



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION 2023- 03 _____

SHORT TITLE: Dropping population criteria and removing per parcel maximum annual rate under RCW 89.08.405(3)(a)

SPONSOR CD: Pierce Conservation District

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY _____
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The system of rates and charges currently states “The maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed five dollars, except that for counties with a population of over four hundred eighty thousand persons, the maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed ten dollars, and for counties with a population of over one million five hundred thousand persons, the maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed fifteen dollars.”

As inflation has been on the rise and requests for services has increased many districts large or small struggle to meet the needs of the communities we serve. The current funding structure also puts districts that fall a lower population bracket at a greater funding disadvantage and is limiting for all districts’ capabilities to best serve local constituents.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD to work with conservation districts, Washington State Conservation Commission, others, and the legislature in 2024 to change Chapter 89.08 RCW, dropping the population criteria in section 405(3), and removing the maximum annual rate per parcel to allow local jurisdictions to set their own maximum rates.



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TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO**
- YES** (briefly explain): Staff time allocated to legislative issues