

From: anne shaffer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Wessel, Ann (ECY)

Subject: wria 18 plan

Dear Ms. Wessel,

The Department of Ecology (DOE) is proposing a number of significant limitations on water usage in our area.

As the director of the Coastal Watershed Institute, I am not concerned that these limitations will ultimately stifle development, decrease land values, and adversely impact the business-generated and real estate-related tax bases. They should not be construed as a government "taking" of land. Citizens and landowners have a responsibility to stewardship. These rules begin to address this stewardship. Lastly, and perhaps more important, they do NOT deprive citizens of the right to use their land in keeping with traditions established over many years.

DOE's scientists assertion that there is a hydrological connectivity between aquifers and the waters flowing in streams and rivers and, furthermore, that an increase in the number of wells drawing from these aquifers will cause a corresponding decrease in the flow levels in the rivers is sound, and basic logic. DOE is right in it's position that, if development is to continue, there must be in place a water banking and mitigation plan. Minimizing impact and withdrawal should be the first step of this planning.

From my observation the majority of the citizens that affected by these rules support them.

Accordingly, I request that you implement these rules as soon as possible. In CWI's opinion these rules are logical, lawful, and beneficial both ecologically and environmentally.

Thank you for your attention.

Signed

Anne Shaffer
Coastal Watershed Institute

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