

Scatter Creek Aquifer Project Comments, as of November 20, 2013

Comments were received from the survey mailed to residents and property owners in the Scatter Creek Aquifer area in July 2013, from the first community workshop held on July 30, 2013, from visitors to fair booths at the 2013 Swede Day and Oregon Trail Days and from comments e-mailed to the project website - ScatterCreek@co.thurston.wa.us.

Drinking Water

- This infers we have a problem when WE DO NOT! Our water is provided by Rochester Water Association which constantly monitors, tests and takes care of customers. Are we concerned overall, YES!, but inference that we have problem by Rochester Water Association is absurd.
- Have had well tested 2 years apart. Both reports come back excellent water - if problems with water occurs I would then be concerned. There are more rocks than dirt on my property which cleans the water.
- Our nitrate levels are a little higher than typical background, but within limits. Our water is acidic. Apparently the aquifer is acidic, according to county lab. It's eaten through several of our fixtures in 5 years since they were newly installed. We are concerned about health effects and wish we knew better what to do.
- I am in favor of clean water and I try to do my part to protect its quality. My fear is the county will use this cause to further control or seize our water rights completely.
- I do not need government interference, taxes, or regulations to keep clean drinking water! When it comes to Thurston County, less is more!
- Everyone should help PREVENT and no one should be left alone to SOLVE a problem caused by others.
- I think that this whole nitrate scare is another trumped up, make-believe issue to control or stop growth in the south county. Nitrate levels have been dropping even as population has increased. The few high readings have been in my opinion "cherry picked." The few areas close to dairy farms or areas with poor wellhead management have been tested and show high nitrate levels. With less and less agriculture the levels have improved. If more people and more septic systems were the source of the problem why aren't nitrate levels increasing? So why are we promoting agrotourism? Organic farming uses animal manures which seems to make the problem worse. Bottom line - You have an agenda. Stop growth, force people into the cities and totally control OUR property. If you want to control my property then buy it from me.
- When quality is borderline or mostly ok and trend in quality is flat, sustainable, or down, then individual homeowners can do more if they want and government should stay out of it.
- The need to protect our drinking water must be balanced with our need to use our property, businesses, and homes. Over regulation & fees (are) a huge problem! (*paper torn*)
- It is baloney when you say that water does not get cleaned running through and over sand and gravel. My water was checked and is perfect.

Project

- You need to also include the Tenino area
- We strongly support this project.
- We need more residents on this, the only ones I see are business representation, not one individual who is just a resident! Business people should not be making all the decisions.

- Whose wells are you testing? We have lived at our address since October of 2010 and have not seen or have been asked to test our water.
- Thank you so much for addressing this important issue!
- Only area property owners should be allowed in the decision making process.
- Make sure your baseline information is accurate.

Costs

- The second item in fall 2013 indicates that the county already has its mind made up to change septic system management. Yet it does not appear that there is enough data to know if that change is necessary or not. Remember we are not rich.
- We should pay \$50 more per year in taxes and get free water samples.

Property and Land Use

- Stay away from my property.
- I am amazed at the people that think it is ok to dump their used motor oil on their driveway to keep the dust down. I wish they cared.
- Direct communication/education of local property owners about the impact of fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc. So much indiscriminate spraying of herbicides. People just don't realize the impact or the availability of more natural alternatives. Thank you.
- Require advance public notice of ANY development and require environmental impact studies.
- People's property is private and government should stay off and out.
- A person should be able to raise food for their family. If you have 5 acres you should be able to have a couple of cows, raise a garden.
- As a senior, living on fixed income, there are too many regulations. They constrict how you are able to live on your place and make it harder to sell.

Aquifer

- We have concerns about the effect Miles Sand and Gravel will have on the aquifer. Also, livestock needs to be kept out of Scatter Creek. A year ago Fred Colvin applied fertilizer to his pasture and the fumes were so strong it burned our eyes.
- Some groups are, I feel, are destroying the aquifer by taking soil and drainage away from area.
- It appears that our aquifer has protective hard pan above it which resists the intrusion of surface runoff. I believe that our aquifer actually originates in the Mt. Rainier area and travels underground to reach our area at a comparatively fast rate. The newer methods of sealing well heads in areas of manure application seems to have been effective in limiting surface water from reaching the aquifer. It appears that the potential for contamination has already been dealt with in a very commonsense manner at this time.
- A lot of problems are from Miles Sand and Cement – the chemicals used in cement and get washed out. Truck washes should recycle their wash water like new car washed have to. There are geese in their ponds, that is probably a waste problem as well.

Other Comments

- You created the problem by changing the 5-acre zoning. You're just after more control over our life. STOP-STOP-STOP Leave us ALONE!!!
- Property taxes are too high.
- (*In reference to an invitation to attend the community workshop*) Honey, that's good. I'm not going to be there. I'll let Lowell do it, he is on top of these things.
- Options: restrict development, fund (?) annual septic checks, meter water usage, a'la Tenino full blown system.
- This is just a government motivated thing to get more tax money.
- This sounds like a legislative plan to meter and tax all wells.
- If college educated desk workers would listen to hunters/fishers and people out in the area, things would improve everywhere, including the water.