

King County Wastewater Treatment Division
Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (Step 3) Fact Sheet
March 2, 2011

Why continue with analysis of the three recommended strategies?

- Exploration of possible future expansion of reclaimed water production and use is integral to the Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) mission of protecting the region's water quality and the environment.
- Evaluation of reclaimed water as a wastewater management tool is valuable for the NPDES permit renewal process and to prepare for the possibility of greater restrictions on discharges to Puget Sound.
- State law requires wastewater planning consider opportunities for the use of reclaimed water.
- Evaluation of opportunities to use reclaimed water is part of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.
- Reclaimed water could be used for nonpotable irrigation and industrial uses as well as environmental enhancement uses such as stream flow augmentation to support salmon recovery and wetland enhancement.

How much will analysis of the three recommended strategies cost and how long will it take?

- Step 4 of the planning process (analysis of the three recommended strategies) will cost approximately \$300,000 and is expected to take seven months to complete. The cost of the analysis has already been assumed in the current rate of \$36.10 and amounts to \$0.02 over the two-year rate period.

How do the Seattle and King County-Covington Water District reclaimed water studies inform the proposed analysis and why does King County believe that further analysis of the three recommended strategies is prudent?

- The previous studies, along with the recommended strategies for analysis, will provide a more complete picture of potential beneficial uses for reclaimed water in our region.
- The 2010 Seattle study and the 2008 King County-Covington Water District study concluded that reclaimed water in those parts of the region is not a good investment. Recognizing this, WTD's recommended strategies will examine reclaimed water in different geographic areas (see attached map) and with different potential uses than the recommended strategies.
 - The City of Seattle study looked at a lengthy reclaimed water distribution system to serve widely distributed potential uses, most of which are seasonal. The study did not include environmental enhancement uses or potential industrial and commercial uses in a more dense urban area, both of which would be analyzed as part of WTD's recommended strategies.
 - The King County-Covington Water District study looked at production and use of reclaimed water from a large satellite treatment facility serving a number of small seasonal uses. WTD's recommended strategies include very small satellite treatment facilities rather than large satellite treatment facilities.
- WTD's recommended strategies represent an incremental, programmatic approach to explore production and use of reclaimed water from existing regional wastewater treatment facilities or from very small treatment facilities located adjacent to existing regional wastewater pipes.
- Two of the recommended strategies explore use of reclaimed water for environmental enhancement uses, including the use of reclaimed water to improve salmon habitat through increased flows in the Bear Creek and Sammamish River watersheds. These watersheds typically have low flow during the summer, which negatively affects salmon habitat.

