

*Yakima County Water
Resource System (YCWRS)
A Countywide Utility to Serve Rural
Domestic Use*

Background

- 2009 - Looming need to address issue of exempt wells vs. impairment of existing rights
- 2010 - Worked with Ecology, Kittitas and Benton Counties on overall Basin Solution
- 2010 - Yakima County officially endorses YBIP
- 2013 - Passed Resolution directing formation of YCWRS
- 2014 - Anticipated Deadline of GMA Comp. Plan due date - June 2017 - to have a means of Compliance in Place

Administrative Policy Objectives

- 1) Reduce the high administrative load to all parties of a permit by permit approach
- 2) Serve as much of the existing rural lots of record in Yakima County as possible.
- 3) Maintain greater oversight of exempt wells and Senior Water Rights

Technical Policy Objectives

- 1) Recognize the relationship between ground and surface water, protect existing senior surface water rights.
 - Consistent with USGS Groundwater Model and Reports, and Kittitas Co. vs GMHB/Hirst
 - Analysis of sub-surface conditions, looks at groundwater “domains” as opposed to surface water watersheds.

**Assessment of the Availability of
Groundwater for Residential
Development in the Rural Parts of
Yakima County, Washington**

January 2016

**John Vaccaro,
Vaccaro G.W. Consulting, LLC
(Under Contract by Yakima County)
For Technical Analysis and Assessment of Groundwater
Mitigation Strategies**

Yakima County Water Resource System

Design and Implementation Steps and Status

- 2015-16

Action	Status
Apply for Ecology grant to acquire senior water rights to support YCWRS	Grant Awarded \$500,000
Hire Consultant to determine rural water availability and rural water availability	Complete
Develop map to show where water rights will be needed based on historical growth	Complete
Get concurrence from Ecology, Yakama Nation, BOR on study	Partially Complete
Develop MOU between Yakima County and Ecology	Complete
Seek to purchase water rights with cooperation and assistance from Ecology	In Progress,
Perform inventory of existing County water rights and determine where water rights are needed	Partially Complete

Yakima County Water Resource System

Design and Implementation Steps and Status

- 2017

Action	Status
Obtain Board approval proceed with further development of YCWRS, including the purchase of senior water rights.	Target Mid-March 2017
Submit SEPA application	Target Mid-March 2017,
Acquire pre-1905 water rights for initial no-risk inventory with Ecology's assistance (purchase the initial 5-year need), Prove up and convert purpose of use from irrigation to municipal right and change place of use.	In Process Preliminary minimum target of 60 acre feet for 5 years.
Participate in Comprehensive Plan process to delineate final proposed service area and demand, along with public outreach elements for YCWRS	Target March - June 2017
Develop standards for well approval (locations, types, depths, etc.) when approved in context of building permit	Draft Can be completed after partner review.
Propose to the Board necessary amendments to Yakima County Plans, and/or implementing ordinances, and or administrative changes that may are needed. Including but not limited to Title 19, Building Code, Funding and accounting framework.	Target After Comprehensive Plan Completion along with other Comp Plan Implementing Ordinances.
Continue to implement all items where needed as described by BOCC Resolution 399-2013	Ongoing
Store opens (Managing Future Exempt Wells in Yakima County)	Target Sept-Oct 2017.

Yakima County Water Resource System

Design and Implementation Steps and Status

Final Objective:

Hold water budget neutral rights in each Domain,
based on County-owned senior water rights.