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Governor



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To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 9, 10, 14 and 15, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6267 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to water right processing improvements."

This bill provides applicants and the Department of Ecology with tools that can be used, when appropriate, to expedite the processing of water right applications.

Sections 9 and 10 define the original location of a well associated with a water right claim as the area located within a one-quarter mile radius of the current well or wells. The original location of a well is used to determine when a replacement well requires a formal change to the water right.

The specific definitions in Sections 9 and 10 would reduce the Department of Ecology's flexibility and impair its current discretion to decide when a replacement well warrants formal review and approval. Such flexibility and discretion is needed when the impacts of a replacement well will depend on the circumstances. Sections 14 and 15 provide expiration and effective dates for Sections 9 and 10, respectively.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Sections 9, 10, 14 and 15 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6267.

With the exception of Sections 9, 10, 14 and 15, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6267 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor