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RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS AT TIME OF PROPERTY TRANSFER

WHEREAS, RCW 70.05.060(1) relating to the powers and duties of boards of health provides that such boards shall: enforce through the local health officer or the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, the public health statutes of the state and rules promulgated by the state board of health and the secretary of health; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Health Department has the authority as given in WAC 246-272A-0015 to develop local management and regulation as adopted by the Washington State Board of Health July 13, 2005; and

WHEREAS, WAC 246-272A-0015 requires local health jurisdictions in areas bordering Puget Sound including Skagit County, to develop a written plan that will provide guidance to the Health Department regarding development and management activities for all on site septic systems in Skagit County; and

WHEREAS, WAC 246-272A-0015 section (7) (d) states in order to implement the plan the local health officer may require an inspection of the on site septic system at the time of property transfer; and

WHEREAS, WAC 246-272A-0270 section (1) (k) states at the time of property transfer the owner is responsible to provide to the buyer maintenance records, if available, in addition to the completed seller disclosure statement in accordance with chapter 64.06 RCW for residential real property transfers; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Public Health Department has developed an operations and maintenance database for the means of collecting and retrieving septic system maintenance information, which is available to the public at the Health Department or electronically; and

WHEREAS, The Skagit County On Site Sewage Code Rules and Regulations, Chapter 12.05 provides for certification of septic system operations and maintenance specialists; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County Public Health Department provides to the public at the Health Department, electronically and at Septics 101 classes a list of certified operations and maintenance specialists; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County certified operations and maintenance specialist have established in cooperation with the Health Department an on site septic system inspection procedure and a summary report form for reporting such work; and

WHEREAS, an on site septic system inspection provides to the buyer a detailed report of the system's operational status and determines if the system requires any form of maintenance, corrections or repair; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the plan as required in WAC 246-272A Skagit County will adopt the requirement of on site septic system inspections at time of property transfer; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Skagit Valley Herald on January 12, 2006 and January 19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health provided an opportunity for public testimony and questioned staff concerning the proposed charges during the February 14, 2006 public hearing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all septic systems shall be inspected at the time of property transfer by a Skagit County Certified Operations and Maintenance Specialist effective April 3, 2006.

WITNESS our hands and the official seal of our office this 14th day of February 2006.

BOARD OF HEALTH SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

Attest:

Joanne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board

Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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