

# Okanogan County Republican Party

Resolution 2022-03-17

**Introduction:** Water planning has been an ongoing process since the adoption of Washington WAC 173.548 by the Department of Ecology in 1976.

In this process the planners (state, county, federal and private) included domestic use as an integral part of watershed planning. This consideration has basically confounded the process. Okanogan County is divided into two Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA 48 and 49). The philosophy of water resource planning is the same for both WRIAs. Although the numbers will be slightly different, the planning considerations are the same.

We believe watershed planning should not consider domestic consumption, as domestic consumption is inconsequential.

## **REASONING (using Methow Valley WRIA 48 as an example)**

**Whereas:** The total volume of water in WRIA 48 is estimated to be 10,730,000 AF (ten million, seven hundred thirty-thousand-acre-feet). Expressed in gallons it is: 3,496,000,000,000. This estimate was derived from totalizing the area, the depth of the aquifer and the composition of the material in the aquifer/basin. The cumulative annual water income/recharge in WRIA 48 has been measured/estimated at 2,946,000 acre-feet, expressed in gallons is: 959,960,000,000. (1) See references on next page.

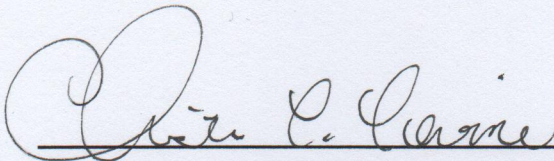
**Whereas:** Domestic use is determined to be all of the water headed for a septic treatment system from a residence/commercial facility. This water would be the total water, on a daily basis used for dish washing, clothes washing, flushing the toilet, hand washing and any other uses which are headed for septic treatment. Using common knowledge, and as a "worst case scenario" this daily total is estimated at 110 gallons. (2) See references on next page.

**Whereas:** The Department of Ecology has recognized that consumptive domestic water use is 10 percent of water withdrawn subject to septic treatment. This is also expressed as a 90 percent return factor. The consumed daily domestic water use in WRIA 48 is 11 gallons per day or 4015 gallons per year per residence/commercial facility. The number of residences in the Methow Valley is 4,078, and as a "worst case scenario" these residences are occupied at a rate of 100 percent, the total domestic water use for one year would be 16,373,170 gallons.

**Whereas:** The total domestically consumed water is 0.00047% of the total annual water budget.

**Whereas:** The Okanogan County Republican Party Platform affirms that Personal property rights are fundamental to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that laws and regulations pertaining to personal property and natural resources should give priority to the rights of the individual and to local interests.

**Therefore:** Domestic consumption should be exempt from watershed planning as it is inconsequential.



Christa Levine, Chairman, OCRP

4.21.2022

Date

**References**

(1) 2005 Methow Basin (WRIA 48) Watershed Plan, Library, Water Management Reports, Golder Associates, Inc. Phase II - Level 1 - Watershed Technical Assessment for the Methow River Basin. Prepared for WRIA 48 Planning Unit and Okanogan County, June 26, 2002, Chapter 6, page 15.

(2) Domestic use calculations per day:

Two five-minute showers at five gallons per minute =	50 gallons
Dish washer once per day six gallons per cycle =	6 gallons
Clothes washer once per day seven gallons per cycle =	7 gallons
Ten toilet flushes per day at four gallons per flush =	40 gallons
Hand washing, tooth brushing etc. =	7 gallons

Total -----  
110 gallons