

KITTITAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** September 18, 2012

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of Inter-Local Agreement with  
Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD).

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**BACKGROUND:** The Taylor Bridge Fire ignited on August 13, 2012 at approximately 1pm and burned 23,500 acres of forestland, shrub-steppe, and cropland between Ellensburg and Cle Elum. The County and the District are actively working to secure and provide assistance to landowners and managers to address soil erosion, air quality, water quality and forest health in the burned areas. Coordination of the multiple agencies and funding programs that offer both technical and financial assistance is necessary in order to provide efficient and effective service to landowners and to reduce duplication of effort. The District and the County have assembled a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to participate in the Burn Area restoration efforts and to assist with coordination of multiple financial and technical resources. On August 23, 2012, the County requested federal assistance under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program by submitting a letter to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for work needed to safeguard lives and property from the imminent hazard created by the Taylor Bridge Fire. The EWP requires a local sponsor agency who is responsible for acquiring land rights and permits needed to construct, and if required, to operate and maintain the proposed measures as well as a 25 percent cost-share of the construction work. KCCD has the administrative expertise to enter into and manage the EWP contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

and the County and the District together have the technical expertise to implement the proposed measures and the funding to meet the local match requirement. The County and the District both intend to continue to seek additional funding sources to address natural resource issues within the burned area and it is in the public interest and in the mutual interest of the parties to participate in EWP projects.

INTERACTION:	Public Works, Prosecutors Office
RECOMMENDATION:	Approve
HANDLING:	Route to Public Works
ATTACHMENTS:	Resolution/ILA
LEAD STAFF:	Kirk Holmes