? This phrase is not defined nor are examples given. We ask that Ecology include clarification somewhere under either 173-566-220 by including examples or creating a definition under 173-566-030.
2. Under 173-566-310, Ineligible projects and costs, why does Ecology not include mention of projects that would result in impairment of a senior water right(s)? Under 173-566-210 (2) (a) and 173-566-220 (2) (a) preventing impairment to senior water rights is explicitly called out. Any project



that will result in impairment of a senior water right(s) must be immediately disqualified from funding. We ask for it to be included in 173-566-310.

Thank you for considering our questions and concerns. Please feel free to write or call if there are questions. We look forward to hearing Ecology's response.

Sincerely,

Karlee Deatherage
Policy Analyst, Clean Water Program