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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Legislative Update

April 10, 2023

This is WACD's thirteenth week of legislative updates for 2023. There are only thirteen days remaining in this session. It is safe to say the legislature is in the final stretch of the 2023 legislative session!

1. WACD Reconciliation Budget Priorities

Executive Director Tom Salzer sent a [letter to the primary budget writers](#) last Monday, April 3rd, highlighting two high-priority items in the budget. We expect a compromise budget to be released by **Friday, April 21st**. Feel free to use this letter as a template if you want your legislators to be aware of these key concerns:

- The \$10 million for Conservation Technical Assistance listed in the Senate's Operating Budget should be funded on an ongoing basis and not in one-time funding.
- The \$40 million in the Senate's Operating Budget for riparian restoration projects would better serve Washington State by being in the Capital Budget so project implementation is not limited to the next two years.

2. WSCC Reconciliation Budget Comments

On Wednesday, April 5th, the Washington State Conservation Commission wrote to legislators with the agency's budget remarks. SCC, along with WACD and everyone else, now waits to see what the budget leadership in both chambers will do to reconcile the budgets. You can read a [copy of their letter](#) on the Commission's website.

3. Legislative Overview

This week, WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady reports on the many actions taken by the House and Senate focused on healthcare issues, from hospital systems to medical data privacy. You can [read her full review on the WACD Hub website](#).

4. Legislative Watch List

The final legislative cut-off is Wednesday, April 12th, when all legislation must be adopted by both the House and the Senate in some version. Some bills on [WACD's Watch List](#) already cleared this hurdle and now head toward the reconciliation process

which may continue until the end of session. The bills that are ahead of schedule include HB 1170, HB 1181, HB 1500, and SB 5390. The last day of session, Sunday April 23rd, is the deadline for all legislation to be approved by the legislature.

5. Governor's Actions

We have reached the point in the legislative process where action extends beyond the legislative branch to include the Governor and the executive branch. Describing that process seems appropriate to understand what comes next.

After bills are signed by the Lieutenant Governor (as President of the Senate) and the Speaker of the House, they are walked over to the Governor's Office for his constitutional obligations. The Governor may decide to sign it, veto part of it, or veto all of it. If the Governor vetoes part or all of it, the Legislature may vote to override the veto. If the governor does not act on a bill after the allotted number of days, it is as if it was signed. You can track all of [Governor' Inslee's bill actions online](#).



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