

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF SKAGIT COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION**

Agenda

June 18, 2018
3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

- ◆ Discussion about Skagit Legislative Water Supply Task Force

ADJOURNMENT

This work session is open to Commissioners, Management, other District staff, Consultants and the public. It is not the opportunity to give public testimony, but if the Board members request input from individuals in the audience, those people may speak.

The principal purpose of the work session is to allow employees of the District and the Board to communicate with each other and/or the Consultants, answer Board questions, and get the Board's opinions and input regarding the subject topic(s).

*The next regular meeting of the Commission will be
Tuesday, June 26 at 4:30 PM.*

Final Supplemental Capital Budget 6095

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3012. A new section is added to 2018 c 2 (uncodified) to read as follows: FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY Skagit Water (91000347) The appropriation in this section is subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(1)(a) \$500,000 of the appropriation is provided solely for the department of agriculture, the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology to jointly pursue studies to evaluate instream flow needs and existing and future out-of-stream water use demands within Skagit river water resource inventory area 4 (Upper 18 Skagit) regulated by chapter 173-503 WAC. These studies must be completed and reported to the appropriate legislative committees and task force by December 1, 2019.

(b) These studies must be based on best available science and peer-reviewed by those with demonstrated instream flow expertise.

(2) \$2,000,000 of the appropriation is provided solely for studies identified by the task force established in section 7011 of this act.

Appropriation: State Building Construction Account—State. \$2,500,000

Prior Biennia (Expenditures). \$0

Future Biennia (Projected Costs). \$0

TOTAL. \$2,500,000

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7011. A new section is added to 2018 c 2 (uncodified) to read as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WATER SUPPLY. (1) A joint legislative task force is established to review surface water and groundwater needs and uses as they relate to agricultural uses, domestic potable water uses, and instream flows, and to develop and recommend studies.

(2) The task force consists of the following members:

(a) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(b) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(c) A representative from the department of ecology, appointed by the director of the department of ecology;

(d) A representative from the department of fish and wildlife, appointed by the director of the department of fish and wildlife;

(e) A representative from the department of agriculture, appointed by the director of the department of agriculture;

(f) One representative from each of the following groups, appointed by the consensus of the cochair of the task force:

(i) Two organizations representing the farming industry in Washington;

(ii) A representative designated by each county within water resource inventory areas 3 and 4;

(iii) A representative designated by each city within water resource inventory areas 3 and 4;

(iv) Two representatives from an environmental advocacy organization or organizations;

(v) A representative designated by each public utility district located in water resource inventory areas 3 and 4;

(vi) An organization representing business interests; and

(vii) Representatives from federally recognized Indian tribes with reservations and treaty fishing rights located within water resource inventory areas 3 and 4.

(3) One cochair of the task force must be a member of the majority caucus of one chamber of the legislature, and one cochair must be a member of the minority caucus of the other chamber of the legislature, as those caucuses existed on the effective date of this section.

(4) The first meeting of the task force must occur by June 30, 2018. The task force must immediately focus on water resource inventory area 4. The task force shall not meet regarding water resource inventory area 3 before January 1, 2019.

(5) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the office of program research and senate committee services. The department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife shall cooperate with the task force and provide information as the cochair reasonably request.

(6) Within existing appropriations, the expenses of the operations of the task force, including the expenses associated with the task force's meetings, must be paid jointly and in equal amounts by the senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures and meetings are subject to approval by the house executive rules committee and the senate facility and operations committee. Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Non-legislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for other non-legislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

(7) Studies and selection of scientists or organizations to implement these studies must be based on recommendations of the joint legislative task force and must be made by a seventy-five percent majority

of the members of the task force. Minority recommendations that achieve the support of at least five of the named voting members of the task force may also be submitted to the legislature.

(8) The funding provided in section 3012(2) of this act is provided solely for studies that are based on best available science and peer-reviewed, as identified by the task force to include:

(a) Reviewing existing hydrodynamic modeling and instream flow studies, or implementing new studies if necessary;

(b) Completing a gap analysis;

(c) Updating and reconciling data

(d) Completing and providing missing data; and

(e) Potential installation of groundwater monitoring stations. 16 (9) The joint legislative task force expires June 30, 2019.