

RESOLUTION NO. 993

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON OPPOSING THE IMPERIAL METALS CORPORATION' S
EXPLORATORY MINING PERMIT AND URGING PERMANENT
PROTECTION OF THE SKAGIT HEADWATERS IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon is a non-charter code city pursuant to Chapter 35A.02 of the Revised Code of Washington, incorporated as a city in the State of Washington in 1890; and

WHEREAS, In March 2019, the mining company Imperial Metals applied to the British Columbia, Canada, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to explore in the region of the Skagit River watershed for copper and gold deposits; and

WHEREAS, the permit application by Imperial Metals is currently pending and available to public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon has grave concern about Imperial Mining Corporation's mining proposals in the upper Skagit River watershed area known as the "Donut Hole" and the impacts these proposals will have on our community, environment, and future. Specifically, the City is very concerned about the heavy metals and acidic water that could be released by mining effluent, which could introduce arsenic, copper, lead, aluminum, mercury, and other toxics into our water supply; and

WHEREAS, the headwaters of the Skagit River originate in British Columbia and flow into Washington State through culturally and ecologically sensitive and important lands; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit River watershed and its connected aquifers are the sources for City of Mount Vernon's water supply; and

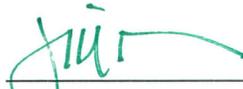
WHEREAS, the Skagit River watershed and the adjacent North Cascades region, is a major recreation and tourism area which supports City of Mount Vernon's economy; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the quality and quantity of the water supply is of utmost importance to the City of Mount Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the governments of British Columbia and Washington State have long recognized the interdependent nature of their decisions affecting their shared environment in the basin of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea; and

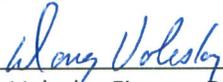
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Washington that due to the potential and significant risk to the Skagit River watershed, the City's water supply, and the local economy posed by the potentially dangerous contaminating effects of mining operations, the City Council expresses its strong opposition to Imperial Metals' exploratory mining permit and potential mining in the Skagit River watershed. We further request the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington work diligently to permanently protect the area in the headwaters known as the "Donut Hole" by extinguishing all mineral extraction and development rights.

ADOPTED by the City Council on this 28th day of April, 2021.



Jill Boudreau, Mayor

Attest:



Doug Volesky, Finance Director

Approved as to form:



Kevin Rogerson, City Attorney