STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

September 14, 1998

Dear Water Right Applicant:

Re: Water Right Application No. S2-29714

This letter is to acknowledge that the Washington State Department of Ecology received your water right application. We have assigned your application the number indicated above. Please include this number in future correspondence regarding your application with the Department of Ecology.

When we begin actively evaluating applications in your area, we will prepare a public notice and send it to you with publication instructions. It will be sometime before we are able to begin working in your area. In the meantime, please notify Ecology of changes such as address, property ownership, or variations in your proposed water use plans.

The availability of water in Washington state is a serious problem. Much of the water in our state has already been appropriated. The competition for water has escalated with our state's increasing population, conflicting water policy issues, and grave declines in salmon and other fish populations. A new watershed management law brings us a step closer to addressing some of these issues. It sets into motion a locally based process to address water quantity, quality, and habitat issues. Watershed management will help meet challenges for getting water to people, industries, farms, and fish.

In some areas of the state, we are continuing to evaluate applications within watersheds where we have previously gathered information and completed watershed assessments. We are also continuing to process water right permit or change applications that are intended to address public health and safety emergencies, the natural environment, or are for nonconsumptive withdrawals. All other applications are grouped by watershed and processed according to the date of submittal, and when we have enough information and staff resources to make decisions.

If you would like further information on your application, please contact the Southwest Regional Office at (360) 407-0240.

Sincerely,

J. Mike Harris

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Water Resources Supervisor
Southwest Regional Office

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