



Friends of Toppenish Creek

May 23, 2025

Dear Yakima County Board of Commissioners:

On May 6, 2025, I asked you for the opportunity to present information regarding failure of the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) to properly implement the U.S. and WA State Clean Air Acts in Yakima County.

Having received no response, I now send you additional written documentation of YRCAA problems, in hopes that this will prompt action on your part. There is some urgency to this request because the YRCAA Board of Directors will consider approval of a budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at the June YRCAA Board Meeting and there are significant problems with the proposed budget.

The Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) no longer serves the public as intended by law:

1. The YRCAA board does not respond to citizen concerns. The YRCAA board no longer holds community forums as authorized by the YRCAA board years ago. See Attached 1.
2. The YRCAA board does not comply with YRCAA Administrative Code A. See Attached 2.
3. The YRCAA violates the WA State Open Public Meetings Act. See Attached 3a and 3b
4. Members of the board present information that is biased and not founded in fact
 - a. Statements from Steven Jones and Amanda McKinney. See Attached 4a
 - b. Rebuttal of their claims. See Attached 4b
 - c. History of Liberty/Bosma Dairy. See Attached 4c
5. The YRCAA does not adequately monitor air quality in the Lower Yakima Valley. The YRCAA does not participate in state level discussions regarding overburdened and underserved communities. The YRCAA does not address public health impacts of air pollution. See Attached 5
6. The YRCAA does not properly implement the WA State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). See Attached 6
7. The YRCAA board does not provide proper oversight of staff activities
 - a. Whistle Blower complaints. See Attached 7aa, 7ab, and 7ac.
 - b. Litigation and Oversight of legal counsel. See Attached 7b.

- c. Staff turnover/Inadequate staffing. See Attached 7ca and 7cb.
- d. Comparison of monthly activities. See Attached 7d. See Below

YRCAA Activities in Brief	2020	2024
Minor Source Inspection	123	85
Complaints Received	221	189
Notice of Violation (NOV) Issued	60	35
Notice of Penalty (NOP) Issued	45	12
State Environmental Policy Act Review	352	263
Sources Registered	234	240
New Source Review (NSR) Applications	20	12
Notice of Demolition/Renovation (NODR)	199	117
Agricultural Burn Permits Issued	122	41
Conditional Use Permits Issued	4	7
Residential Burn Permits Issued	1193	764
Burn Ban Days	24	16
Public Records Requests Fulfilled	45	21

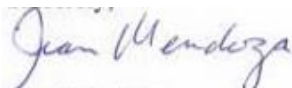
- e. Approval of expenditures. See Attached 7e. See Below

Missing Items – YRCAA Board Meetings	January	February	March	April	May
Clerk of the Board present			X	X	X
Board Member Position 2 filled				X	X
Written Executive Director Report			X	X	X
Monthly Activity Report – complaints, NOV’s, burn bans, permits, etc.		X	X	X	X
Air Quality Data		X	X	X	X
Vouchers	X				X
Payroll Authorizations	X				X

8. The YRCAA has not properly evaluated the proposed YRCAA budget for 2025-26. At the May YRCAA Budget Study Session the YRCAA board spent a total of 8 minutes discussing the proposed budget. This shows an alarming indifference to board responsibilities for an agency with a \$1.5 million budget. See Attached 8a and 8b.

I hope this brings sufficient information to the table to prompt the Yakima County Commissioners to convene a study of the viability of the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency.

Sincerely



Jean Mendoza

Executive Director, Friends of Toppenish Creek

Links to Attachments for Letter to Yakima County BOCC regarding viability of the Yakima
Regional Clean Air Agency

Attachment 1: The YRCAA Board of Directors Does Not Respond To The Public. [YC May 2025 Attachment 1 YRCAA Board Does Not Respond To The Public.pdf](#)

Attachment 2: YRCAA Compliance with Administrative Code Part A. [YC May 2025 Attachment 2 Compliance with Administrative Code Part A.pdf](#)

Attachment 3a: First Letter to WA AG Ombuds. [YC May 2025 Attachment 3a Dear WA Attorney General Ombuds.pdf](#)

Attachment 3b: Second Letter to WA AG Ombuds. [YC May 2025 Attachment 3b Dear AG Ombuds May 10 2025.pdf](#)

Attachment 4a: Statements for Amanda McKinney and Steven Jones. [YC May 2025 Attachment 4a From the April 13 2025 Board Minutes.pdf](#)

Attachment 4b: Rebuttal of Statements from McKinney and Jones. [YC May 2025 Attachment 4b Rebuttal of Allegations by YRCAA Board Members.pdf](#)

Attachment 4c: History of Water Quality Violations by the Bosma/Liberty Dairy. [YC May 2025 Attachment 4c History of Water Quality Violations by the Bosma Dairies.pdf](#)

Attachment 5: YRCAA Support for Funding under the WA Climate Commitment Act. [YC May 2025 Attachment 5 Support for the CCA.pdf](#)

Attachment 6: YRCAA Implementation of the WA State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). [YC May 2025 Attachment 6 SEPA.pdf](#)

Attachment 7aa: Whistleblower 1. [SKM_C30825042220170](#)

Attachment 7ab: Whistleblower 2. [SKM_C30825042220150](#)

Attachment 7ac: Whistleblower 3. [SKM_C30825042220140](#)

Attachment 7b: Who oversees YRCAA legal counsel? [YC May 2025 Attachment 7b Dear YRCAA re Counsel Oversight.pdf](#)

Attachment 7ca: Budget Concerns About Staffing at the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency. [YC May 2025 Attachment 7ca Budget Concerns About Staffing.pdf](#)

Attachment 7cb: YRCAA Air Pollution Control Officer/Executive Director. [YC May 2025 Attachment 7cb Air Pollution Control Officer.pdf](#)

Attachment 7d: YRCAA Activities FY2020 to FY2024. [YC May 2025 Attachment 7d Activities FY2020 to FY2024.pdf](#)

Attachment 7e: YRCAA is barely functioning. [YC May 2025 Attachment 7e Concerns re YRCAA May 9 2025.pdf](#)

Attachment 8a: Request for Budget Clarification. [YC May 2025 Attachment 8a Concerns re YRCAA Budget.pdf](#)

Attachment 8b: Transcription of a Study Session for the 2025-26 Budget at the May 8, 2025 YRCAA Board Meeting. [YC May 2025 Attachment 8b Transcription of a Study Session for the 2025 Budget.pdf](#)