



April 16, 2026

Water Resources Program
Department of Ecology

Ecology Staff,

The Washington State Water Resources Association supports the comments submitted by the Columbia Basin Project Irrigation Districts.

We wish to specifically note the context for the passage of HB 1752 during the 2024 session. The bill was constructed to point out that size, scope, and dynamic nature of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) make it a unique entity. As such, the provisions of RCW 90.03.380 needed to be modified to reflect this uniqueness.

We support the Draft Columbia Basin Project Water Rights Policy and Interpretive Statement and look forward to continued collaboration with Ecology as the CBP continues to the long desired full build out of the project.

Focusing on the need for flexibility and a unique approach to the CBP will ensure efficient use of the project waters and ultimately help meet the key objective of serving the water needs of the region.

Sincerely,

John Stuhlmiller, Executive Director
Washington State Water Resources Association