



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager

Date: April 18, 2008

Subject: "Water Without Waste" Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the "Water Without Waste" Month Proclamation.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Environmental concerns over the impacts of bottled water have grown over the past couple of years. One concern revolves around the energy used in the production, transportation, and discarding of disposable water bottles, which consumes millions of barrels of oil and generates tons of greenhouse gases. Another concern is the mere 10% of these bottles actually get recycled.

"Water Without Waste" is a grassroots movement focused on the reduction of plastic disposable water bottles. Leaders of the movement are encouraging everyone to commit to using municipal or non-bottled water during the campaign in May. The goal of the campaign is to educate the public and permanently reduce the landfill waste, pollution, and energy consumption associated with bottled water.

The City of Kirkland has created an internal, interdepartmental team to address the use of bottled water at city-sponsored meetings and events. Some action items currently being worked on include:

- Exploring the possibility of installing another sink near Fire & Building/Finance & Administration area to increase drink usage of city water – *In progress.*
- Work with vending machine company to provide soda in cans instead of plastic bottles – *Completed (except where bottled water available in conjunction with bottled soda)*
- Provide soda in cans and recycling (both food and regular recyclables) at internal events - *Ongoing*
- Ask that drinks not be included in boxed lunches when ordered - *Ongoing*



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating May, 2008 as “Water Without Waste” Month in the City of Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, Kirkland’s drinking water, which comes from the South Fork Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds, is tested every day for purity and safety and meets or exceeds all State and Federal drinking water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland recognizes the need to conserve water as a precious resource and encourages citizens to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council further recognizes that the energy used to in the production, transportation and disposal of single-use water bottles consumes millions of barrels of oil and generates tons of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, according to Water Without Waste, a grassroots movement focused on the reduction of disposable water bottles, 4 million water bottles are used each day in Washington and 3.2 million of those end up in landfills in the state; and

WHEREAS, Water Without Waste advises that it takes 1,000 years for a plastic water bottle to biodegrade; and

WHEREAS, according to Water Without Waste, 25% of bottled water sold is simply municipal city water and is 2,400 times more expensive than tap water;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James L. Lauinger, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2008 as *Water Without Waste month* in the City of Kirkland and encourage citizens, corporations, organizations, and agencies to reduce the use of disposable plastic water bottles for the month of May and drink tap water, or a reusable bottle instead.

Signed this 20th day of May, 2008

James L. Lauinger, Mayor