

PRESS RELEASE

March 18, 2003

**MASON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 263**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

RE: Mason County Water Conservancy Board

The Mason County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing on April 8, 2003, at 9:30 AM in the County Commission Chambers at the Mason County Courthouse to consider the expansion of the Mason County Water Conservancy Board. The Water Conservancy Board reviews and may conditionally approve an application for transfer of a surface or ground water right to be used within its jurisdiction, thereby providing a faster alternative to the state water right permitting process. The Water Conservancy Board has requested that the county expand the board's membership from three to five members to assist in their operation. Should the county act to expand the membership, the county will also appoint new members to fill those positions as soon as possible, potentially on April 8th.

Persons interested in serving on the Water Conservancy Board should submit an application by April 4, 2003. Appointments of the new members will be for approximately 3 and 5 years, respectively, to provide for the staggering of appointments. After the initial board appointments, the board members are appointed for six years. Members serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement of eligible expenses.

Applications can be obtained from the Mason County Commissioners, 411 N. 5th, Shelton, Washington 98584

Ron Henrickson, Mason County Administrator