

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
16<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT  
LAURA GRANT

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



AGRICULTURE &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
VICE CHAIR  
CAPITOL BUDGET  
HIGHER EDUCATION

September 15, 2009

Governor Chris Gregoire  
Office of Governor  
Olympia, Washington

Mr. Jay Manning, Director  
WA State Dept. of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

Dear Governor Gregoire and Director Manning:

I'm writing to urge you to immediately begin implementation of the Columbia Snake River Irrigators Association (CSRIA) Water Conservation Operation and Maintenance Program proposal. CSRIA has developed this proposal working with the Directory of the Office of the Columbia River. The proposal fulfills the goals of the Columbia River Basin Management Program by incentivizing conservation and efficient water use.

When the legislature created the Columbia River Program, the intent was to allow water saved by conservation practices to develop new irrigation ground. The CSRIA program can meet this objective by developing additional capacity in the mainstem Columbia-Snake River system where irrigation efficiency has been and can be, readily measured. Equally valuable, this program can offer tangible, near-term relief for critical water supply needs for large portions of the Odessa Sub-Area.

After extensive briefings on this proposal, and a recent field tour focusing on the real-time management practices, I'm impressed with the CSRIA members' use of irrigation scheduling and water-weather monitoring technologies. From a technical management perspective, the proposed program avoids impairment and relinquishment, and deals equitably with shared water savings for both out-of-stream and in-stream demands. From a broader welfare view, the irrigators' ability to fund their own program and produce new household income for a recession-laden state is exactly the type of activity we should be promoting. *We need more program actions like this one, and we need them now.*

I'm very concerned that implementation of the conservation provisions of the Columbia River Program to allow new irrigation use may be further delayed. CSRIA has acted boldly to encourage state policy makers to move toward water conservation and management practices before we deal with more expensive water supply options.

In summary, I ask for your enthusiastic support of the CSRIA program, and request that you will direct your agency staff to work with the Irrigators to initiate it in 2010.

With All Respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Grant".

Laura Grant  
State Representative, 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: House Speaker Frank Chopp  
Rep. Lynn Kessler

Rep. Brian Blake  
Rep. John McCoy

Sen. Chris Marr  
WSDA Director Dan Newhouse

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: 305 JOHN L. O'BRIEN BUILDING, PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7828  
HOME ADDRESS: 1038 PENROSE, WALLA WALLA, WA 99362 • E-MAIL: grant.laura@leg.wa.gov  
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

