

LWV OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

Position on

WATER RESOURCES IN PIERCE COUNTY

Water Quality

1. We support the maintenance of the present purity of the Tacoma area water supply with the minimum treatment necessary, with special attention to further restricting access to the watershed.
2. We support the concept and maintenance of a water quality and quantity program for all surface and underground waters within, bordering and affecting Pierce County.
3. We believe in the separation of sanitary and storm sewers.
4. We support measures to improve or expand sewage and storm water treatment in Pierce County.
5. We favor the establishment of a single authority to provide adequate drainage facilities in Pierce County.

Water Governance

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County supports keeping water supplied by Pierce County purveyors, within the boundaries of Pierce County for use by Pierce County residents.

Any effort to move water beyond the Pierce County boundaries by a Pierce County purveyor should:

1. Include full disclosure of the nature and conditions of the move, full citizen participation and a public vote by all affected parties to the transfer and/or sale of that water, and
2. Be for a limited time span and be discontinued when water is needed in Pierce County, and
3. Include strict conservation requirements that must be in place by the requesting water supplier.

The ability to look for new sources of water can only be granted when all of the following have occurred by the requesting party:

1. Partial to total implementation of a conservation plan. If partial implementation of a conservation plan has occurred then strict time limits must be in place for the completion of the plan within a reasonable time.
2. Partial to total implementation of a water quality pollution control plan. If partial implementation of a pollution control plan has occurred then strict time limits must be in place for the completion of the plan within a reasonable time. The purpose of this plan is to assure that practices that pollute drinking water be stopped, and that continued pollution of drinking water is not used as an excuse to seek new water sources.
3. Requirements for recharge of the groundwater are in place in all areas, for all new developments (residential, commercial, manufacturing, etc.), and for everyone. Remodeling permits will be the trigger and used to require compliance with recharge efforts by existing development.
4. Water can only be shared within the boundaries of Pierce County and only within individual watersheds.

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County supports a competitive environment with a variety of water suppliers and water sources serving the people of Pierce County. No one supplier or source should be allowed to dominate the water supply.

In order to enhance and maintain instream flows in the rivers and streams of Pierce County there should be:

- 1 strong restrictions on future land development,
- 2 strong conservation and recharge requirements in place, including gray water usage,
- 3 control of water pollution,
- 4 habitat preservation,
- 5 and a limit on tree harvesting within watersheds.

Adopted June 2000