



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Hirst Bill Signed**

On January 18, 2018, the Legislature passed a solution (SB 6091) addressing the impacts on rural water stemming from the Washington State Supreme Court decision of October 6, 2016, commonly known as the "Hirst Decision."

In response to the Governor signing SB 6091 on Friday, January 19, 2018, the bill "takes effect immediately." Beginning January 22, 2018, each applicant for a Lewis County permit(s) of a building necessitating potable water or a land division shall provide evidence of an adequate water supply for the intended use. The bill outlines several options to achieve "adequate water supply." Building permit customers who rely upon a well, both existing or proposed, may be impacted in some way. To assist you, a website will be developed and will be maintained as more information becomes available.

In addition, any permit-exempt source authorized under RCW 90.44.050 from a well constructed before January 19, 2018, is deemed to be evidence of an adequate water supply.

This particular legislation applies to Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) across the state, including those in Lewis County. Lewis County is subject to the provisions related to WRIs with and without instream flow rules.

After failing to pass any legislation during the 2017 session, legislators struck a deal to quickly pass SB 6091, read for the first time on January 12, 2018. As a result, Lewis County- along with counties across Washington State- is now quickly assessing the bill and its implementation to ensure building permits and land divisions are processed in accordance with this new legislation.

Thank you in advance for your patience as the Lewis County staff works through the implementation details. We will strive to make this a seamless process to serve our customers.

For more information email [lee.napier@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:lee.napier@lewiscountywa.gov)

The bill, as approved by the Governor <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/6091-S.SL.pdf>

