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Sammamish Plateau Water District Supports Appeal of Stormwater Regulations

Sammamish WA - The Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) has filed a legal appeal of stormwater regulatory permits proposed to be issued by the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE). The Sammamish Plateau Water Board of Commissioners supports this WASWD appeal due to the risks that these proposed regulations pose to the District’s groundwater resources.

As our region develops and our economy grows, the health of our natural resources, including groundwater, are threatened by urbanization. Stormwater disposal methods, which are established and authorized by the DOE, should place precedence on preserving the quality of the groundwater that many in Washington State rely on. Unfortunately, state regulations fail to prioritize aquifer protection over cheap and convenient methods of stormwater disposal that include injecting untreated stormwater into our aquifers.

The District’s Board of Commissioners has proactively advocated for aquifer protection from the negative impacts of stormwater injection for decades. The WASWD appeal of the DOE permits aligns with the District’s interests in groundwater stewardship. The proposed state regulations continue to jeopardize our drinking water resources by permitting urban stormwater to be injected directly into the aquifer, and assumes this waste will not degrade our water sources. The District believes our water resources are too important to take this risk. Ironically, stormwater from development, which discharges to surface water (rivers, lakes, and streams), is highly regulated but state regulations do not require an advanced analysis to confirm that injecting stormwater into the aquifer will not endanger our drinking water before injection is allowed to take place.

The District applauds the WASWD appeal, and will continue to advocate for the preservation of our groundwater resources. Jeopardizing the future of our aquifer so that stormwater can be disposed of cheaply and conveniently, is not a risk worth taking.

About Sammamish Plateau Water
Sammamish Plateau Water is a regional provider of water and wastewater services to more than 64,000 residents over 29 square miles across cities of Sammamish and Issaquah, and areas of unincorporated King County. The District’s mission is to provide safe, efficient and reliable water and sewer services by being a leader in the planning and practice of fiscal and environmental stewardship.

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