ADDENDUM TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

PROPOSED ACTION:
Adoption of an addendum to the Water Resource Inventory Areas 55 & 57 Watershed Management Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL:
The watershed plan for WRIAs 55 & 57 was adopted in 2006. In 2018, the Washington State Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6091, later codified in part in Chapter 90.94 RCW, requiring the governments that initiated watershed planning in WRIA 55 to update the watershed plan to address future permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals established from 2018 to 2038 in WRIA 55.

In 2018 the WRIA 55 Initiating Governments (IGs), Spokane County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, City of Spokane, and Whitworth Water District, entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to develop the WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Addendum to satisfy the requirements of RCW 90.94.020. The MOA specified that the IGs would convene the WRIA 55 Planning Unit to participate in a consensus-building process to ensure participant interests and concerns are considered in the development of a fact-based WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Update. The MOA also specified that Spokane County would serve as the lead agency to facilitate the planning process. Final approval of the plan was by the IGs.

The planning process included 4 components: 1) development of an estimate of the consumptive water use associated with new rural residential development using permit-exempt groundwater withdrawals as a water source in WRIA 55 over the period 2018 to 2038, 2) development of a list of projects that would offset the projected consumptive water use, 3) identification of non-water projects that are in addition to the water offset projects, and 4) a determination that when implemented the plan would result in a net ecological benefit to instream resources in WRIA 55. The consumptive water use estimate is 2,354 acre-ft per year (afy) and the list of projects is estimated to offset 4,262 afy resulting in a net benefit of 1,908 afy at the end of the 20 year planning horizon. Non-water instream resource projects are also included to further distribute the ecological benefits of the actions included in the Plan Addendum. The Plan Addendum concludes that implementation of the plan will result in net ecological benefit to instream resources in WRIA 55. The projects included in the Plan Addendum include:

- Water right acquisitions to provide instream flow benefits;
- Managed aquifer recharge to enhance baseflow to surface water during low flow months;
- Water storage and release to improve stream flows;
- Riparian habitat improvements;
- Floodplain restoration; and
- Water conservation.
PROPOSED:
WRIA 55 Initiating Governments (Spokane County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, City of Spokane, Whitworth Water District)

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:
WRIA 55, the Little Spokane Watershed, located in within Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties.

TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED:
Final Environmental Impact Statement of Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW, as amended by other addendums.

AGENCY THAT PREPARED THE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED:
Washington State Department of Ecology

DATE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED WAS PREPARED:
July 18, 2003, as later amended by other addendums.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT (OR PORTION) BEING MODIFIED:
Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Final Environmental Impact Statement (referred to herein as the “FEIS).

THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ORIGINAL FEIS:
Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the FEIS have been modified to address the requirements of ESSB 6091, which mandates the WRIA 55 plan be updated to address the impacts of future permit-exempt domestic water uses for new uses established from 2018 to 2038. The Plan Addendum proposes projects aligned with the types considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement of Watershed Planning referred to above.

Spokane County Environmental Services (County) is the Lead Agency for SEPA. The County has evaluated Ecology’s FEIS and determined that the actions proposed in the Watershed Plan Addendum are adequately addressed in the FEIS. The FEIS considers watershed planning actions, impacts and mitigation measures considered in this Addendum, specifically:
- Transfer of water rights from out of stream uses to instream uses (Sec. 6.8)
- Allocation of ground or surface water for mitigation measures (Sec. 6.10)
- Construct and operate new on-channel storage facilities (Sec. 6.19)
- Construct and operate artificial recharge storage projects (Sec. 6.25)
- Implement instream habitat improvement projects (Sec. 6.42)
- Replace roadway structures to improve fish passage (Sec. 6.45)
- Construct fish passage facilities (Sec. 6.46)
- Implement out-of-stream habitat improvement projects (Sec. 6.47)
- Control sources of sediment (Sec. 6.50)
- Acquire property or conservation easements to protect habitat (Sec. 6.53)

Spokane County has reviewed the Watershed Planning FEIS and determined that the actions identified in the WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Addendum are consistent with the actions and impacts identified and evaluated in the FEIS. This addendum to the FEIS is issued under WAC 197-11-600(4)(c), and WAC 197-11-625. This addendum and its attachments add analyses or information about the proposal, but do not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the existing environmental document.
PENDING APPEALS:
The document being modified is not the subject of a pending appeal and has not been found inadequate on appeal.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:

NAME OF AGENCY ADOPTING DOCUMENT:
Spokane County Environmental Services

STAFF CONTACT:
Mike Hermanson, Water Resources Manager, 1004 N. Freya St. Spokane, WA 99202, (509) 477-7578 or mhermanson@spokanecounty.org

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:
Kevin Cooke

POSITION/TITLE:
Environmental Services Director

ADDRESS:
1026 W. Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA 99260

DATE OF ISSUANCE:
September 14, 2020

SIGNATURE:

[Signature]
DISTRIBUTION:
In accordance with WAC 197-11-625 this addendum was circulated to the recipients of the WRIA 55 & 57 Watershed Plan SEPA Documentation.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
U.S. Dept of Agriculture, NRCS
WA State Dept of Ecology
WA State Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Dept of Natural Resources
Washington State Dept of Health
WA State Dept of Transportation
Spokane Regional Clean Air
Spokane County Health District
Spokane County Building and Planning
Spokane County Public Works
Avista
Century Link Communications
Spokane Transit Authority
North Spokane County Library
Valley Library
Main City Library
Fire District No. 1
Fire District No. 4
Fire District No. 9
Fire District No. 13
Spokane Fire Department
Spokane Indian Tribe
Carnhope Irrigation District No. 7
Consolidated Irrigation District 19
East Spokane Water Dist. No. 1
Hutchinson Irrigation Dist. No.16
Irvin Water District No. 6
Liberty Lake Sewer & Water No. 1
Moab Irrigation Dist. No. 20
Model Irrigation District No. 18
Modern Electric Water Company
North Spokane Irrigation Dist. No.8
Orchard Avenue Irrigation Dist. 6
Pasadena Irrigation District #17
P.U.D. No. 1 of Stevens County
Spokane County Water Dist #3
Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3
Vera Irrigation District No. 15
Whitworth Water District No. 2
Central Valley School District
Deer Park Schools
East Valley School District
Mead School District No. 354
Orchard Prairie School District
Riverside School District
Spokane Public School Dist #81
West Valley School District
City of Spokane
City of Spokane Valley
City of Liberty Lake
City of Deer Park
Town of Millwood
Spokane Conservation District
Deer Park Schools
East Valley School District
Mead School District No. 354
Orchard Prairie School District
Riverside School District
Spokane Public School Dist #81
West Valley School District
City of Spokane
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City of Liberty Lake
City of Deer Park
Town of Millwood
Spokane Conservation District