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Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program

DEC 01 2004



# Spokane County Conservation District

Bringing People and Resources Together

November 29, 2004

Ken Koch  
Water Quality Program  
WA Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Koch,

I am writing in regard to the recent 2004 Water Quality Assessment for Washington presentation held in Spokane, WA. The presentation was informative and well done. The database tool that has been developed deserves a lot of merit. However, it was brought to my attention, during a demonstration of the website tool, that specific names and agencies have been associated with the data sources. This may not present a problem in most cases, but it may have serious implications for Conservation Districts across the state.

The Spokane Conservation District (and other districts) works closely with landowners within the watersheds throughout their boundaries. This relationship is built on years of trust. It is through these relationships that we are often granted permission to access private property and obtain information and data. It is a privilege that we highly value and respect. The mention of the District and a staff person could jeopardize those relationships and damage our ability to work with future private property owners.

I believe we can preserve those relationships and continue to submit project data to the Department of Ecology. The preferred alternative is to delete all direct references to the Conservation District and indicate the source of the data as the EIM database. The other alternative would be to utilize the grant project number as the source of data.

I would appreciate your promptness in addressing this important issue before the public has access to the online information.

If you have further questions, please contact me, at (509) 535-7274 or email at [walt-edelen@sccd.org](mailto:walt-edelen@sccd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter J. Edelen".

Walter J. Edelen  
Water Resources Program Manager

cc: R.E. Baden, SCCD Executive Director