



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

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March 26, 2021

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**


Dear Tribal Leaders, Stakeholders, and Local and State Partners:

The Washington State Department of Ecology received an application from Crown Columbia LLC for a proposed water bank on the Columbia River last Fall. The public comment period for the proposal ended on March 19, 2021.

Based on feedback we received and the critical importance of the issue, Ecology has decided to suspend processing the Crown Columbia LLC application. We recognize the many issues at stake as we consider all the policy aspects of water banking and the future of water management in Washington. The wide interest this application has generated underscores the need for further consideration. We believe it is in everyone's best interest to allow time to work with tribes, counties, cities, legislators, and stakeholders to engage in these policy discussions together, before making a decision on this permit application.

We look forward to engaging with the Legislature, consulting with tribes, and renewing our outreach on these issues with stakeholders as we move forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (509) 952-5080 or by email at [gteb461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:gteb461@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



G. Thomas Tebb, L.Hg., L.E.G.  
Director  
Office of Columbia River

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cc: Holly Myers, Operations Manager – Office of Columbia River, CRO  
Tyler Roberts, Watermaster – Office of Columbia River, CRO  
Mark Peterson, Attorney at Law