



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

February 27, 2015

Robert "Doc" Hansen
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: SE-15-00001

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the determination of nonsignificance for the Kittitas County Code Amendment; to allow airports and vehicle equipment service and repair, and to allow cisterns within the County for single family units already with access to potable water. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

WATER RESOURCES

The proposed changes to the ordinance regarding cisterns are consistent with Ecology's Water Resources Program Policy Regarding Collection of Rainwater for Beneficial Use, Policy 1017. Rain water collection, in areas that have identified instream flow issues and have been identified as habitat for threatened or endangered species, could have the potential to negatively impact these areas. Ecology's Policy 1017 states that if and when, the department determines that rooftop or guzzler rainwater harvesting systems are likely to negatively affect instream values or existing water rights, local restriction may be set in place to govern subsequent new systems. Should it be determined that rainwater harvesting systems are negatively affecting instream values or existing water rights, Ecology may establish local restrictions.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact **Sage Park** at (509) 454-7647 or email at sage.park@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012
crosepacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov