

Chester Dow

I oppose implementation of the draft rule proposed by D.O.E. to amend Chapter 173-501 of the Washington Administrative Code.

In early 2018 when our legislature passed ESSB 6091, they intended to ensure the availability of water for rural residential development for the next 20 years. Even though definitive hydrogeologic studies have never been conducted in WRIA 1 to gather data necessary to support such decisions, the legislature reduced the limit for average daily maximum withdrawals by new domestic permit-exempt wells from the long-standing 5,000 GPD standard to a new limit of 3,000 GPD, a 40% reduction.

I do not see scientific data to support a further draconian 83% reduction in the proposed maximum daily withdrawal limit from 3,000 GPD down to a 500 GPD limit. Further, the proposed rule would severely reduce and, in effect, unreasonably re-define domestic outdoor water use for the purposes of watering non-commercial gardens and lawns.

Finally, the language where D.O.E. "reserves the right to require metering" should be stricken from the proposed amendment, or - if revised - should clearly state that only new permit-exempt domestic wells will be required to meter.