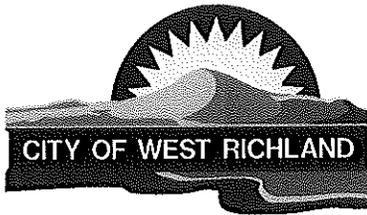


MAR 18 2010

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM



CITY OF WEST RICHLAND

3801 W. Van Giesen ♦ West Richland, WA 99353 ♦ (509) 967-3431 ♦ FAX (509) 967-5706 ♦ www.westrichland.org

March 8, 2010

Jon Jennings
Washington Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Reference: Mosquito Control Permit Comments

Dear Mr. Jennings:

We, the elected members of the West Richland City Council, wish to express our displeasure over the Washington Department of Ecology's proposed changes related to mosquito spraying in Chapter 17.28 of the Revised Code of Washington. If enacted as written in its current draft form, the permit would render Mosquito Control Districts helpless in their efforts to control mosquito populations before they have a significant, negative impact on human and animal populations.

Two specific areas of the draft permit are unacceptable. The first, which prohibits spraying for mosquitoes until a person or animal has become sickened by them, is ridiculous. The proposed changes would force Districts into a reactionary position as opposed to their current proactive stance where they are able to control mosquito nuisances before they become problematic.

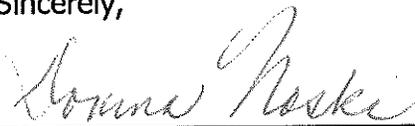
The second area of concern for us is in the draft permit's restrictions on the use of effective pesticides to control mosquito populations. For more than forty years, our local Benton County Mosquito Control District has carefully and conscientiously sprayed pesticides like Malathion and Naled under the federal regulations set by the Environmental Protection Agency. These products are more effective at controlling mosquito populations than pyrethroids are, and in addition, they cost less. Yet, Ecology's permit would prohibit the use of Malathion and Naled in battling mosquitoes until pyrethroids are shown to be ineffective. A state agency seeking to limit the judicious and safe spraying of successful pesticides with a less effective, more costly alternative could explain one of the reasons why our state is in the difficult financial position that we are in today. After all, in forty years of providing service to residents using pesticides like Malathion and Naled, there has not been one case of Benton County Mosquito Control District having caused any harm to residents or the environment as a result of their applications.

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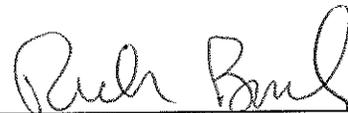
Jon Jennings
Department of Ecology
March 8, 2010
Page 2

During peak mosquito season, our local Mosquito Control District can field up to seventy calls a day from residents seeking relief from these insects. They have provided a service that allows Eastern Washingtonians the chance to enjoy the outdoors without being bothered by nuisance mosquitoes or worse, contracting West Nile Virus. We respectfully ask that the Washington Department of Ecology allow our local District, and the other Districts in the state to do their jobs without imposing new, unnecessary restrictions on their efforts.

Sincerely,



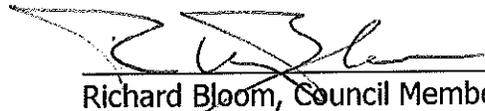
Donna Noski, Mayor



Rich Buel, Mayor Pro Tem



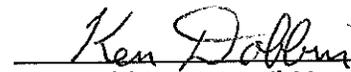
Tony Benegas, Council Member



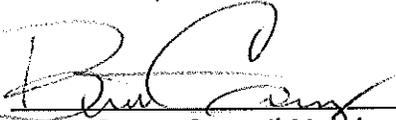
Richard Bloom, Council Member



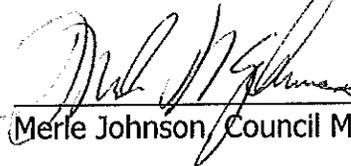
Gail Brown, Council Member



Ken Dobbin, Council Member



Brent Gerry, Council Member



Merle Johnson, Council Member