Pierce County
Planning & Public Works

Dennis Hanberg—Director
dhanber@co.pierce.wa.us

2401 South 35th Street, Room 2
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7460
piercecountywa.org/ppw

ADDENDUM TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

Environmental Application Number: 903160 **Project ID Number**: 546911
Application Family: N/A
Parcel Number: N/A

Action: Amendment to the Nisqually Watershed Management Plan

Description of current proposal: The Nisqually Watershed Management Plan was formed in response to the 1998 Watershed Management Act (RCW 90.82). This statute provides the framework for locally-based watershed planning with the goal of giving local interests a voice and a forum for collaboration regarding water resource issues. Through this process, stakeholders in the Nisqually Watershed have reached a common ground in creating management strategies and recommending actions that address water quantity, quality, instream flow and fisheries habitat throughout the Watershed. The Nisqually Watershed Management Plan is intended to serve as a locally-supported, long-term plan focusing on water availability and addressing water quality, habitat and instream flows in the Nisqually Watershed. The Watershed Plan provides a comprehensive strategy for balancing competing demands for water, while at the same time preserving and enhancing the future integrity of the Nisqually watershed.

Nisqually Planning Unit in February 2007 adopted the "Phase IV Nisqually Implementation Plan," further identifying actions to be taken to implement the 2003 Plan.

In 2018 the Washington State Legislature, acting in ESSB 6091, mandated that the Nisqually Planning Unit acting under authority of RCW 90.82, must update the Nisqually Watershed Management Plan to address explicitly future permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals, potential impacts of these withdrawals on minimum stream flows and other senior water rights, and develop mitigation strategies as deemed appropriate by the Planning Unit. The mandated deadline for this activity is February 1, 2019.

The new law establishes standards for exhibiting proof of an adequate water supply when applying for a building permit or subdivision for a home relying on a new permit-exempt well, including requirements about a fee and water use restriction. ESSB 6091 (codified as RCW 90.94) directs the Department of Ecology to work with Initiating Governments and Planning Units to identify potential impacts of exempt well use, identify evidence-based conservation measures and identify projects to improve watershed health and offset potential impacts to instream flows associated with permit-exempt domestic water use. Alternatively, building permit applicants may show other evidence of an adequate water supply that complies with RCW 90.03 and 90.44.

Examples of proposed mitigation from the Addendum to offset potential impacts from domestic permit-exempt well connections include but are not limited to the following:

- Forest acquisition and protection
- Install new permit-exempt wells in deeper aquifers
- Replace shallow permit-exempt wells with deeper wells
- Replace shallow Group A wells in deeper aquifers
- Purchase and retire water rights
- Diversion of winter streamflow for infiltration and storage
- Floodplain reconnection and stream restoration
- Culvert replacement
- Connection of permit-exempt wells to Group A wells

Proponent: Nisqually Watershed Planning Unit (including Nisqually Indian Tribe, Pierce County, Thurston County, Lewis County, Town of Eatonville, City of Lacey, City of Yelm, City of Olympia, Washington State Department of Ecology, The Nisqually River Council, Thurston PUD, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Location of current proposal: The Nisqually River Basin, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 11. The Nisqually River Basin or WRIA 11 is located approximately 20 miles south of the City of Tacoma and five miles east of the City of Olympia and is approximately 760 square miles in size. The Nisqually River originates from the Nisqually Glacier on the southern slope of Mt Rainier and flows west-northwest for approximately 78 miles until it enters southern Puget Sound. The Nisqually Basin includes portions of Pierce, Thurston and Lewis Counties, the incorporated communities of Yelm, Eatonville and Roy and portions of Fort Lewis Military Base and the Nisqually Indian Reservation.

Title of document being modified: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW

Agency that prepared document being modified: Washington State Department of Ecology

Date document being modified was prepared: July 18, 2003

Description of document (or portion) being modified: Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Final Environment Impact Statement.

The following modifications have been made to the original FEIS: Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been modified to address the requirements of ESSB 6091, which mandates that the Nisqually Planning Unit acting under authority of RCW 90.82, must update the Nisqually Watershed Management Plan to address explicitly future permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals, potential impacts of these withdrawals on minimum stream flows and other senior water rights, and develop mitigation strategies as deemed appropriate by the Planning Unit. The new law establishes standards for exhibiting proof of an adequate water supply when applying for a building permit or subdivision for a home relying on a new permit-exempt well, including requirements about a fee and water use restriction. ESSB 6091 (codified as RCW 90.94) directs

the Department of Ecology to work with Initiating Governments and Planning Units to identify potential impacts of exempt well use, identify evidence-based conservation measures and identify projects to improve watershed health and offset potential impacts to instream flows associated with permit-exempt domestic water use. Alternatively, building permit applicants may show other evidence of an adequate water supply that complies with RCW 90.03 and 90.44.

If the document being modified is the subject of a pending appeal, or has been found inadequate on appeal, please describe: N/A

The document is available to be read at: Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department, 2401 S. 35th, Suite 175, Tacoma, WA 98409, Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Document information is also available online via the Pierce County PALS website at: https://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/#/permitSearch/permit/departmentStatus?applPermitId=903160

This addendum is issued under WAC 197-11-600(4)(c), and WAC 197-11-625. This addendum and its attachments add analyses or information about the proposal, but do not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the existing environmental document.

Name of agency adding to or modifying document: Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department.

Responsible Official:	Dennis Hanberg
Position/Title:	Director
Address:	2401 S. 35th St., Suite 175, Tacoma, WA 98409
Staff Contact:	Rance Smith, Engineering Supervisor rance.smith@piercecounty.wa.gov | (253) 798-4114
Date of Issue:	January 29, 2019

for Dennis Hanberg, Responsible Official

Pierce County Online Permit Information:
https://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/#/permitSearch/permit/departmentStatus?applPermitId=903160

RS:sm
1 Nisqually Watershed Management Plan FEIS Addendum-RS.docx