

RESOLUTION NO. 2286-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING THE IMPERIAL METALS CORPORATION'S EXPLORATORY MINING PERMIT AND URGING PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE SKAGIT RIVER HEADWATERS

WHEREAS, the District is a municipal corporation formed in 1936 as part of Washington Public Utility District law to own and operate water systems in Skagit County, including the cities of Mount Vernon, Burlington and Sedro Woolley, and

WHEREAS, the District is the largest water purveyor in Skagit County, serving potable water to more than 26,000 customers and 80,000 people using a network of over 650 miles of pipeline, reservoirs, and pump stations, and

WHEREAS, the District can divert a maximum of up to 35.8 million gallons per day of water from four mountain streams and the Skagit River to a raw water impoundment called Judy Reservoir, where water is then treated before distribution to our customers, and

WHEREAS, the District demonstrates and maintains a balance among our Core Values, one of which is Environmental Stewardship, where we act to preserve our region's natural resources, and

WHEREAS, the Skagit River valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in the world, with the Skagit being the third largest river system on the west coast of North America, providing spawning habitats for all five native salmon species and two species of trout, and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to protecting water quality in the Skagit River to ensure a thriving salmon population, a robust agricultural industry, protecting habitat for local marine life, and supporting a healthy and active community that can enjoy all of the recreational activities that the Skagit provides.

WHEREAS, the Imperial Metals Corporation, a Canadian-based mining company with the largest remaining mineral claim in the Skagit River watershed, has applied for an exploratory mining permit currently under review by the Province of British Columbia to continue the process of developing an open-pit mine north of the U.S.-Canada border in an area called the "Donut Hole," and

WHEREAS, the District is concerned about the significant risk to the water quality from the proposed mining activity in the "Donut Hole" because of the potential release of mining effluent and tailings into the Skagit River, potentially contaminating the river with toxic chemicals such as arsenic, copper, lead, aluminum, and mercury, and

WHEREAS, if mining activity leads to the release of such contaminants, the District would not be able to divert water from the Skagit River because our water treatment plant does not have the capability of treating water with high concentrations of heavy metals, which would significantly reduce the District's ability to serve our customers, and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District opposes the exploratory mining permit submitted by the Imperial Metals Corporation in the Skagit River headwaters in British Columbia

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District urges governments of the Province of British Columbia and the state of Washington to work together to protect the Skagit River headwaters and the associated watershed for the Skagit River.

ADOPTED by the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County,
Washington, at a regular meeting held this 27th day of April 2021.


Joe Lindquist (Apr 29, 2021 11:45 PDT)

Joe Lindquist, President


Germaine Kornegay (Apr 29, 2021 14:45 PDT)

Germaine Kornegay, Vice President

ATTEST


Andrew Miller (Apr 30, 2021 15:00 PDT)

Andrew Miller, Secretary