

PREPARED STATEMENT FOR UHWA PUBLIC MEETING ON STEM SCHOOL PROPOSAL

For months the representatives of Lake Washington School District and Union Hill Water Association have met to work out a framework for adopting measures that would protect the Association's water supply during the construction and operation of the District's proposed STEM high school to be built on top of the Association's critical recharge area. The District is a member of the Association with the Association servicing several of the District's schools and thousands of students. This project has gone through numerous hours of study, vetting, and input by Association and District staff, experts and board members. Tonight, we are asking for input from you. Any comments and suggestions you make will be considered in the implementation of any final agreement. Of paramount concern to both the District and the Association is the health and well being of community members, students, and employees and it is in this spirit of cooperation and partnership in protecting community interests that the Lake Washington School District agrees to the following:

1. The construction by the District of a monitoring and early warning system consisting of strategically placed monitoring wells and sampling stations to provide detection of potential contaminants before they enter critical recharge and aquifer areas.
2. The District will abandon plans to build a geothermal heating system that would have required drilling more than 100 deep wells into our aquifer and will instead use a shallow-trench system installed under monitoring by the Association.
3. The STEM school and its grounds will be a "pesticide and herbicide-free zone."
4. State and county records indicate the presence of an abandoned well on the property, labeled the "Howard-Huxley Well." There are no records indicating the well was ever decommissioned as required by state law, and thus it poses potential direct conduit of contamination to the aquifer. LWSD agrees to pay for an electronic search for such a well and properly cap and decommission said well if found. Furthermore the school district agrees to properly cap and decommission any abandoned wells found on the property in the future.
5. An Enhanced Treatment System will be built by the District with design approval by the Association for run-off water generated from the school. The system will use no chemicals but will rely on the latest filtering and other technology to help prevent any contaminants from entering the aquifer and recharge zones.
6. A line extension will be built along 228th which will allow added water flows during emergencies, the cost of which will be shared 70% by the school district and 30% by the Association. The line extension will be built under the direction of the Association and upon specifications of both the District and the Association.
7. The school district wishes to build and operate a cistern or water-catchment system to supplement water supplies. If connected to the Association's water system such a cistern could pose a contamination threat and violates Association policy and state law. The Association agrees not to oppose such a cistern as long as it is NOT connected to the Association's system and is used for irrigation purposes only.

8. The school district is planning to develop only one-third of its 22-acre site for its STEM school. This leaves the remaining land in a natural state with native foliage and ground covers providing protection to the aquifer which is the prime consideration in judging this project. In light of this and other considerations, the school district agrees there will be no expansion on the site now or in the future.

As always, the devil is in the details, but if these protective measures are unchanged and included and consummated in any final agreement they would constitute a landmark in the protection of the environment and water quality.