



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Council Staff

RE: Adding San Juan County to the Northwest Clean Air Agency

DATE: October 15, 2024

The Northwest Clean Air Agency is a multi-county air pollution control authority organized under Washington's Clean Air Act, currently consisting of Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. The Northwest Clean Air agency is responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local air quality regulations at stationary sources of air pollution in its geographical area. Washington currently has seven such agencies, with additional counties, including San Juan, falling under the Department of Ecology's jurisdiction. Todd Donovan is currently the Chair of the Northwest Clean Air Agency's Board of Directors.

San Juan County currently has an inactive air authority and has requested to join the Northwest Clean Air Agency. Washington's Clean Air act allows two or more contiguous counties to merge any combination of activated and inactive authorities to form one activated multicounty authority. Admitting San Juan County requires approval from the existing member counties via resolution by each county's legislative authority.

The merged Northwest Clean Air Agency will not be formed until all current members have approved San Juan's membership. Island County passed a resolution allowing San Juan County to merge into the existing authority on June 25, 2024, and Skagit County approved a similar resolution on October 7, 2024.

There would be no fiscal impact to Whatcom County as a result of this change. Whatcom's dues to the Northwest Clean Air Agency would remain the same.