
SENATE BILL 6537

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Warnick, Benton, Bailey, Becker, Takko, Angel, Schoesler, King, Brown, Honeyford, and Hewitt

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to irrigation under the federal Columbia Basin
2 project; and amending RCW 90.44.510.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.44.510 and 2011 c 72 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The department shall issue a superseding water right permit or
7 certificate for a groundwater right where the source of water is an
8 aquifer for which the department adopts rules establishing a
9 groundwater management subarea and water from the federal Columbia
10 Basin project is delivered for use by a person who holds such a
11 groundwater right. The superseding water right permit or certificate
12 shall designate that portion of the groundwater right that is
13 replaced by water from the federal Columbia Basin project as a
14 standby or reserve right that may be used when water delivered by the
15 federal project is curtailed or otherwise not available. The period
16 of curtailment or unavailability shall be deemed a low flow period
17 under RCW 90.14.140(2)(b). The total number of acres irrigated by the
18 person under the groundwater right and through the use of water
19 delivered from the federal project must not exceed the quantity of
20 water authorized by the federal bureau of reclamation and number of
21 acres irrigated under the person's water right permit or certificate

1 for the use of water from the aquifer, but the department may allow a
2 person to exceed the number of acres irrigated if allowing such an
3 exceedance is consistent with federal law.

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