**Water Availability Guidance for Counties – Workgroup**

Date/Time:  Thursday, September 11, 2014, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Location:  WA Dept. of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE, ROA 36 - Auditorium  
Lacey, WA  98503

Video Conference at Ecology Regional Offices: (NWRO not available, CRO in room 204A Waterfall, ERO in room 1-NW-18 VC and in the Bellingham field office)

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**Goal for this Series of Meetings:** To develop an updated set of Water Availability Guidelines that will:

a) Provide more clarity about Ecology and County roles and responsibilities;
b) Provide more clarity about definitions of terms;
c) Provide more uniform application of the Guidance by Ecology and certainty for counties; and
d) Have broad, mutual support from Counties, Ecology and other Stakeholders.

**Draft Agenda**

1:00  Welcome and Opening Statement by Ecology

1:10  Introductions

1:20  Administrative Housekeeping:
   o  Location of restrooms/cafeteria/coffee/etc.
   o  Review and affirm draft agenda
   o  Review of additional meeting dates/times/locations
   o  Review and affirm draft ground rules

1:35  Review and affirm goals of this effort

1:45  Discussion – clarification of roles and responsibilities (between Ecology and County permitting authorities)

2:15  Break

2:30  Discussion cont’d - what works and what doesn’t with the 1993/2013 guidelines

3:45  Recap of progress and agenda items for next meeting

4:00  Adjourn

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**Next Meeting:** Date and time to be determined, WA Dept. of Ecology Auditorium, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA  98503.
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Water Availability Guidance for Counties Workgroup – Draft Ground Rules:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this series of meetings is to obtain input from Counties and other stakeholders for a potential update to Ecology’s 1993 and 2013 Water Availability Guidelines.

**Facilitation:**

**Proposed Ground Rules:**

1. These meetings will be open to the public.

2. Anyone who wishes to speak during these meetings will be afforded an opportunity to do so without interruption. Other participants may also ask the speaker questions about their point of view.

3. Comments and discussion during these meetings should be brief and meaningful, and relevant to the goals of the meeting and the issue at hand.

4. Comments and criticism should be constructive, and propose solutions or an alternative if possible.

5. When making your comments, provide your summary first then supporting information as needed. That information might include the reasoning behind your idea, a specific example, its benefits/costs, and any assumptions you are making.

6. Participants are encouraged to use active listening to understand a speaker’s points, not to mentally prepare a rebuttal.

7. Comments should focus on policies not persons. No individual’s motivations or sincerity should be questioned.

8. There will be disagreements about what is considered “settled law”. For this process to make progress, those areas can be stated and acknowledged, but cannot be changed through debate during this process.

9. If Jay’s facilitation techniques are not working for you, please tell him! He’ll work to change them.

10. Additional ground rules can be proposed if desired.
Water Availability Guidance for Counties Workgroup – Resource Documents List:

Ecology webpage with the resource documents:

Previous Ecology Guidance:

- Guidance to Counties for Determining Water Availability when Processing Applications for Subdivisions and Building Permits (October 2013 Draft for WRAC Comments)

Comments from stakeholders on 2013 Ecology Guidance:

- Washington State Association of Counties (Helen Johnson, Paul Jewell and Kevin Bouchey)
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe - Fisheries Department (Carla Carlson)
- Center for Environmental Law and Policy/Sierra Club Washington State Chapter (Suzanne Skinner and John Osborn)
- LANDAU ASSOCIATES (Benjamin D. Lee)
- Yakima Nation Department of Natural Resources (Tom Ring and Phil Rigdon)
- The Tulalip Tribes (Daryl Williams)
- Squaxin Island Tribes (Sharon Haensly)
- Mentor Law Group, PLLC, (Jessica Kuchan)
- NOSSAMAN LLP, (Whatcom County, Jean O. Melious)
- Bill Clarke (Attorney at Law and Government Affairs)

Recent court decisions:

- Kittitas County v. Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board
- Swinomish v. Ecology
- Hirst v. Whatcom County

Ecology Program Contacts:

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<tr>
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