

Process Used and Future Course of Action for the *FY 2008, Reclaimed Water Grants Program* (Puget Sound Projects Only, Per Legislation)

- The 2007 Washington State Legislature passed the Capital Budget for the 2007-2009 biennium with funds to assist local governments in the Puget Sound region with reclaimed water needs.
- The Legislature designated \$5,455,000 to be spent solely for grants to local governments for the completion of reclaimed water projects.
- The Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Water Quality Program staff quickly launched and continues in a major effort to develop and implement this new initiative. Staff used two taskforces and the Water Quality Program's Financial Assistance Council to help develop the program now referred to as the *FY 2008, Reclaimed Water Grants Program*.
- Priority is given to projects in water short areas (defined by Ecology and others as areas where available freshwater cannot meet demands of intended uses) and areas where reclaimed water will restore important ecosystem functions in the Puget Sound.
- Staff introduced this preliminary program to attendees at the Pacific Northwest Regional conference: *Reclaimed Water: Tapping the New Resource*, on June 12, 2007. In mid July 2007, Ecology also provided an introduction to the preliminary program to attendees at two workshops, one in Tacoma and one in Lynnwood, Washington.
- Staff posted the final application and funding guidelines on August 8, 2007, and provided other funding information on *Ecology's Water Reclamation Funding website*:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/ReclaimedWaterGrants.htm>
- Evaluators should complete the scoring and ranking process of projects by mid November.
- Water Quality Program staff will prepare a draft offer list, which will be posted approximately November 30, 2007. **The draft offer list and comment period are newly added tasks.**
- Staff will notify all applicants at the time the draft offer list is developed.
- After a two-week comment period, staff will prepare a final offer list with offer letters by late December 2007 early January 2008.
- Beginning in January 2008, Ecology's Project Management Team will use information found in the funding proposal as the basis for developing the funding agreement. Clearly defined project proposals that include measurable objectives and accurate budgets will take less time to develop.
- Ecology fully anticipates all highest priority projects (those to be offered grants) will be started by mid 2008.
- Feasibility assessments should be completed within one year, with construction projects finished within three years.