

1 **Requiring SEPA Review for**
2 **Water Rights Transfer at the Point of Origin**

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4 **WHEREAS** current Washington State law and rules require a single EIS (Environmental
5 Impact Statement) or SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) review for a project
6 proposal in the county/region of the development;

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8 **WHEREAS**, when a water right is transferred to a project different from the original
9 county/region point of origin, only the county/region of the new project proposal area
10 is reviewed; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, when water rights of the northern tier of counties (Okanogan, Ferry,
13 Stevens & Pond Oreille) and neighboring counties (including Spokane, Lincoln,
14 Douglas, Chelan & Grant) are sold downstream to another jurisdiction the EIS or SEPA
15 review does not include the county/region of origin, and does not address the adverse
16 impact to the communities, irrigation districts and local economies at the original
17 county/region water right point of withdrawal;

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19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Agriculture and Rural Caucus (ARC) and
20 WSDCC shall work with the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State
21 Department of Ecology to change current laws and rules to require inclusion of an EIS
22 or SEPA review and public comment period covering the jurisdiction of the original
23 water right county/region.

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26 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic
27 Central Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date
28 Submitted 1/5/2010)

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30 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
31 its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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33 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.