

**From:** [Dick Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Floyd, Benjamin](#)  
**Subject:** Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2009 8:02:14 PM

Ben Floyd  
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009 Work Group  
2805 St. Andrews Loop, Suite A,  
Pasco, WA 99301-6121

Dear Mr. Floyd:

As a former Washington State Legislator, I am aware of the status of the State's current budget shortfall. At a time in which the Governor and Legislature must make large cuts in the State budget it is important that proposed state spending be given the utmost scrutiny.

Therefore, it is of concern to me that the Yakima Basin Work Group is proposing to approve a number of new dams for irrigation, including an expansion of Bumping Lake. This project has been opposed by citizens, environmental and conservation groups for decades. It is unacceptable that it is being trotted out, yet again. I understand that Ecology has not prepared a benefit/cost analysis for any of the proposed dam storage projects. Your Work Group should not approve projects when this information is not available. Furthermore, a credible analysis of water supply and demand has yet to be carried out.

Please make these comments available to the Work Group.

Sincerely,

Dick Nelson  
Former Chair, House Energy and Utilities Committee