



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

September 25, 2009

Dear Zillah Group Member:

Enclosed is a copy of the draft report, "Lower Yakima Valley Ground Water Quality – Preliminary Assessment and Recommendations Document." An executive summary of the document begins on page one.

We are planning a public meeting for October 21, 2009, during which we will present the draft document, answer questions about the options, and solicit feedback and comments on the options and next steps. The meeting will allow representatives of local, State, and federal government to hear public concerns and perspectives. It will be held from 6:00 to 9:00pm at:

Radio KDNA
Northwest Communities Education Center
121 Sunnyside Avenue
Granger, Washington 98932

The options presented in this report were identified in a cooperative effort between local, state, and federal agencies to identify actions that can be taken to address groundwater quality in the Lower Yakima Valley. They are based upon an initial review of information and data on nitrates and groundwater contamination and will serve as the foundation from which recommendations and strategies can be developed.

The options we have identified are a first step towards managing the problem. We now need your comments and input on these options. You are part of the solution and your participation will help us move these options forward.

As we work together on which of the options best address water quality in the Lower Yakima Valley, the agencies will begin implementing some of the next steps identified in the report. These include beginning a sampling effort to link potential sources and contamination; and to identify appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP) for reducing nitrate contamination of the aquifer.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the options, please provide them, no later than November 31, 2009, to Ryan Anderson at rand@ecy.wa.gov

Or you can mail them to:

Ryan Anderson
Washington Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Ave. – Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

We will review the comments and modify the report as appropriate so that future actions will reflect your contributions.

Sincerely,



Vern Redifer, Yakima County, Vern



Tom Tebb, Washington Department of Ecology



Ginny Stern, Washington Department of Health



Jerry Buendel, Washington Department of Agriculture



Marie Jennings, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency