



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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June 30, 2014

TO: Conservation District Managers & Supervisors

FR: Mark Clark
Executive Director

RE: 15% Budget Reduction Exercise for 15-17 Biennium—requesting input for August special meeting.

It is always a surprise to consider the timing of different requests and how they intersect with one another. Each conservation district has a budget request due to SCC on July 10th and your submittal may be influenced by the content contained within this memo.

About 10 days ago, OFM directed all state agencies to prepare a package submittal for the 15-17 biennium, which will describe how the agency would take a 15% budget reduction in general fund appropriations. This is considered a budget exercise to determine what services would be lost and if funding was available, which services could be re-purchased.

This is a significant reduction in funding available to conservation districts and SCC. We are asking for your consideration and comments of the scenarios outlined below. Each of the scenarios has a real-world impact with real people and real services. Please keep in mind, this is an exercise requested by OFM of all state agencies. Along with the exercise cut package we then will submit a buy-back package for the funds cut explaining the need for the funds.

We are interested in your board of supervisor's opinions on the preferred scenario for reductions as described in this material. Timeliness is of importance because the agency must submit a reduction packet in the budget submittal to OFM. Your Regional manager can provide more information if needed.

Request:

In addition to submitting your comments, we need you to place the scenarios in priority order, with #1 as the most favorable and #3, the least favorable. Your responses and rankings will be provided to the Conservation Commission members during the special meeting in August, and utilized as they finalize the budget submittal to OFM in late August.

Please email your Board of Supervisor's remarks to Commission@scc.wa.gov by August 7th.

Thanks for your consideration and time, if you have any questions; please feel free to give us a call.

Total Fiscal Year General Fund Allocation
\$6,743,000
OFM Directed 15% Reduction Exercise
(\$1,011,450)

<u>General Fund State Fund Allocation</u>	<u>Per Fiscal Year</u>		
WSCC Operations & Issued Contracts	18 FTE	2,239,246	
Funding to Districts		4,503,754	
		-1,011,450	Total Reduction Needed
		-250,000	SCC non district programmatic
		-761,450	Remaining to cut through SCC contracts & conservation districts

Distribution of the \$761,450 reduction	Scenario #1*	Scenario #2*	Scenario #3*
SCC Contracts	10%	16.46%	30%
Conservation district funds	17.75%	16.46%	13.81%

**percentages based upon \$761,450*

The spreadsheet below covers each scenario for each conservation district and the Commission Operations and Contracts. Unaffected in the scenarios described is the funding provided for the Engineering program.

Each Scenario described contains the same risks. What will be different, are the degrees of impact.

SCC work at risk: Depending on the scenario, up to 3 FTE from SCC, and reducing or cutting contracts for WADE, Envirothon, WACD, Technical Employee Certification program, and AgForestry Education.

Programmatic impacts would result in reductions to non-district programmatic activities, i.e. administration, finance, policy, regional managers, and farmland preservation. Potentially cutting up to three FTEs will require eliminating issue involvements, travel, meeting participation, and covering meeting costs for sessions for the 20-21 meetings, and overall services to districts.

Contractual cuts will impact the services and opportunities for conservation districts and other partners, preventing the coordination of issues and direct assistance. The funding for WADE, Envirothon, WACD, and the Technical Employee's contracts provide direct services for training of staff and supervisors to ensure compliance with 89.08 and additional statues and rules. Districts would be required to find alternate methods of funding WADE training, Envirothon competitions, supporting the Technical Employees Certification program, and WACD's Annual Meeting and directory. And the AgForestry Education MOU would need to be amended and further SCC staff support of the program would be reduced or eliminated.

Conservation District work at risk with cuts: As with SCC, depending on the scenario and the size of the district, the impacts will be significant.

The majority of the expenditures within this funding are spent on conservation district staff who are primarily involved in landowner engagement. This activity is at substantial risk with the cuts identified in the scenarios.

Across the state, and all conservation districts have streams with riparian areas needing landowner engagement for protection. The ability to engage these private landowners to discuss options and opportunities for riparian protection would not be done. This is true for all districts regardless of size. Each dollar is matched with other funding sources on a 4:1 margin.

Without the funding for conservation districts, the alternative would be regulatory action which is expensive, causes distrust, and, delays improvements and participation. The cost of the regulatory approach is going to be much greater than the \$1 million reduction and result in less participation.

		Scenario #1		Scenario #2		Scenario #3	
	FY 15	10% SCC / 17.75% Districts		16.46% Reduction / ALL		30% SCC / 13.81% Districts	
SCC Contracts	1,989,246	1,913,072	76,174	1,862,947	126,299	1,760,806	228,440
SCC Program Cuts	250,000	-	250,000	-	250,000	-	250,000
Engineering Grants	645,000	645,000	-	645,000	-	645,000	-
Adams	97,229	79,962	17,267	81,225	16,004	83,799	13,430
Asotin	84,866	69,795	15,071	70,897	13,969	73,143	11,723
Benton	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
C Klick	66,033	54,306	11,727	55,164	10,869	56,912	9,121
Cascadia	90,274	74,242	16,032	75,415	14,859	77,804	12,470
Clallam	127,156	104,574	22,582	106,226	20,930	109,592	17,564
Clark	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Columbia	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Cowlitz	86,326	70,995	15,331	72,117	14,209	74,402	11,924
E Klick	61,663	50,712	10,951	51,513	10,150	53,145	8,518
Ferry	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Foster Creek	67,125	55,204	11,921	56,076	11,049	57,853	9,272
Franklin	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Grant	179,825	147,890	31,935	150,226	29,599	154,986	24,839
Grays Harbor	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Jefferson	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
King	127,048	104,486	22,562	106,136	20,912	109,499	17,549
Kitsap	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Kittitas	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Lewis	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Lincoln	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Mason	95,484	78,527	16,957	79,767	15,717	82,295	13,189
No Yakima	84,726	69,680	15,046	70,780	13,946	73,023	11,703
Okanogan	88,923	73,131	15,792	74,286	14,637	76,640	12,283
Pacific	77,440	63,687	13,753	64,693	12,747	66,743	10,697
Pal Rock Lk	60,875	50,064	10,811	50,855	10,020	52,466	8,409
Palouse	68,820	56,598	12,222	57,492	11,328	59,314	9,506
Pend Oreille	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Pierce	126,450	103,994	22,456	105,636	20,814	108,983	17,467
Pine Creek	60,875	50,064	10,811	50,855	10,020	52,466	8,409
Pomeroy	73,070	60,093	12,977	61,043	12,027	62,977	10,093
San Juan	79,597	65,461	14,136	66,495	13,102	68,602	10,995
Skagit	128,893	106,003	22,890	107,677	21,216	111,089	17,804
Snohomish	94,026	77,328	16,698	78,549	15,477	81,038	12,988
So Douglas	64,940	53,407	11,533	54,251	10,689	55,970	8,970
So Yakima	67,125	55,204	11,921	56,076	11,049	57,853	9,272
Spokane	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Stevens	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Thurston	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Underwood	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Wahkiakum	85,313	70,162	15,151	71,270	14,043	73,529	11,784
Walla Walla	79,625	65,484	14,141	66,519	13,106	68,626	10,999
Whatcom	114,060	93,804	20,256	95,286	18,774	98,305	15,755
Whid Island	86,092	70,803	15,289	71,921	14,171	74,200	11,892
Whitman	60,875	50,064	10,811	50,855	10,020	52,466	8,409
	6,743,000	5,731,550	1,011,450	5,731,550	1,011,450	5,731,550	1,011,450