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First, it is critical that you all know that many residents of western Whatcom County strongly support appropriate restrictions on rural water use.

We welcome long overdue rational rules and enforcement measures to protect our water resources both quantity and quality.

Frankly we are tired of these people who think they have some right to free water in unlimited amounts! We pay for our water here in the County. Why shouldn't they?

Wise government intervention is essential and there are many who live in rural western Whatcom County (not Bellingham) who want you to do much more! Not less.

Water metering for every user is basic, necessary and must become part of any plan that ever has any chance of being more than a futile paper planning exercise! No more exemptions!!!

The DOE proposal is far too weak, but at the very least you must retain some key features.

It is important that the 500 gallon per day limit for family water consumption be maintained and you must require metering to monitor!

Make Domestic Water Use Efficiency (Conservation) programs and projects the primary source of mitigation.

Use cost benefits analysis, funding availability and certainty of success criteria to rule out poorly conceived mitigation projects and those that rob Peter to pay Paul.

Don't be misled by those local pandering politicians, large scale farmers and rural land owners who claim to speak for the entire rural community. They do not!

Stop wasting valuable time and get started with something, inadequate as it is, to save our precious water resources and protect us from these fools and their long outdated attitudes about managing PUBLICLY OWNED natural resources!