

**Newman Lake Flood Control Zone District- Options to Improve Funding Fairness**  
**Meeting Summary from 3/17/2010 (Continued from 2/18/2010)**

This is a summary of presentations from Engineer's staff, as administrative staff of the NLFCZD under RCW 86.15.060, and associated direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding proposed fixes to perceived inequities in Newman Lake Flood Control Zone District (District) Assessments. In two meetings (2/18 and 3/17/2010), both short and long term solutions were discussed. Those main ideas and resulting conclusions from the 3/17 meeting are listed as bullet points below. A "Yes" indicates the need for further action by Engineer's staff, while a "No" indicates no further action at this time.

**Short Term**

**A) Voluntary assessments and/or donations from the under-assessed. (RCW 86.15.165)**

**Yes-** Engineer's staff will solicit input on gathering donations or voluntary assessments at the next District Advisory Board meeting.

The BOCC, as District supervisors, can accept donations on behalf of the District via resolution; however such monies cannot be included in the annual assessment roll and as such cannot be employed to reduce overall assessments. Voluntary assessment payments, as set forth in RCW 86.15.165, become permanent once established and could therefore be added to the roll and utilized to reduce overall charges to those who pay assessments.

**B) Local Improvement District (LID) overlay to pick up parcels that are under-assessed without conducting a full map update. (RCW 86.15.160(2))**

**No-** This is not applicable under current District operations. LIDs/ULIDs are authorized to fund the installation of specific facilities/infrastructure. No new facilities or services are proposed for any specific geographical area within District boundaries. Moreover, the authority to create subzones is reserved to countywide FCZDs, which Spokane County does not contain.

**Long Term**

**A) A two-tier system utilizing stormwater fees in addition to current methodology. (RCW 86.15.160(4))**

**No-** This option is not currently being proposed due to the increase in administrative costs associated with such a system, the cost of implementation, and the lack of public support for expanding assessments to watershed contributors.

**B) Introduce legislation to effect changes within RCW 86.09.418 to allow benefit maps to be changed with greater ease.**

**Yes-** District staff will identify shortcomings within the RCW specific to subdivision changes, and conceptualize a language change that would allow properties affected to be adopted into benefit areas upon subdivision without a full map update. The proposed amendment will be coordinated with the BOCC, the Assessor's Office, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the

County Lobbyist before eventual submittal as a bill in an upcoming Legislative Session in Olympia.