

August 13, 2009

Kittitas County
Board of County Commissioners
205 West 5th, Suite 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: MOA and First Amended MOA between Kittitas County and DOE

What started as an attempt to restrict large scale developer projects disguised as smaller multiple adjacent projects in order to avoid the acquiring of adequate water rights, has turned in to an excuse for an agreement that causes more harm than good, and is not based on any scientific fact.

It is important to understand that the Washington state economy, the US economy, and the world economy, have all changed drastically since the inception of the idea that too much development is jeopardizing our ground water resources. The pendulum has now hard swung in the opposite direction.

This is the new economy, having nearly fallen into a second great depression, is still years away from any recovery. As we know this crisis was rooted in real estate and the easy money (bad loans) thrown at real estate created a ridiculous level of development. There has now been a tremendous correction that has, and will continue to impact development, for years to come.

Truth is a moratorium is no longer necessary. One could argue that it may have been back in 2006 and early 2007, development was at a peak, but there is almost no activity today. We don't even need an MOA between Kittitas County and DOE at this point.

Today, we have time on our side. We don't need to act prior to a full and complete finding of fact from a thorough and scientific ground water study. Why would we act before we have all the facts?

Therefore, I ask that the County Board of Commissioners to; 1) reject any acceptance of a moratorium whether before or after an AG opinion, 2) reject any form of the MOA that enacts any limits to water usage or development until AFTER the results of a scientific study, and only execute a MOA if limits are suggested based in those findings, and 3) if a MOA is executed at any point, that it should revise the section "IX. Applicability to Existing Wells" to a more current date such as the date of MOA signing, rather than using July 8, 2008 retro date (usually changes to laws have delayed start dates to allow all parties to properly prepare for changes and their impacts, or at minimum go into effect on their date of signing).

In summary, the by-product of the current economy crisis has created an environment that has all but reduced land development and well development, to zero. Actually achieving more reduction in development and well drilling than even Aqua Permanente and DOE ever expected, and given that

experts around the world expect this situation to be a multi-year event, we have effectively no development activity in sight. Therefore, the better solution is to wait until the state-funded underground water study is complete and then analyze those results. At which time the best information will be available to make the best agreements between DOE and Kittitas County, or changes to water rights law as needed.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Sharon Dantzler
Land Owners, Business Owners, Voters & Taxpayers
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