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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2200**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler, Mastin, Lisk, Mulliken, Honeyford, Robertson, Basich, Horn and Goldsmith)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to water resource management; amending RCW  
2 90.54.020, 90.54.180, 90.03.383, and 90.14.140; reenacting and amending  
3 RCW 43.84.092; adding new sections to chapter 90.03 RCW; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 34.05 RCW; creating new sections; adding a new  
5 chapter to Title 90 RCW; and providing expiration dates.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **PART I**

8 **BASIN PLANS AND INSTREAM FLOWS**

9 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** Unless the context clearly requires  
11 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
12 chapter.

13 (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

14 (2) "WRIA" means a water resource inventory area established in  
15 chapter 173-500 WAC as it existed on January 1, 1996.

1 (3) "Water supply special purpose district" means a water, combined  
2 water-sewer, irrigation, reclamation, or public utility district that  
3 provides water to persons or other water users within the district.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 102.** It is the intent of the legislature that  
5 water resource planning be done locally, at the watershed level. Such  
6 local planning is not required, but may be conducted as provided in  
7 this chapter. If such local planning is conducted for a WRIA, it shall  
8 provide for the establishment of instream flows and a comprehensive  
9 water resources program for the WRIA. No plan developed under this  
10 chapter may impair or impede any water right existing before the plan  
11 is adopted under section 110(5) of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 103.** Once a WRIA planning unit has been  
13 organized and has established priorities under section 108 of this act,  
14 it may apply to the department for funding assistance for conducting  
15 the planning. The department shall provide five hundred thousand  
16 dollars per WRIA on a first-come, first-served basis to each such  
17 planning unit planning under this chapter and so applying. The moneys  
18 shall be provided from and to the extent of appropriations made by the  
19 legislature to the department expressly for this purpose. Funding  
20 provided under this section shall be considered to be a contractual  
21 obligation against the moneys appropriated for this purpose.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 104.** (1) This chapter shall not be construed as  
23 creating a new cause of action against the state or any county, city,  
24 or special purpose district.

25 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 4.92.090, 4.96.010, and 64.40.020, no claim  
26 for damages may be filed against the state or any county, city, or  
27 special purpose district that participates in a WRIA planning unit for  
28 performing responsibilities under this chapter. The exclusion from  
29 liability contained in this subsection does not apply to a county,  
30 city, or special purpose district that votes to adopt provisions in a  
31 WRIA plan that have been identified by the department as being in  
32 conflict with state or federal law with regard to those provisions if  
33 advice regarding the conflict was provided under section 110(2) of this  
34 act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 105.**    (1) Of the counties located in whole or in  
2 part in a WRIA, the county with the largest population residing within  
3 the boundaries of the WRIA is the lead agency for WRIA planning  
4 conducted for that WRIA under this chapter, except as provided in  
5 subsection (5) of this section and section 106 of this act.    Such a  
6 county may choose to initiate water resource planning for the WRIA  
7 under this chapter.    If it does so choose, it shall convene a meeting  
8 of the members of the legislative authorities of the counties with  
9 territory within a WRIA for the appointment of a WRIA planning unit.  
10 Unless an existing entity is to be chosen as the planning unit under  
11 subsection (5) of this section, it shall also notify the cities, water  
12 supply special purpose districts, and conservation districts with  
13 territory within the WRIA that these groups are to meet to appoint  
14 their members of the WRIA planning unit.    For the purposes of this  
15 section and sections 106 and 110 of this act, a county is considered to  
16 have territory within a WRIA only if the territory of the county  
17 located in the WRIA constitutes at least fifteen percent of the area of  
18 the WRIA.

19        (2)(a) One WRIA planning unit shall be appointed for the WRIA as  
20 provided by this section or for a multi-WRIA area as provided by  
21 section 106 of this act for multi-WRIA planning.    Except as provided in  
22 subsection (5) of this section, the planning unit shall be composed of:  
23 One member from each county with territory in the WRIA representing the  
24 county and appointed by the county; one member for each county with  
25 territory in the WRIA, but not less than two members, representing  
26 cities with territory in the WRIA and appointed jointly by those  
27 cities; two members representing all water supply special purpose  
28 districts with territory within the WRIA and appointed jointly by those  
29 districts; one member representing all conservation districts with  
30 territory within the WRIA and appointed jointly by those districts;  
31 four members representing the general citizenry, of which at least two  
32 shall be holders of water rights, appointed jointly by the counties  
33 with territory within the WRIA; and six members representing various  
34 special interest groups appointed jointly by the counties with  
35 territory within the WRIA.

36        (b) In addition, for a WRIA located within Pierce, King, or  
37 Snohomish county, a representative of the largest water purveyor using  
38 water from the WRIA shall be an ex officio member of the planning unit

1 whether the principal offices of the purveyor are or are not located  
2 within the WRIA.

3 (3) Except for a person who is an ex officio member of the planning  
4 unit under subsection (2)(b) of this section, each person appointed to  
5 a WRIA planning unit shall have been a resident of the WRIA for at  
6 least five years. No state employee or state official may be appointed  
7 to the planning unit. In appointing persons to the WRIA planning unit  
8 representing special interest groups, the counties shall consider  
9 industrial water users, general businesses, hydroelectric and thermal  
10 power producers, and irrigated agriculture, nonirrigated agriculture,  
11 forestry, recreation, environmental, and fisheries interest groups and  
12 other groups with interests in the WRIA.

13 (4) In voting to appoint the members of a WRIA planning unit, to  
14 choose a planning unit under subsection (5) of this section or section  
15 106(4) of this act, to choose or select a lead agency for water  
16 resource planning under this chapter, to approve a WRIA plan under  
17 section 110 of this act or to request or concur with a request for  
18 multi-WRIA planning under section 106 of this act, each county with  
19 territory within the WRIA shall have three votes, divided equally among  
20 the members of the county's legislative authority and these actions  
21 shall be made by majority vote based on the votes allocated under this  
22 section. In voting to appoint members of a WRIA planning unit: Each  
23 city with territory within the WRIA shall have one vote and  
24 appointments shall be made by majority vote of such cities; each water  
25 supply special purpose district with territory within the WRIA shall  
26 have one vote and appointments shall be made by majority vote of such  
27 districts; and each conservation district with territory within the  
28 WRIA shall have one vote and appointments shall be made by majority  
29 vote of such districts. Except as provided in subsection (5) of this  
30 section, all appointments shall be made within sixty days of the date  
31 the appointing authorities other than the counties are notified to  
32 convene to make appointments or the appointments shall be made by the  
33 counties with territory in the WRIA in the same manner the counties  
34 make other appointments. A vacancy on the planning unit shall be  
35 filled by appointment in the same manner prescribed for appointing the  
36 position that has become vacant.

37 (5) When the counties of a WRIA have convened jointly to make  
38 appointments to the planning unit, they may, by a majority vote, choose  
39 as the lead agency for WRIA planning any governmental entity in the

1 WRIA. Such a governmental entity shall act as the lead agency for this  
2 purpose if it agrees in writing to accept the designation. The  
3 counties so convened may also, by a majority vote, choose as a planning  
4 unit an entity with a composition substantially similar to the  
5 composition provided by subsection (2) of this section that was in  
6 existence prior to such convening and the counties find to be capable  
7 of serving as the planning unit for water resource planning in the  
8 WRIA. Such an entity shall serve as the planning unit for water  
9 resource planning in the WRIA under this chapter if the entity agrees  
10 in writing to do so.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 106.** (1) The counties with territory in a WRIA  
12 may elect to conduct multi-WRIA planning with the counties with  
13 territory in one or more other WRIsAs. If the counties with territory  
14 in these other WRIsAs concur, all of the counties with territory in  
15 these WRIsAs shall convene and shall appoint one planning unit to  
16 conduct the water resource planning for the multi-WRIA area.

17 (a) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the  
18 planning unit shall be composed of: Up to one member, as that number  
19 is determined by the counties jointly, for each county with territory  
20 in the multi-WRIA area representing the counties and appointed by the  
21 counties jointly; up to one member, as that number is determined by the  
22 cities jointly, for each county with territory in the multi-WRIA area,  
23 representing cities with territory in the multi-WRIA area and appointed  
24 jointly by those cities; up to three members, as that number is  
25 determined by the districts, representing all water supply special  
26 purpose districts with territory within the multi-WRIA area and  
27 appointed jointly by those districts; up to two members, as that number  
28 is determined by the districts, representing all conservation districts  
29 with territory within the multi-WRIA area and appointed jointly by  
30 those districts; four members representing the general citizenry, of  
31 which at least two shall be holders of water rights, appointed jointly  
32 by the counties with territory within the multi-WRIA area; and six  
33 members representing various special interest groups appointed jointly  
34 by the counties with territory within the multi-WRIA area.

35 (b) In addition, for a WRIA located within Pierce, King, or  
36 Snohomish county, a representative of the largest water purveyor using  
37 water from the multi-WRIA area shall be an ex officio member of the

1 planning unit whether the principal offices of the purveyor are or are  
2 not located within the multi-WRIA area.

3 (c) Except for a person who is an ex officio member of the planning  
4 unit under subsection (1)(b) of this section, each person appointed to  
5 a multi-WRIA planning unit shall have been a resident of the multi-WRIA  
6 area for at least five years. No state employee or state official may  
7 be appointed to the planning unit. In appointing persons to the multi-  
8 WRIA planning unit representing special interest groups the counties  
9 shall consider industrial water users, general businesses,  
10 hydroelectric and thermal power producers, and irrigated agriculture,  
11 nonirrigated agriculture, forestry, recreation, environmental, and  
12 fisheries interest groups and other groups with interests in the multi-  
13 WRIA area.

14 (2) The counties in the multi-WRIA area shall select, by a majority  
15 vote, a governmental entity in the multi-WRIA area to act as lead  
16 agency for water resource planning in the multi-WRIA area under this  
17 chapter. Such an entity shall serve as the lead agency if it agrees in  
18 writing to do so. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this  
19 section, all appointments shall be made within sixty days of the date  
20 the lead agency in the multi-WRIA area notifies the other appointing  
21 authorities to convene to make appointments or the appointments shall  
22 be made by the counties with territory in the multi-WRIA area in the  
23 same manner the counties make other appointments. A vacancy on the  
24 planning unit shall be filled by appointment in the same manner  
25 prescribed for appointing the position that has become vacant.

26 (3) A planning unit for a multi-WRIA area shall perform all of the  
27 functions assigned by this chapter to a WRIA planning unit and is  
28 subject to all of the provisions of this chapter that apply to a WRIA  
29 planning unit.

30 (4) The counties convened to make appointments to a planning unit  
31 may, by a majority vote, choose as a planning unit an entity with a  
32 composition substantially similar to the composition provided by  
33 subsection (1) of this section that was in existence prior to such  
34 convening and the counties find to be capable of serving as the  
35 planning unit for water resource planning in the multi-WRIA area. Such  
36 an entity shall serve as the planning unit for water resource planning  
37 in the multi-WRIA area under this chapter if the entity agrees in  
38 writing to do so.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 107.**     The lead agency shall provide staff  
2 support for the work of the WRIA planning unit.     Each WRIA planning  
3 unit may establish its own methods of operation that are consistent  
4 with this chapter and may establish methods for reviewing the  
5 operations of its lead agency.     No planning unit appointed or selected  
6 under this chapter may possess or exercise the power of eminent domain.  
7 No planning unit appointed or selected under this chapter may take any  
8 action that affects in any manner a general adjudication proceeding for  
9 water rights, completed or ongoing.     Each WRIA planning unit is  
10 encouraged to:     Consider information and plans that may have been  
11 previously developed by other entities in establishing water resource  
12 management plans for the WRIA; consider existing data regarding water  
13 resources in the WRIA; and, for a WRIA that borders another state,  
14 cooperate with local government counterparts in the adjacent state  
15 regarding water resource planning.     Water resource plans developed  
16 under this chapter for a WRIA may not interfere in any manner with a  
17 general adjudication of water rights, completed or ongoing.     Such a  
18 WRIA plan may not in any manner impair, diminish, or interfere with a  
19 water right that exists before the adoption of the plan by the  
20 department under section 110 of this act.

21        All meetings of a WRIA planning unit shall be conducted as public  
22 meetings as required for such meetings by the open public meetings act,  
23 chapter 42.30 RCW.     Some time shall be set aside at the end of each  
24 meeting of a WRIA planning unit for public comments.

25        No person who is a member of a WRIA planning unit may designate  
26 another to act on behalf of the person as a member or to attend as a  
27 member a meeting of the unit on behalf of the person.     If a member of  
28 a WRIA planning unit is absent from more than five meetings of the WRIA  
29 planning unit that constitute twenty percent or more of the meetings  
30 that have been conducted by the planning unit while the person is a  
31 member of the unit and these absences have not been excused as provided  
32 by this section, the member's position on the WRIA planning unit is to  
33 be considered vacant.     A person's absence from a meeting may be  
34 excused:     By the chair of the planning unit if a written request to do  
35 so is received by the chair before the meeting from which the member is  
36 to be absent; or by a majority vote of the members of the planning unit  
37 at the meeting during which the member is absent.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 108.**    (1) Each WRIA planning unit shall develop  
2 a water resource plan. The plan must contain the elements listed in  
3 subsection (2) of this section and may include other elements added by  
4 the planning unit. Once organized, the first task of the planning unit  
5 is to prioritize these elements regarding their importance in the WRIA  
6 and in developing a water resource plan for the WRIA. A plan shall not  
7 be developed such that its provisions are in conflict with state or  
8 federal law or impair, diminish, or interfere in any manner with a  
9 water right existing prior to its adoption. Each plan shall  
10 acknowledge that the water rights of citizens are private rights to  
11 real property.

12        (2) The plan must include the following:

13        (a) A quantitative estimation of how much surface and ground water  
14 is in the planning unit using United States geological survey  
15 information and other existing sources;

16        (b) A quantitative estimation using existing sources of  
17 information, of how much surface and ground water is available for use,  
18 both in-stream and out-of-stream, for agricultural, fisheries,  
19 recreational, environmental, industrial, municipal, and residential  
20 purposes;

21        (c) A quantitative estimation using existing sources of  
22 information, of how much surface and ground water is being used, both  
23 in-stream and out-of-stream, for agricultural, industrial, fisheries,  
24 recreational, environmental, municipal, and residential purposes, and  
25 including amounts claimed or permitted for future municipal needs;

26        (d) A quantitative estimation of how much water, approximately, is  
27 claimed or permitted, including in-stream flows;

28        (e) A quantitative description of future water-based in-stream and  
29 out-of-stream needs in the planning unit, based on projected population  
30 and agricultural and other economic growth;

31        (f) Instream flows established prior to January 1, 1996, by rule.  
32 Notwithstanding any other provisions of state law, the planning unit  
33 will set instream flows as part of the plan for the other rivers,  
34 streams, and lakes in the WRIA, or in the multi-WRIA area for multi-  
35 WRIA planning under section 106 of this act, for which flows have not  
36 been set and may make adjustments to flows that have already been set.  
37 An instream flow or base flow or level set for a body of water in a  
38 WRIA plan adopted by the department under section 110 of this act  
39 supersedes any other such flow or level previously established for the



1 body of water. Planning units are encouraged to set the flow levels as  
2 soon as is practicable;

3 (g) Management strategies for achieving present and future needs,  
4 including:

5 (i) Conservation measures;

6 (ii) Storage enhancements, including modifications to existing  
7 reservoirs and new reservoirs;

8 (iii) In-stream flows;

9 (h) An estimation of hydraulic continuity between ground and  
10 surface waters that is to be taken into consideration for the  
11 allocation and use of water resources. This estimation shall be based  
12 on available data and any data the planning unit may secure with funds  
13 other than the funds provided to the unit by the department for WRIA  
14 planning;

15 (i) A description of the strategies for plan implementation and the  
16 entities responsible for implementing the plan, including but not  
17 limited to local, tribal, state, and federal governments working  
18 singularly or in combination. The implementing entities may also  
19 include activities conducted by private organizations and individuals.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 109.** (1) Water resource management plans  
21 developed pursuant to the process in this chapter and subsequently  
22 adopted by the department under section 110 of this act are presumed  
23 valid. This presumption shall apply in any petition or action filed  
24 against a plan.

25 (2) Any action taken by a state agency regarding or affecting water  
26 resources within a WRIA for which a plan has been adopted under section  
27 110 of this act and any planning conducted by a state agency regarding  
28 or affecting water resources within a WRIA for which a plan has been  
29 adopted under section 110 of this act shall be taken or conducted in a  
30 manner that is consistent with the plan. All actions and decisions of  
31 the department regarding water resources in the WRIA shall be  
32 consistent with and based upon such an adopted plan for the WRIA. Any  
33 other authority of the department exercised within the WRIA regarding  
34 or affecting water resources shall be exercised in a manner that is  
35 consistent with such an adopted plan.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 110.** (1) Upon completing a proposed water  
37 resource plan for the WRIA, the WRIA planning unit shall conduct at

1 least one public hearing in the WRIA on the proposed plan. After  
2 considering the public comments presented at the hearing or hearings,  
3 the planning unit shall submit a copy of its proposed plan to the  
4 department. A proposed plan may be submitted to the department only if  
5 the unit has provided interim approval of the plan for this purpose by  
6 a majority vote of the members of the planning unit.

7 (2) The department shall conduct at least one public hearing,  
8 announced in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, on each proposed WRIA  
9 water resource plan submitted under this section. The department shall  
10 provide advice as to any specific subsections or sections of the plan  
11 that the department believes to be in conflict with state or federal  
12 law and may provide other recommendations regarding the plan. The  
13 department shall transmit its advice and recommendations regarding the  
14 plan to the WRIA planning unit within sixty days of receiving it for  
15 review.

16 (3) The WRIA planning unit shall vote on each recommendation  
17 provided by the department and on the department's advice regarding any  
18 subsections or sections of the proposed WRIA plan the department  
19 believed to be in conflict with state or federal law. The planning  
20 unit may adopt such a recommendation or provide changes to respond to  
21 the advice of the department by a majority vote of the members of the  
22 planning unit.

23 The WRIA planning unit shall approve a water resource plan for the  
24 WRIA by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the planning unit.  
25 An approved plan shall be submitted to the counties with territory  
26 within the WRIA for adoption.

27 (4) The legislative authority of each of the counties with  
28 territory within the WRIA shall conduct at least two public hearings on  
29 the WRIA plan submitted to the county under this section. After the  
30 public hearings, the legislative authorities of these counties shall  
31 convene in joint session to consider the plan. The counties may  
32 approve or reject the plan, but may not amend the plan. Approval of a  
33 plan, or of recommendations for a plan that is not approved, shall be  
34 made by a majority vote of the members of the various legislative  
35 authorities of the counties with territory in the WRIA based on the  
36 votes allocated under section 102 of this act.

37 If the plan is not approved, it shall be returned to the WRIA  
38 planning unit with recommendations for revisions. Any revised plan  
39 prepared by the planning unit shall be submitted to the department and

1 to the counties as provided by this section for WRIA water resource  
2 plans generally.

3 (5) If the plan is approved by the members of the legislative  
4 authorities, the plan shall be transmitted to the department for  
5 adoption. The department shall adopt such an approved WRIA water  
6 resource plan by rule. The department has no discretion to amend or  
7 reject the plan. A copy of the plan and notice of its adoption as  
8 rules shall be published in the state register under chapter 34.05 RCW.

9 (6) If the department advises a planning unit that an element of  
10 its WRIA plan is in conflict with state or federal law and the unit  
11 does not remove the conflict created by the element from its plan, the  
12 state is not liable for any judgment that may be awarded regarding the  
13 conflict. This subsection shall not be construed as establishing such  
14 state liability for any other element of the plan adopted as rules.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 111.** The WRIA planning units may accept grants,  
16 funds, and other financing, as well as enter into cooperative  
17 agreements with private and public entities for planning assistance and  
18 funding.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 112.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The department shall rule in a timely manner upon applications  
22 to appropriate public surface and ground water. For applications that  
23 seek to appropriate water from within a WRIA for which a WRIA plan has  
24 been adopted, the department shall grant or deny the application within  
25 one hundred eighty days of the date the properly completed application  
26 is filed with the department, except as provided in subsection (2) of  
27 this section. For applications that seek to appropriate water from  
28 within a WRIA for which no WRIA plan has been adopted, the department  
29 shall grant or deny the application within one year of the date the  
30 properly completed application is filed with the department, except as  
31 provided in subsection (2) of this section. The times allowed in this  
32 section to rule upon an application shall not include the time it takes  
33 the applicant to respond to an explicit request for additional  
34 information reasonably required to make a determination on the  
35 application. The department shall be allowed only one such request for  
36 additional information. The cost of obtaining such information shall  
37 be reasonable in relation to the quantity and value of the water right

1 applied for. Once the applicant responds to an information request,  
2 the stay of the time allowed for the permit decision shall end.

3 (2) If a detailed statement, generally referred to as an  
4 environmental impact statement, must be prepared under chapter 43.21C  
5 RCW for or in regard to an application to appropriate water, the  
6 department shall grant or deny the application within ninety days of  
7 the date the final environmental impact statement is available from the  
8 official responsible for it under chapter 43.21C RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 113.** A new section is added to chapter 34.05  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Once the department of ecology receives a water resource plan  
12 submitted by a WRIA planning unit for advice and recommendations under  
13 section 110 of this act, the department shall conduct at least one  
14 public hearing on the plan and shall provide notice of the hearing and  
15 proposed plan as provided in RCW 34.05.320 for the proposal of a rule.  
16 The department shall maintain a file for the plan. Once the plan has  
17 been adopted by the counties in the WRIA under section 110 of this act  
18 and the plan has been submitted to the department of ecology, the  
19 department shall file the plan with the code reviser along with an  
20 order adopting the plan as rules. The code reviser shall cause the  
21 order and the water resource plan to be published in the Washington  
22 state register in the manner provided for the adoption of final rules  
23 and shall incorporate the plan into the Washington Administrative Code.  
24 No other aspect of this chapter that establishes procedures for the  
25 adoption of rules applies to the adoption of the plan by the  
26 department.

27 (2) For the purposes of this section, "WRIA" has the meaning  
28 established in section 101 of this act.

29 **PART II**

30 **STORAGE**

31 **Sec. 201.** RCW 90.54.020 and 1989 c 348 s 1 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 Utilization and management of the waters of the state shall be  
34 guided by the following general declaration of fundamentals:

35 (1) Uses of water for domestic, stock watering, industrial,  
36 commercial, agricultural, irrigation, hydroelectric power production,

1 mining, fish and wildlife maintenance and enhancement, recreational,  
2 and thermal power production purposes, and preservation of  
3 environmental and aesthetic values, and all other uses compatible with  
4 the enjoyment of the public waters of the state, are declared to be  
5 beneficial.

6 (2) Allocation of waters among potential uses and users shall be  
7 based generally on the securing of the maximum net benefits for the  
8 people of the state. Maximum net benefits shall constitute total  
9 benefits less costs including opportunities lost.

10 (3) The quality of the natural environment shall be protected and,  
11 where possible, enhanced as follows:

12 (a) Perennial rivers and streams of the state shall be retained  
13 with base flows necessary to provide for preservation of wildlife,  
14 fish, scenic, aesthetic and other environmental values, and  
15 navigational values. Lakes and ponds shall be retained substantially  
16 in their natural condition. Withdrawals of water which would conflict  
17 therewith shall be authorized only in those situations where it is  
18 clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will be  
19 served.

20 (b) Waters of the state shall be of high quality. Regardless of  
21 the quality of the waters of the state, all wastes and other materials  
22 and substances proposed for entry into said waters shall be provided  
23 with all known, available, and reasonable methods of treatment prior to  
24 entry. Notwithstanding that standards of quality established for the  
25 waters of the state would not be violated, wastes and other materials  
26 and substances shall not be allowed to enter such waters which will  
27 reduce the existing quality thereof, except in those situations where  
28 it is clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will  
29 be served. Technology-based effluent limitations or standards for  
30 discharges for municipal water treatment plants located on the  
31 Chehalis, Columbia, Cowlitz, Lewis, or Skagit river shall be adjusted  
32 to reflect credit for substances removed from the plant intake water  
33 if:

34 (i) The municipality demonstrates that the intake water is drawn  
35 from the same body of water into which the discharge is made; and

36 (ii) The municipality demonstrates that no violation of receiving  
37 water quality standards or appreciable environmental degradation will  
38 result.

1       (4) The development of multipurpose water storage facilities shall  
2 be a high priority for programs of water allocation, planning,  
3 management, and efficiency. The department, other state agencies,  
4 local governments, and planning units formed under section 102 or 106  
5 of this act shall evaluate the potential for the development of new  
6 storage projects and the benefits of storage in reducing damage to  
7 stream banks and property, increasing the use of land, providing water  
8 for municipal, industrial, agricultural, power generation, and other  
9 beneficial uses, and improving stream flow regimes for fisheries and  
10 other instream uses.

11       (5) Adequate and safe supplies of water shall be preserved and  
12 protected in potable condition to satisfy human domestic needs.

13       (~~(5)~~) (6) Multiple-purpose impoundment structures are to be  
14 preferred over single-purpose structures. Due regard shall be given to  
15 means and methods for protection of fishery resources in the planning  
16 for and construction of water impoundment structures and other  
17 artificial obstructions.

18       (~~(6)~~) (7) Federal, state, and local governments, individuals,  
19 corporations, groups and other entities shall be encouraged to carry  
20 out practices of conservation as they relate to the use of the waters  
21 of the state. In addition to traditional development approaches,  
22 improved water use efficiency and conservation shall be emphasized in  
23 the management of the state's water resources and in some cases will be  
24 a potential new source of water with which to meet future needs  
25 throughout the state.

26       (~~(7)~~) (8) Development of water supply systems, whether publicly  
27 or privately owned, which provide water to the public generally in  
28 regional areas within the state shall be encouraged. Development of  
29 water supply systems for multiple domestic use which will not serve the  
30 public generally shall be discouraged where water supplies are  
31 available from water systems serving the public.

32       (~~(8)~~) (9) Full recognition shall be given in the administration  
33 of water allocation and use programs to the natural interrelationships  
34 of surface and ground waters.

35       (~~(9)~~) (10) Expressions of the public interest will be sought at  
36 all stages of water planning and allocation discussions.

37       (~~(10)~~) (11) Water management programs, including but not limited  
38 to, water quality, flood control, drainage, erosion control and storm  
39 runoff are deemed to be in the public interest.

1       **Sec. 202.** RCW 90.54.180 and 1989 c 348 s 5 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       Consistent with the fundamentals of water resource policy set forth  
4 in this chapter, state and local governments, individuals,  
5 corporations, groups and other entities shall be encouraged to carry  
6 out water use efficiency and conservation programs and practices  
7 consistent with the following:

8       (1) Water efficiency and conservation programs should utilize an  
9 appropriate mix of economic incentives, cost share programs, regulatory  
10 programs, and technical and public information efforts. Programs which  
11 encourage voluntary participation are preferred.

12       (2) Increased water use efficiency should receive consideration as  
13 a potential source of water in state and local water resource planning  
14 processes. In determining the cost-effectiveness of alternative water  
15 sources, consideration should be given to the benefits of conservation,  
16 including waste water recycling, and (~~(impoundment)~~) storage of waters.

17       (3) In determining the cost-effectiveness of alternative water  
18 sources, full consideration should be given to the benefits of storage  
19 which can reduce the damage to stream banks and property, increase the  
20 utilization of land, provide water for municipal, industrial,  
21 agricultural, and other beneficial uses, provide for the generation of  
22 electric power from renewable resources, and improve stream flow  
23 regimes for fishery and other instream uses.

24       (4) Entities receiving state financial assistance for construction  
25 of water source expansion or acquisition of new sources shall develop,  
26 and implement if cost-effective, a water use efficiency and  
27 conservation element of a water supply plan pursuant to RCW  
28 43.20.230(1).

29       (5) State programs to improve water use efficiency should focus on  
30 those areas of the state in which water is overappropriated; areas that  
31 experience diminished streamflows or aquifer levels; and areas where  
32 projected water needs, including those for instream flows, exceed  
33 available supplies.

34       (6) Existing and future generations of citizens of the state of  
35 Washington should be made aware of the importance of the state's water  
36 resources and the need for wise and efficient use and development of  
37 this vital resource. In order to increase this awareness, state  
38 agencies should integrate public education on increasing water use  
39 efficiency into existing public information efforts. This effort shall

1 be coordinated with other levels of government, including local  
2 governments and Indian tribes.

3 **PART III**

4 **GENERAL ADJUDICATIONS - ESCROW ACCOUNT**

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the lack of certainty regarding water  
8 rights within a water resource basin may impede management and planning  
9 for water resources. The legislature further finds that planning units  
10 conducting water resource planning under chapter 90.-- RCW (sections  
11 101 through 111 of this act) may find that the certainty provided by a  
12 general adjudication of water rights under this chapter is required for  
13 water planning or water management in a water resource inventory area  
14 or in a portion of the area. Therefore, such planning units may  
15 petition the department to conduct such a general adjudication and the  
16 department shall give high priority to such a request in initiating any  
17 such general adjudications under this chapter.

18 **Sec. 302.** RCW 43.84.092 and 1995 c 394 s 1 and 1995 c 122 s 12 are  
19 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

20 (1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state  
21 treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which  
22 account is hereby established in the state treasury.

23 (2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive  
24 funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash  
25 management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is  
26 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
27 required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by  
28 the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the  
29 federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act  
30 fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. The  
31 office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or  
32 from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement  
33 act. The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds  
34 between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the  
35 cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or



1 allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set  
2 forth in subsection (4) of this section.

3 (3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income  
4 account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services  
5 on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository,  
6 safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and  
7 affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all  
8 respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for  
9 payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to  
10 distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

11 (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings  
12 credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall  
13 credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury  
14 income account except:

15 (a) The following accounts and funds shall receive their  
16 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's  
17 average daily balance for the period: The capitol building  
18 construction account, the Cedar River channel construction and  
19 operation account, the Central Washington University capital projects  
20 account, the charitable, educational, penal and reformatory  
21 institutions account, the common school construction fund, the county  
22 criminal justice assistance account, the county sales and use tax  
23 equalization account, the data processing building construction  
24 account, the deferred compensation administrative account, the deferred  
25 compensation principal account, the department of retirement systems  
26 expense account, the Eastern Washington University capital projects  
27 account, the education construction fund, the emergency reserve fund,  
28 the federal forest revolving account, the health services account, the  
29 public health services account, the health system capacity account, the  
30 personal health services account, the industrial insurance premium  
31 refund account, the judges' retirement account, the judicial retirement  
32 administrative account, the judicial retirement principal account, the  
33 local leasehold excise tax account, the local real estate excise tax  
34 account, the local sales and use tax account, the medical aid account,  
35 the mobile home park relocation fund, the municipal criminal justice  
36 assistance account, the municipal sales and use tax equalization  
37 account, the natural resources deposit account, the perpetual  
38 surveillance and maintenance account, the public employees' retirement  
39 system plan I account, the public employees' retirement system plan II

1 account, the Puyallup tribal settlement account, the resource  
2 management cost account, the site closure account, the special wildlife  
3 account, the state employees' insurance account, the state employees'  
4 insurance reserve account, the state investment board expense account,  
5 the state investment board commingled trust fund accounts, the  
6 supplemental pension account, the teachers' retirement system plan I  
7 account, the teachers' retirement system plan II account, the tuition  
8 recovery trust fund, the University of Washington bond retirement fund,  
9 the University of Washington building account, the volunteer fire  
10 fighters' relief and pension principal account, the volunteer fire  
11 fighters' relief and pension administrative account, the Washington  
12 judicial retirement system account, the Washington law enforcement  
13 officers' and fire fighters' system plan I retirement account, the  
14 Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system plan II  
15 retirement account, the Washington state patrol retirement account, the  
16 Washington State University building account, the Washington State  
17 University bond retirement fund, the water escrow account, the water  
18 pollution control revolving fund, and the Western Washington University  
19 capital projects account. Earnings derived from investing balances of  
20 the agricultural permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the  
21 permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, and the  
22 state university permanent fund shall be allocated to their respective  
23 beneficiary accounts. All earnings to be distributed under this  
24 subsection (4)(a) shall first be reduced by the allocation to the state  
25 treasurer's service fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

26 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent  
27 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or  
28 fund's average daily balance for the period: The aeronautics account,  
29 the aircraft search and rescue account, the central Puget Sound public  
30 transportation account, the city hardship assistance account, the  
31 county arterial preservation account, the department of licensing  
32 services account, the economic development account, the essential rail  
33 assistance account, the essential rail banking account, the ferry bond  
34 retirement fund, the gasohol exemption holding account, the grade  
35 crossing protective fund, the high capacity transportation account, the  
36 highway bond retirement fund, the highway construction stabilization  
37 account, the highway safety account, the marine operating fund, the  
38 motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety education account, the  
39 pilotage account, the public transportation systems account, the Puget

1 Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations  
2 account, the recreational vehicle account, the rural arterial trust  
3 account, the safety and education account, the small city account, the  
4 special category C account, the state patrol highway account, the  
5 transfer relief account, the transportation capital facilities account,  
6 the transportation equipment fund, the transportation fund, the  
7 transportation improvement account, the transportation revolving loan  
8 account, and the urban arterial trust account.

9 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state  
10 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings  
11 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

12 **PART IV**  
13 **INTERTIES**

14 **Sec. 401.** RCW 90.03.383 and 1991 c 350 s 1 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The legislature recognizes the value of interties for improving  
17 the reliability of public water systems, enhancing their management,  
18 and more efficiently utilizing the increasingly limited resource.  
19 Given the continued growth in the most populous areas of the state, the  
20 increased complexity of public water supply management, and the trend  
21 toward regional planning and regional solutions to resource issues,  
22 interconnections of public water systems through interties provide a  
23 valuable tool to ensure reliable public water supplies for the citizens  
24 of the state. Public water systems have been encouraged in the past to  
25 utilize interties to achieve public health and resource management  
26 objectives. The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to  
27 recognize interties existing and in use as of January 1, 1991, and to  
28 have associated water rights modified by the department of ecology to  
29 reflect current use of water through those interties, pursuant to  
30 subsection (3) of this section. The legislature further finds it in  
31 the public interest to develop a coordinated process to review  
32 proposals for interties commencing use after January 1, 1991.

33 (2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
34 shall apply:

35 (a) "Interties" are interconnections between public water systems  
36 permitting exchange, acquisition, or delivery of wholesale and/or  
37 retail water between those systems for other than emergency supply

1 purposes, where such exchange, acquisition, or delivery is within  
2 established instantaneous and annual withdrawal rates specified in the  
3 systems' existing water right permits or certificates, or contained in  
4 claims filed pursuant to chapter 90.14 RCW, and which results in better  
5 management of public water supply consistent with existing rights and  
6 obligations. Interties include interconnections between public water  
7 systems permitting exchange, acquisition, or delivery of water to serve  
8 as primary or secondary sources of supply(~~(, but do not include~~  
9 ~~development of new sources of supply to meet future demand))~~).

10 (b) "Service area" is the area designated as the wholesale and/or  
11 retail area in a water system plan or a coordinated water system plan  
12 pursuant to chapter 43.20 or 70.116 RCW respectively. When a public  
13 water system does not have a designated service area subject to the  
14 approval process of those chapters, the service area shall be the  
15 designated place of use contained in the water right permit or  
16 certificate, or contained in the claim filed pursuant to chapter 90.14  
17 RCW.

18 (3) Public water systems with interties existing and in use as of  
19 January 1, 1991, or that have received written approval from the  
20 department of health prior to that date, shall file written notice of  
21 those interties with the department of health and the department of  
22 ecology. The notice may be incorporated into the public water system's  
23 five-year update of its water system plan, but shall be filed no later  
24 than June 30, 1996. The notice shall identify the location of the  
25 intertie; the dates of its first use; the purpose, capacity, and  
26 current use; the intertie agreement of the parties and the service  
27 areas assigned; and other information reasonably necessary to modify  
28 the public water system's water right (~~(permit)~~). Notwithstanding the  
29 provisions of RCW 90.03.380 and 90.44.100, for public water systems  
30 with interties existing and in use or with written approval as of  
31 January 1, 1991, the department of ecology, upon receipt of notice  
32 meeting the requirements of this subsection, shall, as soon as  
33 practicable, modify the place of use descriptions in the water right  
34 permits, certificates, or claims to reflect the actual use through such  
35 interties, provided that the place of use is within service area  
36 designations established in a water system plan approved pursuant to  
37 chapter 43.20 RCW, or a coordinated water system plan approved pursuant  
38 to chapter 70.116 RCW, and further provided that the water used is  
39 within the instantaneous and annual withdrawal rates specified in the

1 water rights (~~permit~~) and that no outstanding complaints of  
2 impairment to existing water rights have been filed with the department  
3 of ecology prior to September 1, 1991. Where such complaints of  
4 impairment have been received, the department of ecology shall make all  
5 reasonable efforts to resolve them in a timely manner through agreement  
6 of the parties or through available administrative remedies.

7 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 90.03.380 and 90.44.100,  
8 exchange, acquisition, or delivery of water through interties approved  
9 by the department of health commencing use after January 1, 1991, shall  
10 be permitted when the intertie improves overall system reliability,  
11 enhances the manageability of the systems, provides opportunities for  
12 conjunctive use, or delays or avoids the need to develop new water  
13 sources, and otherwise meets the requirements of this section, provided  
14 that each public water system's water use shall not exceed the  
15 instantaneous or annual withdrawal rate specified in its water right  
16 authorization, shall not adversely affect existing water rights, and  
17 shall not be inconsistent with state-approved plans such as water  
18 system plans or other plans which include specific proposals for  
19 construction of interties. Interties approved and commencing use after  
20 January 1, 1991, shall not be inconsistent with regional water resource  
21 plans developed pursuant to chapter 90.54 RCW.

22 (5) For public water systems subject to the approval process of  
23 chapter 43.20 RCW or chapter 70.116 RCW, proposals for interties  
24 commencing use after January 1, 1991, shall be incorporated into water  
25 system plans pursuant to chapter 43.20 RCW or coordinated water system  
26 plans pursuant to chapter 70.116 RCW and submitted to the department of  
27 health and the department of ecology for review and approval as  
28 provided for in subsections (5) through (9) of this section. The plan  
29 shall state how the proposed intertie will improve overall system  
30 reliability, enhance the manageability of the systems, provide  
31 opportunities for conjunctive use, or delay or avoid the need to  
32 develop new water sources.

33 (6) The department of health shall be responsible for review and  
34 approval of proposals for new interties. In its review the department  
35 of health shall determine whether the intertie satisfies the criteria  
36 of subsection (4) of this section, with the exception of water rights  
37 considerations, which are the responsibility of the department of  
38 ecology, and shall determine whether the intertie is necessary to

1 address emergent public health or safety concerns associated with  
2 public water supply.

3 (7) If the intertie is determined by the department of health to be  
4 necessary to address emergent public health or safety concerns  
5 associated with public water supply, the public water system shall  
6 amend its water system plan as required and shall file an application  
7 with the department of ecology to change its existing water right to  
8 reflect the proposed use of the water as described in the approved  
9 water system plan. The department of ecology shall process the  
10 application for change pursuant to RCW 90.03.380 or 90.44.100 as  
11 appropriate, except that, notwithstanding the requirements of those  
12 sections regarding notice and protest periods, applicants shall be  
13 required to publish notice one time, and the comment period shall be  
14 fifteen days from the date of publication of the notice. Within sixty  
15 days of receiving the application, the department of ecology shall  
16 issue findings and advise the department of health if existing water  
17 rights are determined to be adversely affected. If no determination is  
18 provided by the department of ecology within the sixty-day period, the  
19 department of health shall proceed as if existing rights are not  
20 adversely affected by the proposed intertie. The department of ecology  
21 may obtain an extension of the sixty-day period by submitting written  
22 notice to the department of health and to the applicant indicating a  
23 definite date by which its determination will be made. No additional  
24 extensions shall be granted, and in no event shall the total review  
25 period for the department of ecology exceed one hundred eighty days.

26 (8) If the department of health determines the proposed intertie  
27 appears to meet the requirements of subsection (4) of this section but  
28 is not necessary to address emergent public health or safety concerns  
29 associated with public water supply, the department of health shall  
30 instruct the applicant to submit to the department of ecology an  
31 application for change to the underlying water right or claim as  
32 necessary to reflect the new place of use. The department of ecology  
33 shall consider the applications pursuant to the provisions of RCW  
34 90.03.380 and 90.44.100 as appropriate. The department of ecology  
35 shall not deny or limit a change of place of use for an intertie on the  
36 grounds that the holder of a permit has not yet put all of the water  
37 authorized in the permit to beneficial use. If in its review of  
38 proposed interties and associated water rights the department of  
39 ecology determines that additional information is required to act on

1 the application, the department may request applicants to provide  
2 information necessary for its decision, consistent with agency rules  
3 and written guidelines. Parties disagreeing with the decision of the  
4 department of ecology ((en)) to approve or deny the application for  
5 change in place of use may appeal the decision to the pollution control  
6 hearings board.

7 (9) The department of health may approve plans containing intertie  
8 proposals prior to the department of ecology's decision on the water  
9 right application for change in place of use. However, notwithstanding  
10 such approval, construction work on the intertie shall not begin until  
11 the department of ecology issues the appropriate water right document  
12 to the applicant consistent with the approved plan.

13 **PART V**  
14 **RELINQUISHMENT**

15 **Sec. 501.** RCW 90.14.140 and 1987 c 125 s 1 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) For the purposes of RCW 90.14.130 through 90.14.180,  
18 "sufficient cause" shall be defined as the nonuse of all or a portion  
19 of the water by the owner of a water right for a period of five or more  
20 consecutive years where such nonuse occurs as a result of:

- 21 (a) Drought, or other unavailability of water;  
22 (b) Active service in the armed forces of the United States during  
23 military crisis;  
24 (c) Nonvoluntary service in the armed forces of the United States;  
25 (d) The operation of legal proceedings;  
26 (e) Federal laws imposing land or water use restrictions either  
27 directly or through the voluntary enrollment of a landowner in a  
28 federal program implementing those laws, or acreage limitations, or  
29 production quotas.

30 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of RCW 90.14.130 through  
31 90.14.180, there shall be no relinquishment of any water right:

32 (a) If such right is claimed for power development purposes under  
33 chapter 90.16 RCW and annual license fees are paid in accordance with  
34 chapter 90.16 RCW, or

35 (b) If such right is used for a standby or reserve water supply to  
36 be used in time of drought or other low flow period so long as

1 withdrawal or diversion facilities are maintained in good operating  
2 condition for the use of such reserve or standby water supply, or

3 (c) If such right is claimed for a determined future development to  
4 take place ((either)) at any time within fifteen years of either July  
5 1, 1967, or the most recent beneficial use of the water right,  
6 whichever date is later, or

7 (d) If such right is claimed for municipal water supply purposes  
8 under chapter 90.03 RCW, or

9 (e) If such waters are not subject to appropriation under the  
10 applicable provisions of RCW 90.40.030 as now or hereafter amended.

11 **PART VI**  
12 **GENERAL PERMITS**

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 601.** The legislature finds that the present  
14 delay in the processing of water right applications is not beneficial  
15 to the citizens of the state nor is it in keeping with the goal of  
16 managing the resource to the highest possible standard and maximum net  
17 benefit.

18 The legislature further finds that water conservation efforts would  
19 be greatly enhanced by a permit system that encourages water right  
20 applicants to use only the amount of water actually necessary to meet  
21 their needs.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 602.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03  
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) The department shall develop a general permit system for  
25 appropriating water for nonconsumptive, nonbypass uses. This system  
26 must be designed and used to accurately identify and register any water  
27 right application that qualifies for the streamlined process of  
28 appropriation of water by meeting the requirements in this section and  
29 registering the use. The general permit system must be applicable  
30 state-wide, and all waters of the state shall be eligible for coverage  
31 under the system. The evaluation and report required for an  
32 application under RCW 90.03.290 are not required for applications  
33 processed under the general permit system. For the purposes of this  
34 section:

35 (a) "Nonconsumptive, nonbypass use" means a use of water in which  
36 water is diverted from a stream or drawn from an aquifer and following



1 its use is discharged back into or near the point of diversion or  
2 withdrawal without diminishment in quality and less than five thousand  
3 gallons of net consumption per day; and

4 (b) "Without diminishment of quality" means that, before being  
5 discharged back to its source, the water being discharged meets state  
6 water quality standards adopted under chapter 90.48 RCW.

7 (2) The department shall, by January 1, 1997, establish the general  
8 permit system by adopting rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.  
9 Before the adoption of rules for a system, the department shall consult  
10 with representatives of the following interest groups: Agriculture;  
11 aquaculture; home construction and development; county government; city  
12 government; surface mining; and the environmental community. At least  
13 four public hearings must be held at various locations around the  
14 state, not less than two of which shall be east of the crest of the  
15 Cascade mountains. The rules must identify criteria for proposed uses  
16 of water for which applications might be processed under the system and  
17 must establish procedures for filing and processing applications and  
18 issuing water rights certificates under the general permit system.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 603.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 An application for registration as a nonconsumptive, nonbypass  
22 water user under the general permit system established under section  
23 602 of this act must be made on a form adopted and provided by the  
24 department. Within sixty days of receipt of a properly completed  
25 application, the department shall determine whether the proposed use is  
26 eligible to be processed under the general permit system. If the  
27 department determines that the proposed use is eligible to be processed  
28 under the system, the application must be processed under the system  
29 within the next sixty days. The priority date of the water right  
30 established pursuant to this section shall be the date that the  
31 properly completed application is submitted. If the department  
32 determines that the proposed use is not eligible for the processing,  
33 the department shall explain to the applicant in writing the reasons  
34 for its determination. For a proposed use determined ineligible for  
35 the processing, if the department finds that the information contained  
36 on the application form substantially satisfies the information  
37 requirements for an application for a use that would normally be filed  
38 for processing the application outside of the general permit system,

1 the department shall notify the applicant of its finding and shall  
2 process the application as if it were filed for processing outside of  
3 the system. If the department finds that the information does not  
4 substantially satisfy the requirements, the application must be  
5 considered to be incomplete for the processing and the applicant must  
6 be notified of this consideration.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 604.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 Nothing in sections 602 and 603 of this act authorizes the  
10 impairment or operates to impair any existing water rights. A water  
11 right holder under sections 602 and 603 of this act shall not make  
12 withdrawals that impair a senior water right. A holder of a senior  
13 water right who believes his or her water right is impaired may file a  
14 complaint with the department of ecology. Where such complaints of  
15 impairment have been received, the department of ecology shall make all  
16 reasonable efforts to resolve them in a timely manner through agreement  
17 of the parties. Nothing in section 602 or 603 of this act may be  
18 construed as waiving any requirement established under chapter 90.48  
19 RCW or federal law that a permittee secure a discharge permit regarding  
20 water quality.

21 **PART VII**  
22 **MISCELLANEOUS**

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 701.** As used in this act, part headings  
24 constitute no part of the law.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 702.** Sections 101 through 111 of this act shall  
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 90 RCW.

--- END ---