

From: Raul Perez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 7:53 PM
To: Wessel, Ann (ECY)
Subject: Opposition to proposed water rule

I object to the proposed Dungeness valley water rule strongly based on the following:

1. The rule places the interest of fish, salmon, as the best and highest use of the Dungeness basin's water. Even if this were a view held by the preponderance of the residents, salmon numbers are also subject to ocean predation and commercial fishing losses; therefore, restrictions on private well use may in the end accomplish little to increase population. We can all agree that the salmon require some stream flow for reproduction. However, in my reading about the issue, Dungeness flows are currently higher than in the 1950s when agriculture was more widespread in the valley --yet fish numbers are lower now.
2. An unfair situation would arise in the requirement of metering or mitigation costs for new wells versus existing ones. This is a common divide and conquer ploy to weaken opposition. After all, the rule can be amended later if the touted benefits fail to materialize, and expanded to wells now exempt.
3. A good proportion of the new wells affected by this rule would be drilled in properties owned in absentia; therefore, these owners are faced with increased costs and reduction of property values with no representation in the local government by virtue of their lack of resident voter status.
4. The metering of private wells smacks of collectivism. Regardless of the technical rationale, the end result is it gives Ecology the ability to limit usage, or, worse yet, require payments of "mitigation" fees which affect physical water flow not one iota. This is about money and power.
5. The growth in the Sequim area, is a valid topic for public discussion and decision making. The tool to accomplish these are the argument of ideas, discovery and statements of fact, and elections; not rules drafted and implemented by Ecology officials well removed from electoral checks and balances.

Respectfully,

Raul M. Perez