

MAR 29 2010
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM



March 17, 2010

Jon Jennings
Mosquito Control Permit Comment
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Jennings:

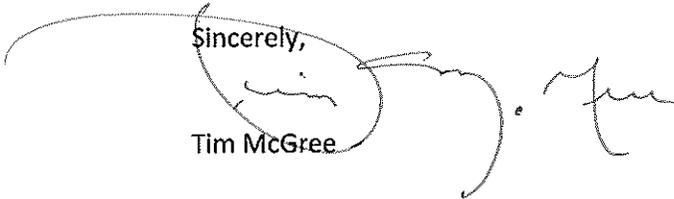
The recent article in the *Yakima Herald-Republic* regarding consideration by your agency to ban the spraying of insecticides that target adult mosquitoes concerns me. I am president of La Salle High School, a private Catholic school located in Yakima County. Our two hundred students are taught to be good stewards of our natural resources throughout their four years with us. We participate in a salmon recovery program with the Yakama Indian Nation. Our students are participating in the restoration of Ahtanum Creek. Environmental biology is one of our most popular courses.

However, our many late afternoon and early evening outdoor activities are adversely affected by a severe mosquito problem. Our forty acre campus is situated between Ahtanum Creek, which borders our property, and Wide Hollow Creek, which is located about a half-mile away. In addition to sports practices and games, we host a number of school oriented programs and fundraising activities outdoors. When school is not in session during the summer months, we open our campus and playing fields to the Yakima community. Consequently, we are dealing with the mosquito issue from early spring until October.

Judicious spraying by the Yakima County Mosquito Control District has allowed us to continue our normal schedule of outdoor events, as well as share our campus with our neighbors. Curtailment of the adult mosquito spraying program would cause us to restrict our sports and curricular event schedule, all the while dealing with mosquitoes at near intolerable levels.

I strongly urge you to NOT propose new spray restrictions for mosquito control permits in Yakima County.

Sincerely,


Tim McGree

c: Rep. Norm Johnson
Rep. Charles Ross
Yakima County Mosquito Control District

CH 539