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Please prioritize water conservation. When I lived in southern California, water conservation was the rule and you could be fined for breaking the rule. The rule and supporting document provide little information about water conservation. Please provide information on how much water existing rural residents and businesses could save with rebates for efficient water fixtures (toilets, dishwashers, washing machines). Water conservation can meet the 1 CFS requirement over the next 20 years. We need new rules so that agricultural water usage can be monitored. Currently in Whatcom County, government officials are not even allowed to look over a tall fence, nor can they use drones to check for those who are cheating by drawing excess water from streams and rivers. We have our enforcement officers hog tied with too many obstructions to finding water theft. Please tell us the cost per quantity of water saved for each project. In the supporting document, please include the cost per acre-foot of water offset each year (\$/AFY). Knowing the cost per quantity of water offset will be important for decision-makers to judge which projects do the greatest good for the lowest cost to taxpayers.

Please don't subsidize rural development with agriculture water projects. We need to maintain our current agriculture. Productivity has been dropping around the world, and population is still growing. The SRA was written to address the impacts of new rural development using exempt wells. Any improvements in irrigation efficiencies and other agricultural water projects should provide water rights for farmers who lack sufficient legal water rights and improving streamflows. Please remove Projects 2 and 26 from consideration.

Please remove expensive, unpredictable projects requiring many permits. Projects 8, 24, and 28 won't be needed if water conservation is prioritized and implemented over the next few years. Please remove those 3 projects.

Please remove the new section on exemptions. WAC 173-501-074 opens up interruptible rights for Projects 2, 8, 26, and 28. This won't be needed if water conservation is implemented.

Address climate change impact on projects. Please add information on what effect climate change will have on all of the projects.

Reduce water demand. Thank you for reducing withdrawal limits to 500 gallons per day (this is down from 3,000 gallons per day annual average).