



# Frequently Asked Questions about Applying for a Variance to the Yakima Adjudication Court Order to Install a Meter for Recording and Reporting Water Use

from Ecology's Water Resources Program

The following information provides questions and answers on installing a meter, and recording and reporting the water use to the Department of Ecology.

**Q:** *What is a time variance to the Court Order?*

**A:** A time variance is an approved change in the schedule ordered by the Adjudication Court for a water user to install a meter. A user must apply to Ecology for a variance if they cannot meet the set timeline for installing their measuring device. Ecology will consider each application on the merits to determine whether a variance is warranted.

**Q:** *How do I apply for a time variance?*

**A:** The instructions and form for applying for a variance are found at Ecology's water metering Web site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/measuring/measuringhome.html>.

If you do not have internet access, contact Ecology's Central Regional office for a form. Complete the form and submit it to the Central Regional office.

**Q:** *What are some reasons that would support a time variance for installing a meter?*

**A:** Each situation is unique, and Ecology understands that there may be sound reasons for not being able to install a meter within the timeframe set in the Court Order. In all cases, users applying for a variance must provide documentation supporting the reasons. The following are some, though not all, reasons that may support a variance:

- Your diversion needs a fish screen and a meter, and you are cooperating with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and one of the conservation districts to design and install a meter and fish screen as an integrated system;
- You have contacted a meter installer and ordered a meter, but the installer will not be able to install a meter until after the court-imposed date;
- You have signed up with a conservation district for cost-sharing with the cost of designing and installing an engineered measuring device, such as a weir, and the date scheduled for construction and installation is after the court-imposed date.

**Q:** *What financial assistance is available for the design, purchase, and installation of meters?*

**A:** The Legislature appropriated about \$1.16 million to Ecology for cost-sharing with users in the design, purchase, and installation of meters. At the same time, the user can sign up with the conservation district for assistance in installing a fish screen or in improving the use and management of water. The result is reduced costs, efficient and timely use of resources.

**Q:** *Where can I get more information on financial assistance?*

**A:** Washington State Department of Ecology

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/measuring/measuringhome.html>, (509) 575-2490, or

**Ken Schuster**

**Ecology Central Regional Office**

15 W Yakima Ave, Suite 200

Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Phone: (509) 454-4263; E-mail: [ksch461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ksch461@ecy.wa.gov)

- Kittitas County Conservation District [www.kccd.net](http://www.kccd.net), (509) 925-8585 ext.4
- North Yakima Conservation District, (509) 454-5736
- South Yakima Conservation District, (509) 837-7911
- Benton Conservation District (509) 786-1923

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