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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Yakima County Contracts for Advanced Flood Forecasting Services**

SEATTLE, WA. – Yakima County Public Works has contracted with Seattle-based 3TIER Environmental Forecast Group Inc to provide realtime flood forecasts for County Managers on the Naches River near Yakima, Washington. The forecasts, which are available to the managers through an interactive internet web-page, will provide a much greater lead time to potentially damaging floods in the County. Traditional forecasting methods, which are often based on observations of river levels upstream, provide at best a few hours of warning for dangerous flood levels, too short for major flood preparation.

“Floods on the Naches River are very complex. Although the largest floods happen during the winter season, floods are most likely to occur during May and June, this due to intensive snow melt.” said Ken Westrick of 3TIER, “Due to the mountainous terrain and other factors flood waves move very quickly in this region. Managers need time to prepare for floods, and the only way to provide an adequate lead time is to use a combination of observations and high-resolution computer-generated forecast information.”

*3TIER specializes in atmospheric and hydrological forecasting and consulting services. The firm uses state-of-the-art weather, snow, and streamflow prediction models and strategies to provide a wide range of environmental forecasts for energy, transportation, and other commercial clients. [www.3tiergroup.com](http://www.3tiergroup.com)*