

Annie Sawabini,

I am writing to comment on the recent new rules and regulations you are trying to impose on our current well limits. Please consider leaving the limits and regulations as they are. The state already reduced the limit from 5,000 gallons down to 3,000 gallons a day. Restricting and limiting new wells or existing wells is potentially a hazard to our community. It removes the opportunity we have to farm and garden on the land we purchase. I live on less than 5 acres of land and would need more than 500 gallons a day to keep up with household activities, watering my lawn, vegetable garden and flower gardens. If I decide to get a couple of animals to raise, I would need an increase of water. I know it states in the new proposed rules in section 173-501-065 that this 500-gallon limit is for new permit-exempt wells, but how long until someone cries "this isn't fair" and all wells become limited to 500 gallons a day.

We live in one of the greenest and most beautiful places in North America. We have fertile land and plenty of water. We need our farmers, our businesses and our community in order to keep thriving as we have for so many years. If we continue to be good stewards of the land, we own there is no need to have government regulations come in and limit our resources. The ditch by my house never dries up and salmon still come up it every year. The Lord has made this earth sustainable and I believe He will continue to provide for us year-round as He always does.

A side effect of the "Hirst decision" is a state of distrust towards the future of our water. I for example can not buy into a water association to use less water from my well, because they are not selling shares. There is a fear that with the new limits already put into place and the unknown ahead they can't sell anymore water. We have resources that are available to us, but fear has stopped us from sharing and living as a community when it comes to water and access to it. I have been trying to get onto the water association for 2 years now.

Thank you for allowing me to comment and thank you for reading my comment.

Best Regards,

*Joel Rinchart*