

WRIA 9 WREC: Policy Recommendations from 2/25 meeting. Updated 4/21/2020

Policy/Regulatory Action Recommendation	Level of Interest (# of times on sticky note)	Policy lead?
Metering permit-exempt wells: policy could include just new wells or also existing wells; could be voluntary or mandatory.	6	
Education/outreach/incentives for water conservation: native/drought-tolerant plants, rainwater storage for irrigation, etc.	5	
Increase water service connection: strengthen requirements for new homes to connect to water service (timely & reasonable language), require/incentives for homes that connect to decommission wells, incentives for homes to connect. Example: CWD's code language	5	CWD
Fees for permit-exempt well users: charge a fee for existing wells; increase fee for new PE well users (currently \$500); make the fee an annual fee. Funds support monitoring and implementation of the WRE plan and expansion of water service infrastructure	4	
Expand water service infrastructure: funding to expand Group A water system infrastructure to connect existing PE well users and new development	3	CWD
Increase enforcement of existing state regs: Funding for Ecology to increase enforcement of existing water use requirements. Includes enforcement of reduced water use during drought.	3	King County
Increase enforcement of existing county regs: Increased enforcement of county requirements related to water service connection.	2	
Reduce lawn size limit for homes using permit-exempt wells (currently 1/2 acre)	2	
Plan implementation: Funding/legislative authority for Ecology to implement the WRE plan	2	
Improve Ecology well tracking: Improve the Ecology well log database to include GPS coordinates, link records for new and decommissioned wells, identify permit-exempt wells.	2	King County
Establish a water bank	1	
Incentivize deep wells	1	
NEW: State Trust Water Rights Program: Expand and fully fund the Trust Water Rights Program to secure and augment instream flows	1	King County
NEW: State Water Code: Expand and fully fund the Department of Ecology's capability to accurately, timely, and comprehensively compile, correct, update, store, and share information, data, and records regarding water rights	1	
NEW: Encourage water reuse/recycling	1	
NEW: Research / Monitoring / Metering: Expand research and monitoring regarding: groundwater supply; the effect of floodplain and wetland restoration on stream flow; and the effect of beaver management on stream flow	1	
NEW: Education / Outreach: Fund efforts by the Department of Ecology in partnership with local agencies to educate and promote awareness of permit exempt well owner/operators regarding their rights, responsibilities, and limitations	1	

Proposed Policy Statements

Recommended by King County DNRP to be Included in Watershed Plans

- **State Trust Water Rights Program (*KC can lead policy development*)**
 - Expand and fully fund the Trust Water Rights Program to secure and augment instream flows
- **State Water Well Reporting (*KC can lead policy development*)**
 - Expand and fully fund the Department of Ecology's capability to accurately, timely, and comprehensively compile, correct, update, store, and share reports and data regarding the construction or decommissioning of wells
- **State Water Code (*KC can lead policy development*)**
 - Expand and fully fund the Department of Ecology's capability to accurately, timely, and comprehensively compile, correct, update, store, and share information, data, and records regarding water rights
 - Expand and fully fund the Department of Ecology's capability to effectively administer and enforce the State Water Code
 - Employ water masters
 - Employ enforcement officers
- **Water Conservation**
 - Strengthen requirements for new homes to connect to a local water district/purveyor
 - Encourage/incentivize/subsidize permit exempt well owners that are located within the service area of a local water district/purveyor to hook up to service and decommission their well
 - Encourage water reuse/recycling
- **Research / Monitoring / Metering**
 - Expand research and monitoring regarding: groundwater supply; the effect of floodplain and wetland restoration on stream flow; and the effect of beaver management on stream flow
 - Develop and deploy a pilot project for metering and reporting of permit exempt well use
- **Education / Outreach**
 - Fund efforts by the Department of Ecology in partnership with local agencies to educate and promote awareness of permit exempt well owner/operators regarding their rights, responsibilities, and limitations