September 28, 2021

For immediate release:

MEDIA ALERT

County Water: Let the Debate, Finally, Begin

What: Community Feedback Forum to address issues and concerns with the Yakima County Water Resource System and Well Water Ordinance.

Who: Yakima Association of Realtors; Central Washington Home Builders Association; Yakima County Farm Bureau; Washington State Ground Water Association; and Yakima County Cattlemen's Association.

Why: When the County Commissioners, led by Mike Leita, embarked on enacting an ordinance governing domestic wells in the county, they pointed to a "potential" lawsuit, subsequently disclosed as being threatened by Futurewise, a left-leaning NGO that seeks to limit development and hamstring builders, farmers, and home buyers. Subsequent to the Washington Supreme Court's "Hirst" decisions, the legislature was actively pursuing resolution. Then Rep. Dave Taylor, of the 15th district, was leading the battle to resolve these restrictions brought about by the Supreme Court, and just weeks before his efforts came to fruition, the Yakima County Commissioners pulled the rug out from under him and passed this ordinance instituting a top-heavy and unnecessary "Utility" on County residents. Public input was severely limited in this process, so our county Associations seek now to provide an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns. In addition, Yakima County staff have instituted a well moratorium in parts of the county and are not grandfathering existing wells which is in complete revocation of promises and repudiation of WA state law.

Who should attend: All Yakima County property owners that have been or could be affected by the Yakima County well ordinance.

When: October 4, 2021 at 7pm

Where: Yakima Convention Center, 10 N 8th St, Yakima, WA 98901

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