

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
of the
YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the parties to this agreement recognize that the orderly growth and development of Yakima County, its cities and towns, and governmental subdivisions are matters of mutual concern to all parties hereto, and

WHEREAS, the parties to this agreement recognize an existing need for frequent communication and cooperation among themselves as matters common to, and affecting the public governed and served by the various parties to this agreement so that the best interests of the public may be served by coordinated plans and programs resulting in efficiency and economy in local governments, and

WHEREAS, the parties to this agreement recognize the need to make technical services in the areas of planning, administration of programs and grants, and other services available to their jurisdictions in a cost effective manner, now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY AGREED BY THE PARTIES HERETO AS FOLLOWS:

Pursuant to Sections 36.70.060, as amended, and Sections 36.64.080 through 36.64.110, all of the Revised Code of Washington, be it resolved that the Cities of Yakima, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Grandview, Wapato, Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Moxee, Naches, Selah, Tieton, Union Gap, Zillah, the County of Yakima and the Tribal Council of the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation do hereby organize and establish a regional agency, hereinafter referred to as the "Conference." Be it further resolved that the aforementioned Sections of the Revised Code of Washington provide the basis for defining activities of the Conference, but are not intended to limit the Conference's ability to conduct any activity on behalf of the member jurisdictions that can be legally assigned or contracted by the jurisdiction. In this regard, the Conference may be designated by all or some of the member jurisdictions as the legal and administrative entity described in RCW 39.34.030 to perform projects of mutual concern under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, provided these activities are in keeping with the intent of these Articles of Association.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the regional agency so organized and established shall be the "Yakima Valley Conference of Governments."

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The Conference shall generally concern itself with the orderly growth and development of Yakima County and the cities, towns, communities and other governmental subdivisions within Yakima County, and shall serve as a liaison committee to develop and promote communication, understanding, and cooperation among the Conference participants on matters common to, and affecting the public served by the participants in the Conference so as to assure the coordination of plans and programs of participants in the Conference. In addition, the Conference will provide technical services to aid the administration of grants and programs and to provide other services to enable the coordination of multi-jurisdictional programs in a manner that provides greater expertise and lower costs to the member jurisdictions.

Among other things, the Conference shall specifically serve its participants with respect to the following subjects:

(a) To suggest and assist in establishing long range planning goals for Yakima County, the urbanizing area in and around the City of Yakima, and for other cities, towns, communities and other governmental subdivisions within Yakima County, and to engage in a continuing and cooperative planning effort and program in order to serve the best interests of the people of Yakima County.

(b) To assist in the preparation of plans relating to land use, transportation, sewer and water, parks and recreation, human services, housing and other community development activities in the urbanizing area in and around the City of Yakima, and for other cities, towns, communities and other governmental subdivisions within Yakima County.

(c) To assist in the planning and coordination of proposed projects which may involve Federal or State financial participation, and to assist in the review of such project plans so as to assure compliance with areawide comprehensive plans.

(d) To contract or hire technical and administrative staff to perform the work program of the Conference, including planning, grant administration, and other services whereby the Conference as a whole or the individual members can receive increased expertise or reduced costs.

The Conference shall further consider other specific subjects of mutual concern to the various participants in the Conference when requested to do so from time to time by participants in the Conference or when, in the opinion of the representatives of the Conference, it appears that other plans and programs should be developed as being in the best interests of the public served by the participants in the Conference.

ARTICLE III

Boundaries

The boundaries of the jurisdiction of the Conference shall be coterminous with the boundaries of Yakima County.

ARTICLE IV-A

Associate Membership

Associate Membership of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments shall be composed as follows:

The opportunity for the designation of Associate Member of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments shall be made available to governmental organizations, agencies and special service districts upon making written application to the YVCOG office. Following the submission of an application(s), the YVCOG Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, will review the Associate Membership application(s). The Executive Committee will base its approval or disapproval of applications on the need for the services provided by YVCOG, and the overall benefits the specific membership application will have on the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments' purposes and goals.

Associate Membership Privileges

The Associate Member will receive notification of all YVCOG meetings, conferences, work sessions, and will be included in all general membership activities. The Associate Member will also receive the YVCOG monthly newsletter and other YVCOG publications which are developed by any members or the YVCOG staff. Associate Members will have the opportunity to contract with the YVCOG for technical planning assistance at the prevailing rate.

The Associate Member does not retain voting privileges in the YVCOG. The authority to make motions, seconds, and hold Executive Committee positions is not provided.

Associate Member Fees

A yearly fee of \$50.00 will be mandatory for accepted non-profit applicants to retain their Associate Membership status.

The failure of any Associate Member to keep current their yearly fees will result in forfeiture of Membership status and require reapplication.

ARTICLE V

Officers

The officers of the Conference shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman who shall also serve respectively as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

The internal administration, programming, procedures and practices of the Conference, and any other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the general membership of the Conference shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall be composed of the following:

Jurisdiction/Area	Number of Representatives on Executive Committee
Area 1 (Selah, Naches, Union Gap, Moxee, Tieton)	1
Area 2 (Toppenish, Zillah, Wapato, Harrah)	1
Area 3 (Grandview, Granger, Mabton)	1
City of Sunnyside	1
City of Yakima	1
Yakima County	1
Planning Commission Member At Large	1
TOTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	7

The Executive Committee shall be selected in the manner set forth in the Bylaws for the Conference.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as the Conference shall determine and specify in its Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Finances

The sources of funding for operation of the Conference shall be the following:

- (a) Annual assessment to member agencies.
- (b) Contracted fees.
- (c) Grants, donations, or other sources.

The Executive Committee shall annually, prior to October 1, prepare a recommended balanced budget for the ensuing calendar year in the form provided for County budgets. The budget shall include income from recommended assessment of member agencies, anticipated contract fees, grants, donations and other sources.

The budget shall be submitted to each representative of the member jurisdictions within seven days of the Executive Committee's action for the purpose of preliminary review.

At the October General Membership meeting a balanced budget will be adopted, by Resolution, by the Conference and recommended back to the member jurisdictions within seven days. After reviewing the work program and the assessments, each member jurisdiction shall notify the Conference in writing by December 31 of their intent to continue participation in the Conference at the specified assessment or to terminate their participation.

Yakima County, through its Auditor and Treasurer, shall act as the fiscal agent for the Conference. All funds shall be deposited with the Treasurer and disbursed by warrants issued by the Auditor pursuant to vouchers approved by the Conference. The financial operation of the Conference shall be subject to all applicable State statutes governing budgeting and auditing procedures.

ARTICLE IX

Contracts and Contractual Services

The Conference may employ any consultants deemed necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the Conference.

The Conference may contract generally and enter into contract or reasonable agreement with the Federal Government, the State, any municipal corporation and/or other governmental agency for the purpose of providing technical services, administration, planning and/or conducting studies of problems of mutual concern and may receive grants and gifts in furtherance of such programs.

ARTICLE X

Bylaws

The Conference shall adopt Bylaws to carry out the purposes and objectives set forth in the Articles of Association.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Amendments to the Articles of Association will be recommended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the General Membership as outlined in Section I, Paragraph I of the Bylaws. Recommended amendments will be forwarded to the legislative body for each member jurisdiction for approval. Approval by two-thirds of the member jurisdictions is sufficient to ratify any amendment to these Articles of Association.

Revised: February 21, 1984
 January 1985
 September 20, 1989
 December 17, 1997
 September 19, 2001
 May 19, 2004
 December 13, 2006