Responses to Comments in Letter 243 from Jim Heerinya, Sumas Resident

Note: The responses listed below are numbered to correspond to the numbers shown in the right-hand margin of the preceding comment letter.

1. The City of Sumas, in its Water System Comprehensive Plan, has determined that there is sufficient water available from their existing water right to accommodate the expected growth and have water left over to sell to SE2. The mayor of Sumas, in a letter to the community, has indicated that the plant would bring needed economic growth and jobs, tax revenue, and a market for unused groundwater. In addition, SE2 has agreed to pay for the cost of a water treatment system in the event that such treatment becomes necessary after the project begins using water (see General Response E for further discussion).

2. The impact of construction of the S2GF on flooding is discussed in General Comment J. Whereas cleaning Johnson Creek would likely enhance drainage of the area during a flood, it would likely have serious impacts on the stream ecology.

3. Governor Locke's letter vetoing the proposed tax package is included in Volume 1, Appendix H.