Domestic Water Reserve Program

1) Stakeholder Group: The County will form, and Ecology will support, a stakeholder group to establish and address the concepts surrounding and assist in the development of a Domestic Water Reserve Program. This program will include a permanent water fund to lease water in drought years. The Parties will seek the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Yakima Nation, senior water rights holders including irrigation districts and local municipalities. This advisory group will look at available options to create a permanent water fund and address related issues surrounding the Domestic Water Reserve Program. A goal of the group will be to use the sale and leasing of water as an innovative allocation tool to maximize the utility of existing Yakima River Basin supplies by allowing indoor domestic use during dry years and compensating senior water right holders for forgone use during those years. The primary purpose of this group will be to pursue dry year options with long-term management potential.

2) Basin wide water management:

   TWSA and determinations of water neutrality
   The County will purchase or lease water with a preference towards leasing water. Initial funding would come from the state and ongoing funding would come from fees imposed at the building permit stage and fine collected by both Ecology and the County for related violations. The leases would be long term leases with senior water right holders where they would be compensated for curtailing their use during time of proration. The fee would adjust over time to reflect the actual cost of water to mitigate the indoor domestic use of the residence plus administrative costs. The money's collected (minus the administrative costs) would be used to purchase senior water rights or be held to fund leases.

3) Local concerns regarding impairment

   In the areas of increased concern as delineated by the red zones on the attached map, the County will require mitigation of the local impairment caused by subdivisions. This will be done through the County's SEPA authority and will apply to all subdivisions that create five or more parcels. This mitigation would be done through the water bank. The County will attempt to procure water from areas of increased concern over impairment. Those areas of concern will include the red zones from the attached map.

   An alternative to the above mitigation (especially when senior water rights are not available) would be for a development to not withdraw water from the ground in the first place. The County is looking into and if determined feasible intends to set up a municipal water delivery system whereby residences that are within the red zones will be able to have individual or small group systems where the water is provided cisterns and approved water carriers.

   It is anticipated that these two concepts in concert will lead to net local recharge.

4) **Metering and data collection --** The County will require metering of all new wells within Kittitas County as well as the wells of home owners who voluntarily participate in the program. Such

meters will be of a type and design acceptable to the County. Meters will be read and reported in a manner prescribed by the County, including, but not limited to, direct reading by county staff, electronic reading, voluntary reading and reporting by residents, or reading and reporting by an approved Satellite System Management Agency or other management entity approved by the County. Readings will be made based on the schedule described in Table 1, with reporting to the County and the Department of Ecology occurring no later than 30 days after the last day of the reporting period. The County may set a fee to recover costs it incurs in administering this program. If the County obtains information that a person or household may be using the ground water permit exemption in a manner that is inconsistent with the emergency rule or a permanent rule which replaces the emergency rule, it shall in good faith share that information with Ecology.

TABLE 1

Reporting Periods	Last Day of Reporting Period
October – March	March 31
April – June	June 30
July	July 31
August	August 31
September	September 30

5) **Well Tracking**—The County will require applicants to site wells and obtain County approval before drilling. Ecology and the County will work together to site wells in a manner that will minimize impacts upon surface water. The County will add a GIS layer to track new wells in Kittitas County. The County will share this date with Ecology and other stakeholders and utilize it to effectively plan for future water uses.