A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating a series of concentric ripples. The droplet is captured in mid-fall, just above the point of impact, with a small splash of water below it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white gradient.

Economic Analyses for Ecology Rulemaking

**Intro for WQS Policy Forum
10-29-12**

**Kasia Patora
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WA Department of Ecology**

Relevant Laws and Publications

Administrative Procedure Act (34.05 RCW)

- Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)
- Least Burdensome Alternative Analysis (LBA)

Regulatory Fairness Act (19.85 RCW)

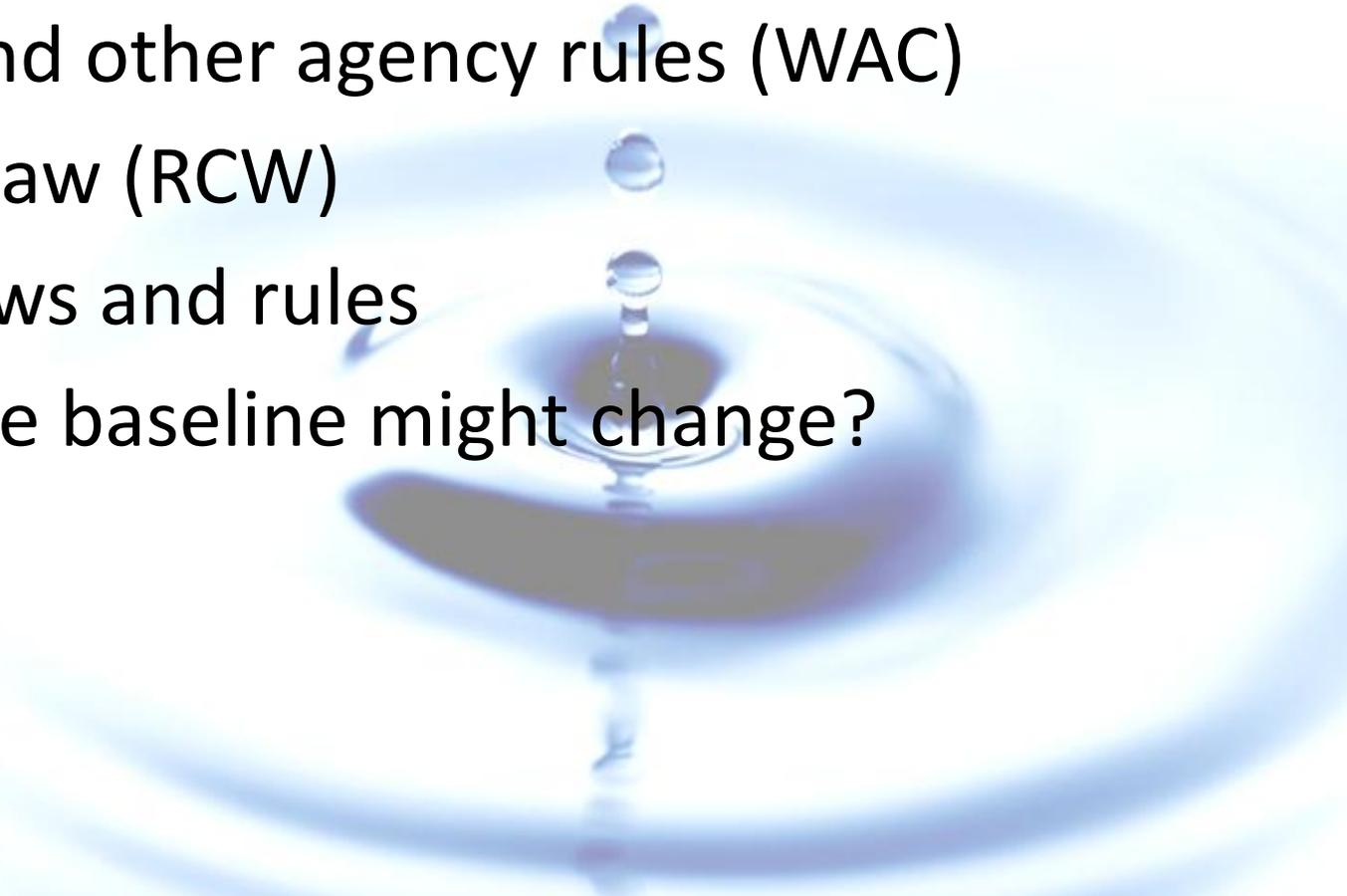
- Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS)

Publication requirements

- CBA/LBA: Published twice
- SBEIS: Published once

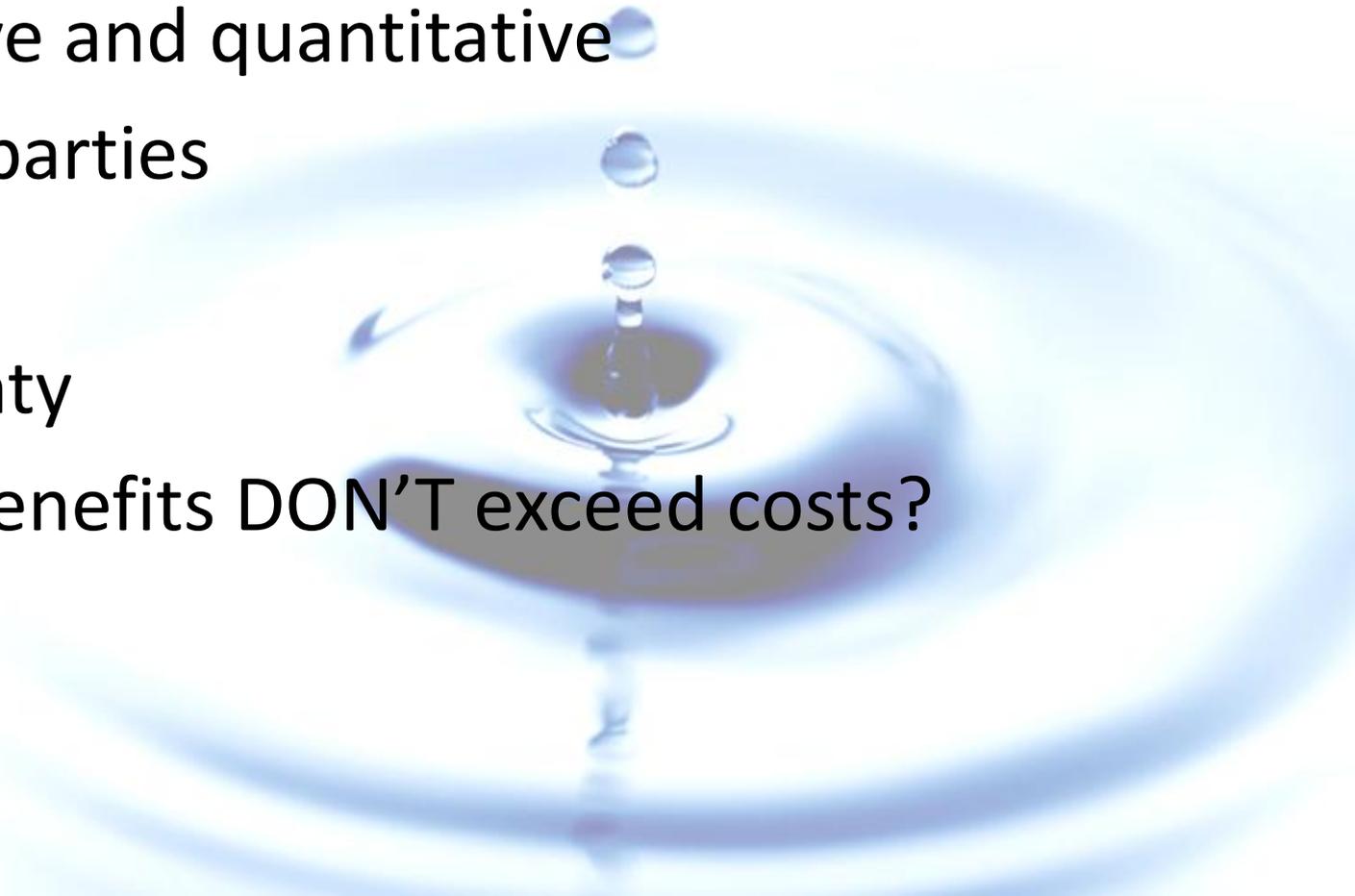
Baseline:

What happens without rulemaking?

- Ecology and other agency rules (WAC)
 - WA state law (RCW)
 - Federal laws and rules
 - What if the baseline might change?
- 
- A large, faint background image of a water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating concentric ripples. The droplet is in the center, and the ripples spread outwards. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a decorative background for the text.

Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)

- Establish that benefits exceed costs
- Qualitative and quantitative
- Affected parties
- Data
- Uncertainty
- What if benefits DON'T exceed costs?



Least Burdensome Alternative Analysis (LBA)

- Alternatives Considered
- Meeting goals and objectives
- Least burden



Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS)

- Small business = 50 or fewer employees
- Businesses in an industry
- Costs of compliance per employee
- Small vs. largest 10%
- Disproportionate impacts?

Mitigate where legal and feasible

A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating concentric ripples. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact. The water is a clear, light blue color, and the ripples are a slightly darker shade of blue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Thank you.

Let's do some Q & A!