



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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March 30, 2023

Kim Gubbe
Thurston PUD
Director of Operations and Compliance
kgubbe@thurstonpud.org

Dear Kim Gubbe:

This letter is being sent to clarify the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) position on the drilling of permit exempt wells within the Timberline Village development, and the enforcement language used in that letter.

Ecology understands that Thurston PUD is not a developer the of this project and will not be seeking formal enforcement against the PUD in this matter. The intent of Ecology's letter was to provide the PUD with Ecology's position on the drilling of permit exempt wells within a development and to encourage the PUD to continue to work with the Department of Health to address distribution leakage (DSL) so additional connections may be approved.

Although permit exempt wells may be drilled and used within this development, Ecology does not encourage this practice. Use of permit exempt wells in the place use of a certificated water right intended to serve those within a development further depletes an already limited resource. Furthering this practice may encourage others to seek the use of a permit exempt well rather than connecting to the PUD's system once additional connections are available.

Enforcement language used in the closing statement the letter sent December 19, 2022, should have been removed, as should have the RE line of the letter where the incorrect RCW was referenced. This was an oversight on my part, and I apologize for any confusion that may have caused the PUD and those receiving this letter.

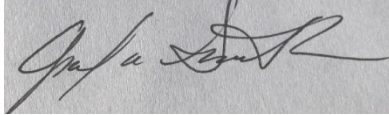
Again, Ecology encourages Thurston PUD to continue improving the Timberline Village System to reduce (DSL) and continue working with the Department of Health to secure additional connections.

March 30, 2023

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If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact me at 360-764-6972 or odav461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Opal Smitherman", is shown on a light-colored background.

Opal Smitherman
Compliance and Enforcement
Water Resources Program
Southwest Regional Office

Sent By Email: Kim Gubbe, Operations and Compliance Manger, Thurston PUD
kgubbe@thurstonpud.org

Email cc: Joseph Rehberger, Cascadia Law Group PLLC, jrehberger@cascadialaw.com
John Weidenfeller, General Manager, Thurston PUD, jweidenfeller@thurstonpud.org

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