



Dated: 3/2/10

ACTION ALERT – Contact Your Senators Regarding Senate Budget Cut To WSDA Plant Protection Division

Contact your Senators immediately to let them know your position on the cuts that the Senate budget makes to WSDA's Plant Protection Division by \$160,000 or 10 percent.

The Pest Program identifies and eradicates insect pests that threaten Washington State such as gypsy moth and citrus long-horned beetle; coordinates and administers the state noxious weed program; and conducts surveys to detect, exclude, or manage exotic plant pathogens introduced into the state.

The Plant Services Program also provides regulatory inspection of licensed retail and wholesale nurseries to ensure that consumers and the nursery industry are provided healthy, pest-free and disease-free plant materials. Inspectors enforce quarantines to prevent pest introduction and assure disease-free planting stock.

Inspectors also provide export certification for plant products being shipped to other states and countries.

To read the budget language, scroll to page 136 at...

<http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/Budget/Detail/2010/soagencydetail0223.pdf>

Water Rights Bill Takes A Turn

According to WALP Lobbyist Heather Hansen, water rights took a strange turn last week.

SB 6267 is a Department of Ecology request bill intended to streamline water right processing. It was amended in committee adding on HB 2591, the water rights processing fee increase bill which dramatically increases the fees for a water right permit, including for those who are

already in line, allows Ecology to adjust the fees by rule in the future rather than going through the legislature, and requires the registration and metering of all exempt wells. The committee also added on HB 2468 which prohibits Ecology from requiring meters on exempt wells put in prior to the effective date of this act. This created internal conflict with the language from HB 2591.

The revenue created by the increased fees in the bill is included in the House budget. As it currently stands, nearly everyone in agriculture and business opposes it. It will increase fees without tying Ecology to process improvements. The Department of Ecology is in the process of developing amendments.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/6267-S2.E%20HBR%20APPG%2010.pdf>

Brief Summary of Engrossed Second Substitute Bill (As Amended by House)

- Authorizes an alternative cost-reimbursement process for water right applications.
- Authorizes an expedited processing procedure for water right applications.
- Establishes criteria for qualifying as a certified water right examiner.
- Creates a Water Rights Processing Account to support the processing of water right applications and for the examination, certification, and renewal of certification of water right examiners.
- Prohibits metering on any permit exempt well constructed prior to the effective date of the act used for single or group domestic uses.
- Creates a Water Rights Processing and Dam Safety Account for the processing of water right applications and change applications, and the safety inspection of hydraulic works and plans and specifications.
- Adjusts fees relating to the processing of water right applications and change applications.
- Creates a permit exempt well registry with a registration fee for new wells.

Questions on any of the topics addressed in this "WALP Watch"? Contact the WALP Office at info@walp.org or (425) 967-0729.