

Carole Perry

As WRIA 1, DOE representative, Kasey Cykler could attest to the robust work of WRIA 1 Planning Unit. As a citizen I have attended nearly all meetings that dealt with 6091 which were open to the public, that includes: Planning Unit, Surface Water Work Session, Management Team, Watershed Management Board, Well Owners, Natural Resource Committee, and two DOE meetings. I was encouraged by the responses of your DOE at the February 22, 2019, meeting at the Whatcom County Courthouse. You said you would take into account the good work of the WRIA 1 Planning Unit; and that you wanted feedback from the caucuses during the rule making process.

Please take into account the votes taken by the Planning Unit Caucuses which represent a broad cross-section of WRIA1 and Whatcom County. I have followed their hard work; many of their votes were almost unanimous. The expertise of the caucuses is extensive and diverse. They have been meeting continuously since 2014, faithfully and without pay to reflect the diverse water perspectives in our county. Miraculously, through their debate and discussion together on most water issues, they produced majority votes; as was the case on the final 6091 update. Note-it was two government caucuses who voted no and prevented the update being sent on to the Whatcom County Council.

May I say that the changes that you have made in the initial draft are contrary to what you proposed at the February 22, meeting.

At the Ferndale meeting on April 22, 2019, DOE could give no justification or science behind the limiting to 500gpd for new exempt wells; you also tied in outdoor water to 1/12 A, which 6091 was intended only for indoor consumptive water use. It is well established that exempt wells for the next twenty years will use negligible amounts of the total water which is used in WRIA 1, (less than 1%).

I urge the DOE rule making to return back to the Legislature's 6091 recommendation of 3000 gpd and \$500 fee for all new exempt wells.