MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2015

To: Kittitas County Commissioners

cc: Kittitas County Public Health Department

From: Dan Haller, Facilitator on behalf of Citizen’s Advisory Committee

Re: Recommendation on Water Quantities and Water Banking Framework

The Citizen’s Advisory Committee was convened by Kittitas County to provide recommendations on water related issues affecting future residents choosing to mitigate for water through the county-owned water bank managed by Kittitas County Public Health Department. Over the last 6 months, Committee members reviewed water use data and formulated a recommendation on the quantity of water to be issued with a mitigation certificate from the future Kittitas County water bank. On behalf of the Committee, the purpose of this memo is to transmit their recommendation for review by the Kittitas County Commissioners.

The Committee’s recommendation consists of a numeric metric for mitigation certificates, terms under which mitigation certificates should be offered, and assumptions on customer demographics. Recommendations were assembled as a majority (near consensus) and minority opinion.

Majority Opinion

Numeric Standard for Mitigation Certificate and Terms of Offering

“Package A”: An indoor use package of approximately 275 gpd/house should be offered.

“Package A” is only offered to customers who have access to non-County irrigation water supply for outdoor irrigation (e.g. irrigation district supply, ditch company rights, other state water rights).

OR

“Package B”: An indoor use package of approximately 275 gpd/house with an outdoor use package of 500 square feet at 25 gpd² or 300 gpd/house (averaged for the calendar year) should be offered.

“Package B” is only offered to customers who do not have access to non-County irrigation water.

Assumptions on Customer Demographics

1. 275 gpd/house represents the approximate average of final polling of the Committee. Average of 13 responses was 274 gpd/house. Removing the highest and lowest values did not materially change the number (276 gpd/house) because the Committee was evenly split with some voting on the order of 250 gpd/house and others around 300 gpd/house. Actual voting numbers in gpd/house were: 200, 250, 250, 250, 270, 275, 288.5, 300, 300, 300, 301, and 325.

2. The Committee recommended 61.5 gpd/house for the irrigation season (145 days). When normalized for a 365 day calendar year, which will track with annual meter submittals, the irrigation quantity is 25 gpd/house.
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The Committee’s recommendation is based on the following assumptions:

- The indoor use package is intended to include some small non-irrigation outdoor uses, such as car washing, window washing, etc.
- The County’s target customer will be households with full-time occupancy, will use modern and efficient fixtures and appliances, and will have a fixed household size.
- Other sources of mitigation water are available besides the County Water Bank in most areas.
- Compliance and enforcement efforts should be at the bank level instead of the customer level.
- Customer usage data will be based on a metering program. There will be daily, annual, and peak time readings and allotments. Enforcement will only be done for significant outliers (households using significantly more than allotted.)
- Lawn will be used as a surrogate for other outdoor landscaping (e.g. garden, shrubs, trees)
- A single value for crop irrigation use should be used county-wide. This will likely result in a slight overestimation of use in the Upper County (about 12% compared to average county use) and a slight underestimation of use in the Lower County (about 12% compared to average).
- Stockwatering uses were not a part of the Committee’s charter and these recommendations do not reflect use for that purpose.
- The County should include clear and robust outreach materials for its water bank.

Minority Opinion

The Majority Opinion should be adopted with the following changes:

1. Package A and B should be offered in all situations.
2. An additional Package C should be offered with indoor use, plus a higher irrigation allowance of 1,500 sq. ft., at a total of 350 gpd/house

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*The Committee recommended 184.5 gpd/house for the irrigation season (145 days). When normalized for a 365 day calendar year, which will track with annual meter submittals, the irrigation quantity is approximately 75 gpd/house.*