

RESOLUTION NO. 1067-21

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO MINING BY IMPERIAL METALS IN THE SKAGIT RIVER WATERSHED

WHEREAS, In March 2019, the mining company Imperial Metals applied to the British Columbia 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

WHEREAS, gold and copper exploration would eventually lead to the commencement of mining operations – a process which involves the use of cyanide and other toxins and often leads to permanent acid mine drainage which, in turn, could go into headwaters of the Skagit River; 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 Sedro-Woolley'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 Sedro-Woolley's economy; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the quality and quantity of the water supply is of utmost importance to the City of Sedro-Woolley, its neighboring municipal and tribal communities, and to the greater Skagit River valley as well; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley believes that gold exploration in the Skagit River watershed poses an unacceptable risk to the source of City of Sedro-Woolley's drinking water.

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 City of City of Sedro-Woolley 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' gold exploration permit to gold and copper exploration and potential mining in the Skagit River watershed.

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



Julia Johnson, Mayor

Attest:



Doug Merriman, Finance Director

Approved as to form:



Nikki Thompson, City Attorney