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July 7, 2009

Dept. of Ecology
Water Resources Program
Attn: Ann Wessel

JUL 10 2009
Water Resources Program
Department of Ecology

I am writing to you to express my disappointment with the proposed rules in the Chimacum subbasin. My wife and I have owned property in the Chimacum Valley for 20 years and have lived here for 10 years. While we have plans to utilize our property as a small farm and native plant nursery, the proposed rule will eliminate our ability to realize our plans for half of my property. By prohibiting any outdoor irrigation under the pretext of preserving fish habitat when it has never been proven that well water usage affects Chimacum Creek water levels is presumptuous at best, and might be perceived as hubristic.

President Obama has made it a priority to eat fresh, LOCAL organic food, so much so that his wife has supervised the installation of an organic vegetable garden at the White House. By this proposed rule our state government will in effect eliminate large parcels of some of the richest farmland in the state for growing anything but non-native invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberries and Scotch broom. I believe it is time for those who talk about carbon footprints and local sustainable agriculture to put into practice those ideas in real time and in a real place.

My great grandfather homesteaded in Washington state 120 years ago because he believed that if a person respected the land and became good stewards then the land would give back its bounty and sustain his family as well as providing a sound basis for future generations to grow and thrive. At the present time our country is reeling from an economic crisis caused and driven by greed and complete disregard for these basic principles. Let us not be consumed by such myopic behavior but instead think of those who will come after we are gone

Sincerely,



Christopher Granstrom
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