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saving up for that exclusive home somewhere.

Certain members of our Whatcom County Council have decided that we shall be ground zero for converting the world away from fossil fuels. That will improve the views of the bay, since no fuel-consuming boats will be spoiling the water. With petroleum banned, plastics will disappear. Paddle boats and kayaks made from plastics will disappear as well. Our clothing and much of our building materials will come from hemp. This is good, since the raspberry market is saturated, and those farmers will need an alternative crop.

The Department of Ecology is considering a rule that would restrict groundwater withdrawals for domestic well use in any given day to 500 gallons or less. This amount of water would fill a kiddie pool that is 7' in diameter to a depth of 1 foot. On a hot day in July or August, you'll have to supply squirt guns to your kids to cool them off. I suppose the Arne Hanna Aquatic center will have to be drained and set up for squirt gun fights, as long as participants bring their own water. Oh, but they can't be made from plastic! I forgot! Hmm.

Our county council has also decided that tourism should be the preferred industry here. I wonder if skis can be made from hemp, too? I suppose carbon fiber will have to do. It looks as though a pair of those skis starts about \$630.

I'm also wondering how people will get to Mt. Baker. Maybe the ski lift can extend all the way to Deming, and be powered by Nooksack falls.

Farmers are definitely in the crosshairs as well. Farms use a lot of water! I suppose as long as they grow hemp their right to farm will be exempted from water use restrictions. Hemp is a known climate change reversal tool that sequesters loads of carbon dioxide from the air. I'm going to guess that enough hemp grown here will suck up all the smoke from the summer forest fires we've been experiencing lately. What a wonderful miracle plant!

Oh, and the city of Bellingham received a proposal to require all new homes built and all homes sold to be powered without fossil fuels. I'm guessing that wood or pellet stove makers are rejoicing at that thought. I wonder if fuel pellets for such stoves can be made from hemp? I wonder if after all the hemp we'll have to grow if we'll have room for growing food?

Molly Crocker is a representative of the private well owner's caucus to the WRIA 1 Planning Unit. She is not usually this sarcastic, but is rather fed up with all of the philosophy out there that presumes humans are a scourge upon the earth. Humans are the earth's best, most precious natural resource, and it's only humans that can work out solutions to make the earth a welcoming place for all of its inhabitants. Every. Single. One

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was getting extremely expensive: There were four systems that worked differently to upload and download voter records between the counties and the state and this could take days and/or emails and snail mails.

- And as it turned out; same day registration became a factor during the legislative session. The Legislature Passed the capability to register until 8:00PM Election night.

- The new system will allow for "real time" updating of systems between the Auditors and the State... Allowing immediate record checks of voters for duplicates on a statewide level.

The transparency of the change-over in this case was notable and revealed the entire process of the change, to the public on a

timely basis. Notes from the several meetings the auditors of the state had during the upgrade are available online. See the story at www.thefourthcorner.com

Of major concern were the overseas military ballots. The auditors send military ballots very early and they need to be addressed properly. The local office stated that they all went out by the deadline after needed corrections were made. The system should work consistently in the future.

In conclusion:

The Local Auditor and other auditors and the Secretary of State should have this "real time" voter check system in place and tested before Primary ballots are mailed.

The local offices states: "we are confident the new system is ready to do its job."



Phillips 66: A Reflection of the Community

Phillips 66 operates the Ferndale Refinery, which is located in Whatcom County. The Refinery employs approximately 435 employees and on-site contractors (many of whom live in Whatcom County). These are good family wage jobs. The Refinery also provides fuel for the county, the rest of Washington State, and neighboring Oregon and California as well into British Columbia, Mexico Singapore and other countries. Additionally, the Refinery supports a variety of Whatcom County community enhancement initiatives including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) grants and educational funding support for local Boys & Girls Clubs, scholarships and program support for Whatcom County technical and community colleges as well as Western Washington University and NW Indian College, and equipment donations and support to local responders. Phillips 66 has provided an annual average of approximately \$450,000 in community contributions over the past five years. And our employees annually give more than \$100,000 and 1000 hours of volunteer time to community organizations. Further, the Refinery has contributed nearly \$28 million in property taxes to

Whatcom County and nearly \$190 million in taxes over the past five years.

Phillips 66 has also recently announced that it and Renewable Energy Group, Inc., are working together to plan for construction of a large-scale renewable diesel plant adjacent to the Ferndale Refinery. The Plant would use REG's proprietary BioSynfining technology to produce renewable diesel fuel. A mix of waste fats, oils and greases, including regionally-sourced vegetable oils, animal fats and used cooking oil. The County generally encourages this type of project. This project could be jeopardized by the continuing moratorium and proposed permitting changes.

Instead of attempting to work with industry to develop workable solutions, the County Council's latest proposal invites additional potentially more significant impacts. While Phillip's 66 recognizes the zoning resolution attempts to mitigate some potential impacts, the approach that the Council is taking is still flawed, and potentially illegal.

Editor's note: Is it not the County Council's responsibility to improve the potential of more clean jobs in Whatcom County? You decide.

Property Taxes Paid by Cherry Point Industries from Whatcom Policy Center 2017

Tax Category	County Total	Paid by Alcoa, BP and Phillips 66	Percent of Total
State	\$59,456,753.00	\$3,153,349.96	5.30%
County	\$28,860,064.63	\$1,527,509.82	5.29%
Conservation Futures	\$1,067,876.74	\$56,520.72	5.29%
Flood Control Zone	\$3,441,531.30	\$182,153.87	5.29%
Port of Bellingham	\$7,058,336.68	\$373,584.69	5.29%
Rural Library	\$8,188,771.80	\$687,931.65	8.40%
School Districts	\$115,533,569.30	\$4,507,201.77	3.90%
Road Districts	\$29,382,385.46	\$2,089,371.20	7.11%
Fire Districts	\$20,108,214.36	\$1,693,230.42	8.42%
Cemetery Districts	\$590,636.13	\$134,849.24	22.83%
Parks & Recreation Districts	\$981,773.03	\$81,714.52	8.32%
EMS Districts	\$8,225,373.05	\$416,493.35	5.06%
Total	\$282,895,285.48	\$14,903,911.21	5.27%

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