

Via: Electronic filing

December 7, 2017

Mr. Brett Rude
Environmental Specialist
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Comments by Grant PUD on the Washington State VW Settlement Mitigation Plan
(Plan)

Dear Mr. Rude:

Grant PUD appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft VW Mitigation Plan (Plan). To incent widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EV), an expansive charging system is required throughout the State. However, rural and Eastern Washington are currently underserved under the Plan. The Plan at p. 1 recognizes the opportunity to create a truly transformative change in EV use across the state:

“The settlement represents an unprecedented opportunity to make transformative improvements across Washington’s transportation sector. By investing in advanced zero emission technologies and prioritizing publicly owned transportation fleets, we can substantially reduce public exposure to harmful pollutants and help address climate change while saving millions of dollars in government fuel and maintenance costs.”

The Plan also states at p. 13 that one of the State’s top priorities is to “Accelerate adoption of electric vehicles, equipment, and vessels.” To achieve this priority goal and realize the transformative opportunity to incentivize widespread adoption of EV, a robust EV charging system throughout the State will be needed, including Central and Eastern Washington. While consideration should be given to mitigation for past harms, the focus of the plan should not be exclusively in urban areas at the expense of the State’s primary objective - widespread adoption of EV statewide.

Eastern Washington residents drive long distances to work and for access to critical public services, do not have equivalent opportunities for ride sharing or access to EV charging infrastructure as in metropolitan areas, and spend more money on transportation costs per person than in metropolitan areas. We request Ecology consider projects in Eastern Washington that: 1) increase the number of EV charging stations along main highways, service centers and at major employers; 2) increase the number of electric public transit and van pool buses to accommodate

more commuting schedules; and 3) expand the number of park and rides to reduce the commuting trip distance and promote greater ride sharing among the commuting public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan. Please do not hesitate to call me with questions at (509) 754-6612 or send me an email at csears@gcpud.org.

Very truly yours,



Cliff Sears
Sr. Policy Analyst

Cc: Andrew Munro
Dave Churchman