

# 2023 STORMWATER SUMMIT: ACTION GOALS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND NEXT STEPS

King County Regional  
Water Quality Committee  
October 4, 2023



**King County**



**Clean Water  
Healthy Habitat**





# Stormwater Management

- Clean Water Healthy Habitat Context
- Stormwater: Relationship to Wastewater
- May 2023 Summit
- Stormwater Action Goals
- What we heard
- Opportunities and Next Steps





# Clean Water Healthy Habitat

*Achieving better results  
sooner for people, salmon  
and orcas*



# Focused Investments and Actions Across Programs:



- Land Conservation
- Stormwater Management
- Wastewater Treatment
- Toxic Waste Management
- Forestry/Forest Health
- Fish Passage
- Floodplain Management
- Habitat Restoration
- Shoreline Management

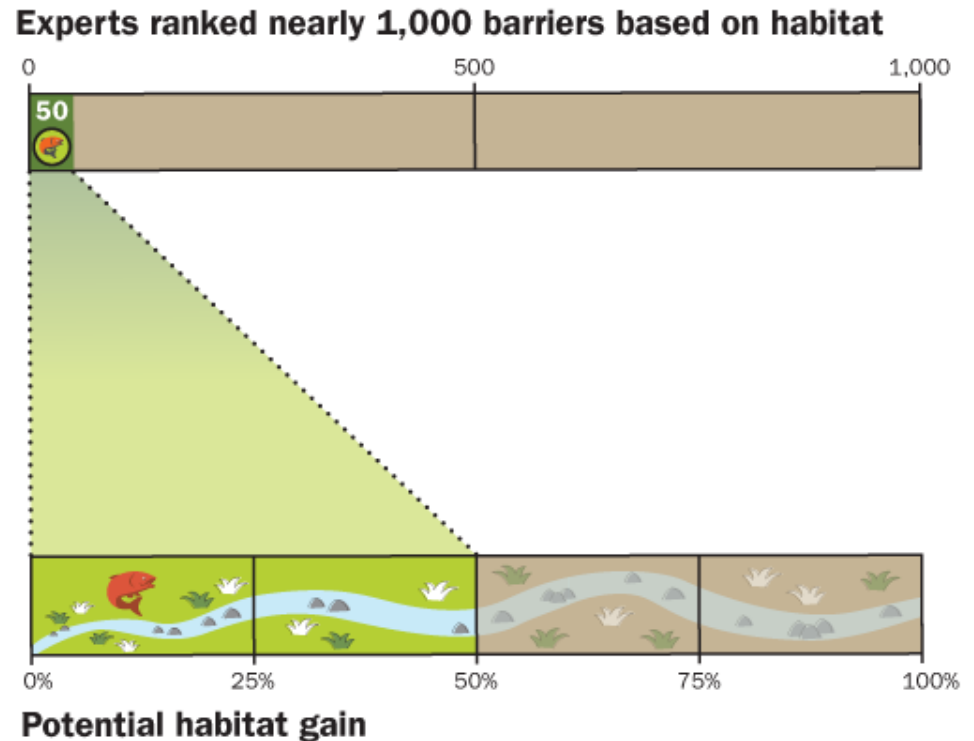


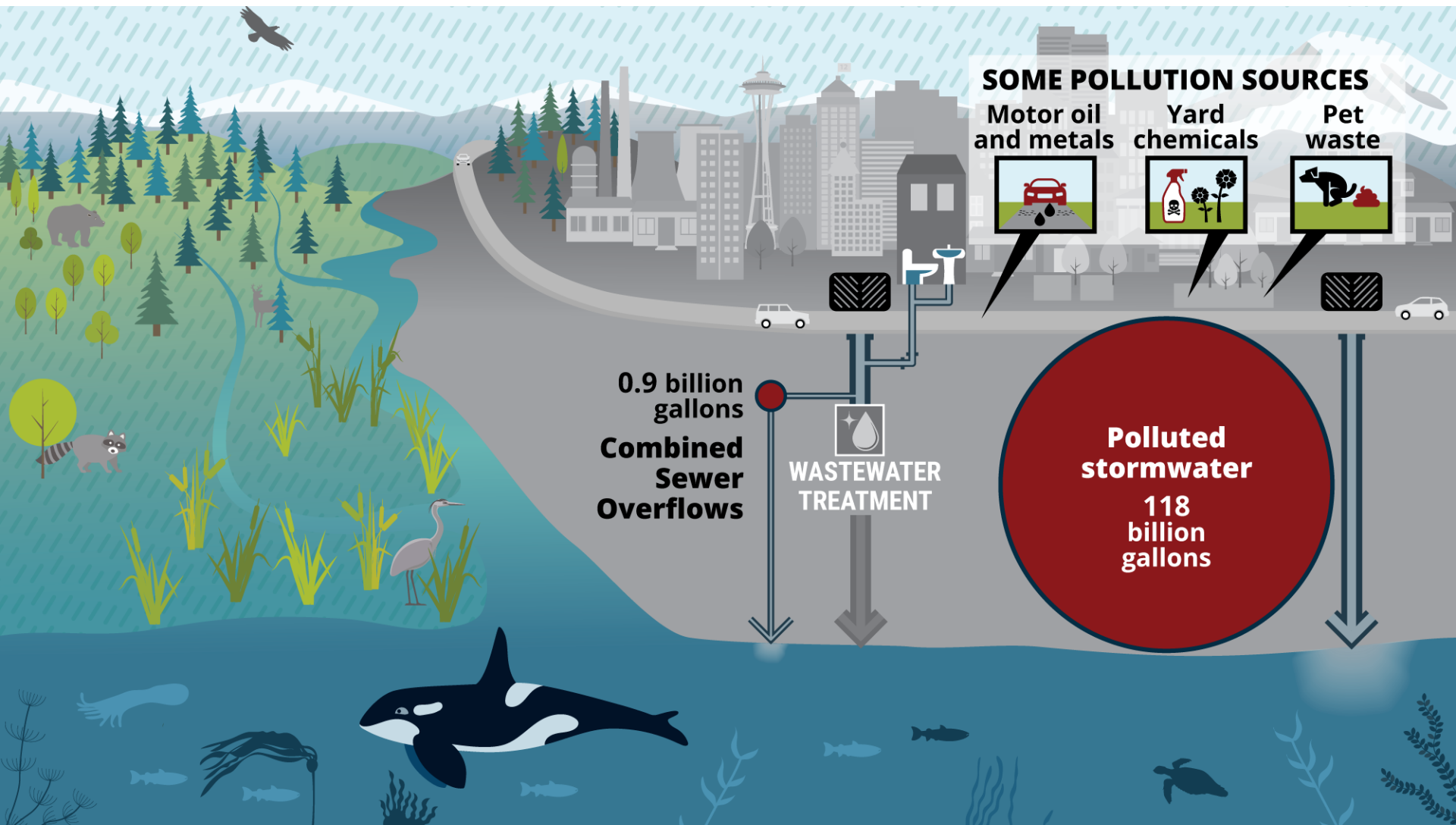




# Fish Passage Example

**Removing  
50 barriers will  
restore access  
to half of the  
fish habitat  
currently blocked**





**SOME POLLUTION SOURCES**

Motor oil and metals

Yard chemicals

Pet waste



0.9 billion gallons  
**Combined Sewer Overflows**

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

**Polluted stormwater**  
118 billion gallons

# Stormwater Management: Key Piece of the Puzzle

Regulations are making a difference for impacts from new development

But. . .

- More than 3/4s of development came before water quality treatment requirements
- New threats: Toxic Tire Dust, PFAS
- Regulations and funding siloed
- Changing climate and precipitation patterns





# May 31, 2023 Stormwater Summit

- **Call to action: Stormwater Pollution**
- **Four Regional Stormwater Action Goals**
- **Lessons Learned: Climate Change and Salmon Recovery**
- **Barriers and Opportunities**
- **Next Steps**



*Provisional*

# Regional Stormwater Action Goals



Clean Water  
Healthy Habitat



King County







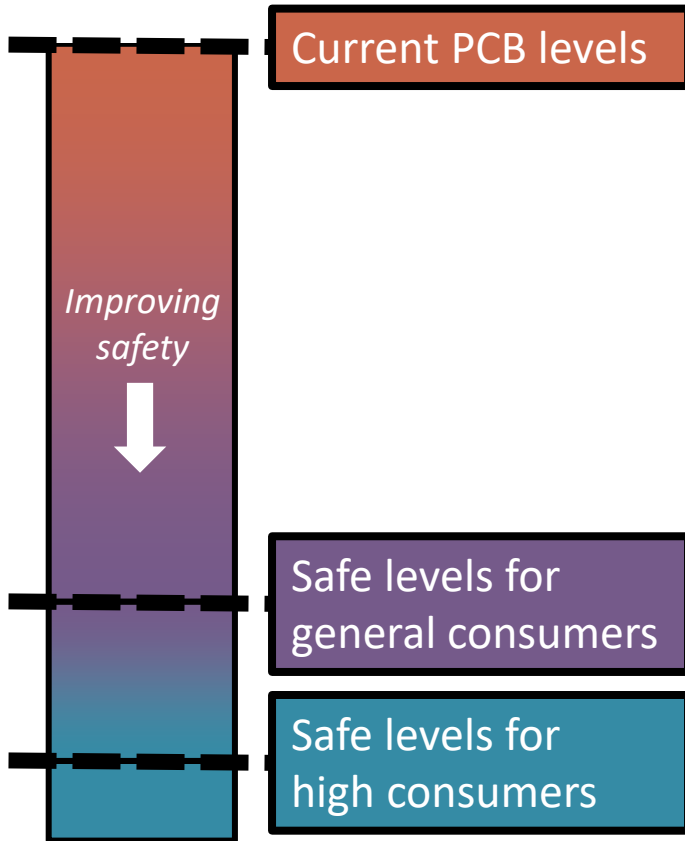
**Current  
advisories for:**

- Mercury
- PCBs
- PFOS

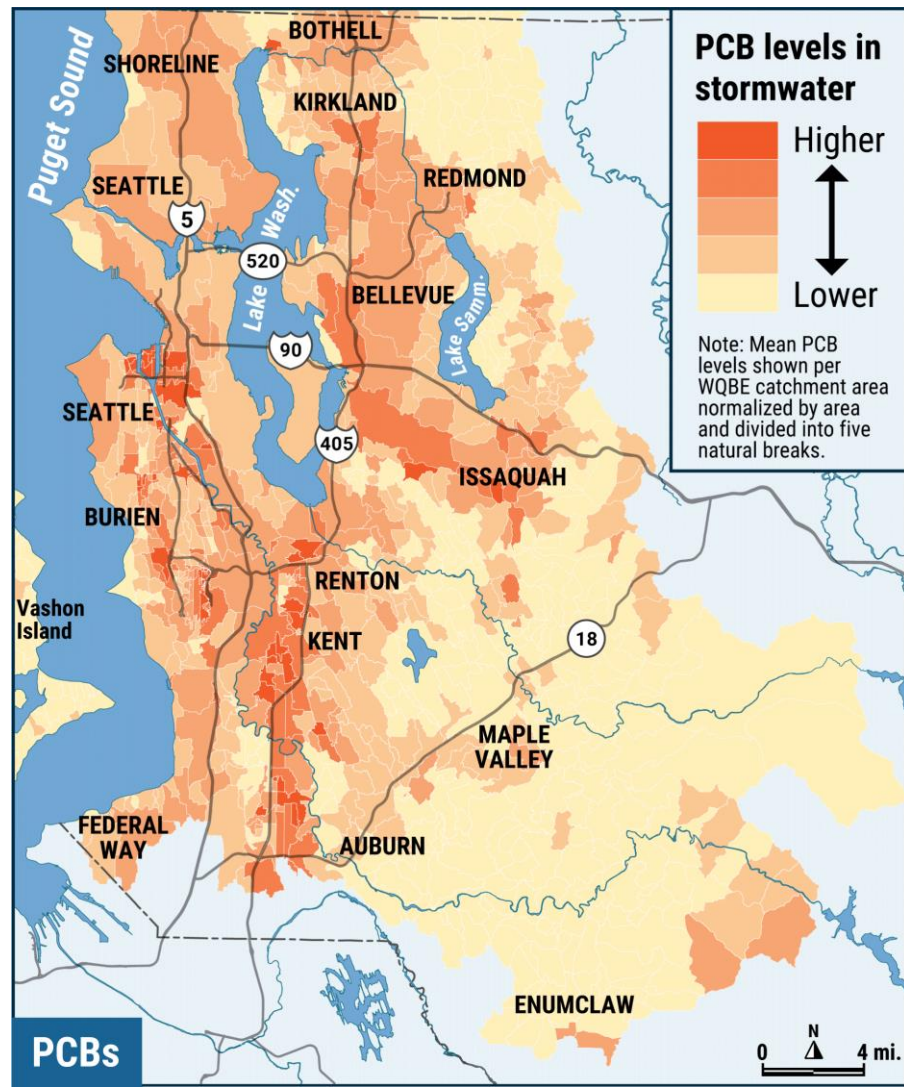
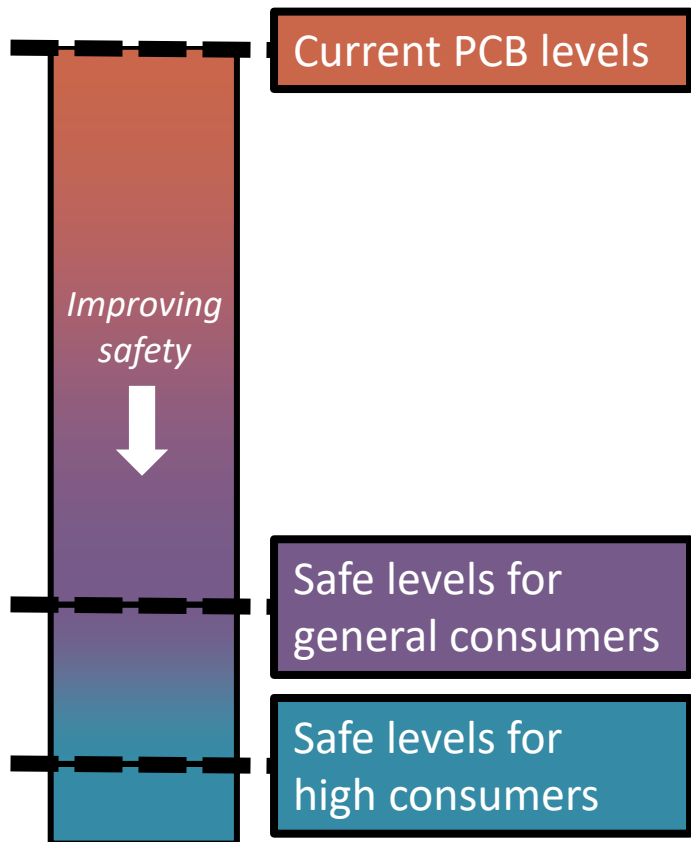


*Example:*

**PCBs in Lake Washington northern pikeminnow**



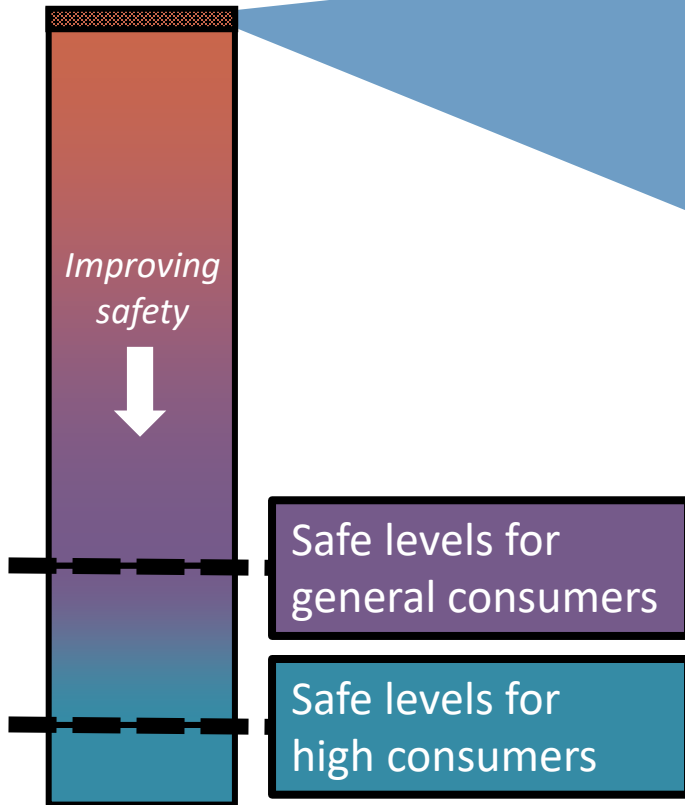
*Example:*  
PCBs in Lake Washington northern pikeminnow





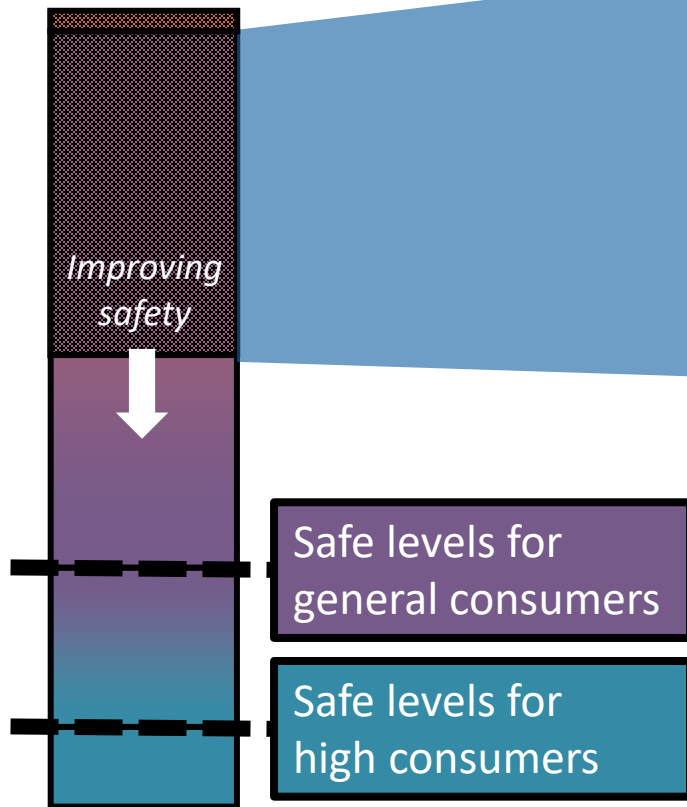
*Example:*

**PCBs in Lake Washington northern pikeminnow**



**Small-scale treatments**

Example:  
PCBs in Lake Washington northern pikeminnow



**Provisional Goal #1:**  
Build 30 strategically sited regional stormwater parks.













**Provisional Goal #2:**  
Treat runoff from 100 miles of roadways through best management practices (BMPs) that remove 6PPD-q and more.







**Provisional Goal #3:**  
Provide flow control to 5,000 acres through a mix of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and new or retrofitted detention ponds.





**Provisional Goal #4:**  
Reduce sources of  
pollutants.

*Goal under development.*



# Water Quality Benefits Evaluation (WQBE) Toolkit

Website: [kingcounty.gov/wqbe](http://kingcounty.gov/wqbe)

Email: [wqbeinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:wqbeinfo@kingcounty.gov)



# What barriers do we face?

## Stormwater Parks Example

- Funding
- Regulatory frameworks
- Tools/approaches to prioritize within watersheds
- Community engagement
- Maintenance



# Opportunities – Near Term

- **WSDOT Retrofit Priorities**
- **Tire Dust Research & BMPs**
- **Municipal Stormwater Permit Update**
- **Local Comprehensive Plan Updates**
- **Federal infrastructure and State Climate Resiliency Funding**
- **Puget Sound SOS Legislation: More attention to Puget Sound**



# Collective Impact: Climate Change



King County - Cities  
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

## Similar Challenge

- Problems don't respect political boundaries
- Need action beyond local government authority
- No dedicated funding stream

***Stronger, more impactful together***

**Shared goals, action commitments in 9 areas**

**Supported by Interlocal Agreement**



# Stormwater Next Steps

1. Affirm and refine 4 action goals
2. Map near-term action pathways for each goal
  - Supportive local, state, federal policies
  - Regulatory Incentives: Watershed-Based Priorities and Regional Stormwater Retrofit Projects
  - Tools, Research, and BMPs for watershed-based priorities
  - Funding/Financing
  - Community and Business Partnerships
3. Build on existing partnerships
4. Consider initial pledge/commitment

