

# Reclaimed Water Use

Summary of 2007 Report to the  
Governor and State Legislature

Eugene Radcliff  
erad461@ecy.wa.gov



# Purpose

Major legislation in 2006 and 2007 elevated the importance of reclaimed water use within the state of Washington.

- 💧 2006–ESHB 2884

- 💧 Amended Reclaimed Water Act

- 💧 Adopt rules to address all aspects of reclaimed water use by December 31, 2010.
    - 💧 Work with Department of Health and stakeholder advisory committee.

# Purpose

## 💧 2007–E2SSB 6117

- 💧 Reaffirmed & reinvigorate the state's commitment to reclaimed water.
- 💧 Recognized the importance of reclaimed water use:
  - 💧 Consistent, reliable water supply.
  - 💧 Reduced discharge of treated wastewater.
  - 💧 More water in our rivers and streams for salmon recovery and other beneficial uses.
  - 💧 Comprehensive water planning integrating water and wastewater management.

# Purpose

- 💧 2007–E2SSB 6117 (continued)
  - 💧 Legislature assigned 10 tasks.
    - 💧 Rulemaking.
    - 💧 Removing barriers.
    - 💧 Long-term funding.
    - 💧 Local plans and ordinances recognition of reclaimed water.
    - 💧 Watershed management plans recognition of reclaimed water.
    - 💧 Harmonizing new law with other laws.
    - 💧 Governors veto (section 4) water right issues.
      - 💧 Need to address impairment issues.
    - 💧 Health Issues.
    - 💧 2007 capital budget Puget Sound grants.
      - 💧 \$5.4 million to implement high-priority reclaimed water projects.
    - 💧 Reclaimed water use demonstration project.

# Purpose

Report task assignment status to  
Legislature by January 1, 2008.

# Purpose

Rulemaking Status  
Removing Barriers  
Long-term Funding  
Local Plan Implementation

Eight  
Ecology  
Reports

Watershed Management Plans  
Harmonizing Statutes  
Water Right Impairment  
Puget Sound Grants

Reclaimed Water Use  
Combined Report

DOH  
Report

GA  
Report

Related Public Health Issues

Capitol Campus Project

Chapter 1: Ecology Report

# Status of Reclaimed Water Rule

- 💧 Chapter 173-219 WAC
- 💧 The first reclaimed water rule in WA
- 💧 Due December 31, 2010



## Chapter 1: Rule Development

# Key Messages

- ◆ On schedule for rule adoption by 2010.
- ◆ Current focus - complete administrative framework – try it out.
- ◆ 2007 expanded scope of work.
- ◆ Anticipate changes - 2009 session.
- ◆ Developing strategy to address changes.

# Chapter 1: First Year of Rule Development

## Status – December 2007

- ◆ Initiated rulemaking
  - ◆ Staff, CR101, website, listserv, external advisory committee
- ◆ Work closely with DOH – weekly coordination meetings
- ◆ Advisory committee – monthly meetings – June workshop
- ◆ Developed a scope of work with four major sections
  - ◆ permit process – completed advisory input - proposal
  - ◆ technical standards – under development – focus for 2008
  - ◆ submittals and reports - late 2008
  - ◆ other topics of interest – incorporate in 2009
- ◆ Added new assignments from 2007 legislation.

Chapter 2: Ecology Report

# Status of Removing Barriers to Reclaimed Water Use

## Assignment

- 💧 Identify and recommend ways to reduce barriers to reclaimed water use.
- 💧 Consider more appropriate name for reclaimed water.



## Chapter 2: Removing Barriers

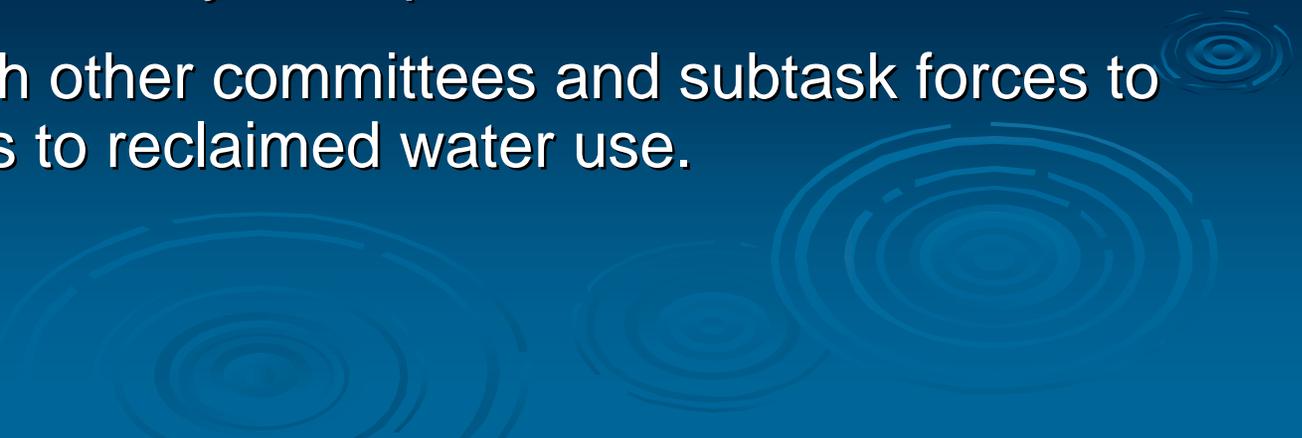
# Key Messages

- ◆ Ecology and the Removing Barriers Subtask Force prioritized the assigned tasks into a work plan for 2008.
  - ◆ The subtask force agreed to focus their major work on recommendations for legislative changes (planning and incentives) during the first half of 2008.
  - ◆ The subtask force recommends keeping the generic name “reclaimed water.”
- 

## Chapter 2: Removing Barriers

# Status

Ecology and the subtask force completed the following tasks in 2007:

- ◆ More appropriate name for reclaimed water.
  - ◆ Reviewed existing organizational charts, staffing, and the information flow between Ecology and DOH.
  - ◆ Reviewed available information from previous efforts.
  - ◆ Prepared a preliminary work plan for 2008.
  - ◆ Coordinate with other committees and subtask forces to reduce barriers to reclaimed water use.
- 

Chapter 3: Ecology Report

# Status of Long-term Funding Program

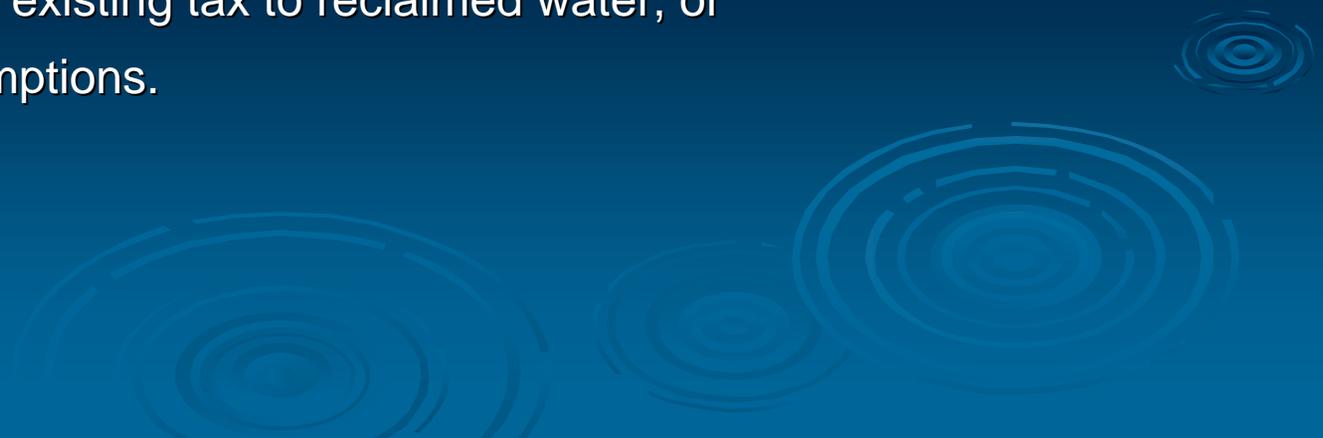
## Assignment

- The subtask force assignment is to recommend a dedicated competitive funding program for reclaimed water infrastructure.



## Chapter 3: Long-term Funding

# Key Messages

- 💧 Existing state and federal funding sources for wastewater treatment are insufficient.
  - 💧 Estimated need of \$365 million for by 2010.
  - 💧 Initial funding program of \$50 million dollars with phased increases.
  - 💧 Potential revenue sources include a tax:
    - 💧 Bottled water,
    - 💧 Soft drinks,
    - 💧 Increasing the public utility tax,
    - 💧 Dedicating the existing tax to reclaimed water, or
    - 💧 Sales tax exemptions.
- 

## Chapter 3: Long-term Funding Status

The Long-term Funding Subtask Force recommended a funding program that:

- ◆ Includes all required components including eligibility and provisions for grants and loans.
- ◆ Considers the grant funding needs for financial hardship and for high priority areas.
- ◆ Immediate implementation followed by additional review of effectiveness and need within four to six years.
- ◆ Consideration of reclaimed water funding need as part of the broader evaluation of local government infrastructure.

Chapter 4: Ecology Report

# Status of Reclaimed Water Implementation in Local Plans

## Assignment

- 💧 Review existing conservation and water reuse plans or programs for cities, counties, and districts.
- 💧 Recommend additional provisions for reclaimed water use requirements.

## Chapter 4: Reclaimed Water Implementation

# Key Messages

- ◆ Most water plans and ordinances identify water conservation. However, reclaimed water is not universally part of all local plans or ordinances.
  - ◆ Ecology found a positive attitude and interest in reclaimed water use.
  - ◆ Several organizations requested additional options and resources to facilitate the use of reclaimed water.
- 

## Chapter 4: Reclaimed Water Implementation Status

- ◆ The Removing Barriers Subtask Force will consolidate the information and report to the Legislature with recommendation for the 2009 legislative session.
- ◆ Ecology assigned Task 2 to the Removing Barriers Subtask Force.



## Chapter 5: Ecology Report

# Status of Implementation in Watershed Planning

### Assignment

- The number of watershed management plans using reclaimed water as potential source or strategy to meet future needs.
- Provisions in any watershed implementation plans that discuss barriers to implementation of the water reuse elements of those plans.
- Potential costs of reclaimed water facilities.
- Potential sources of funding for reclaimed water facilities.

## Chapter 5: Implementation in Watershed Planning

# Key Messages

- Ecology reviewed 32 watershed management plans.
  - Each plan uniformly addressed reclaimed water.
  - Ecology reviewed 7 watershed implementation plans.
  - 4 of those 7 addressed reclaimed water.
  - Costs for reclaimed water projects varied widely.
- 

## Chapter 5: Implementation in Watershed Planning

# Status

- January 2008, Ecology will provide a separate report on the status of watershed planning.



Chapter 6: Ecology Report

# Status of Harmonizing Statutory Planning Requirements

## Assignment

- Directed Ecology to work with legislative leadership to address reclaimed water planning and provide a report and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2008.

## Chapter 6: Harmonizing Statutory Planning Requirements

# Key Messages

The AG's office recommended:

- A combination of a simple amendment to each of the statutes referenced and revisions to RCW 90.46.120.
- Ecology should get additional stakeholder input before proposing recommendations to amend these statutes.

## Chapter 6: Harmonizing Statutory Planning Requirements

# Status

- Ecology assigned the task to the Removing Barriers Subtask Force.

Chapter 7: Ecology Report

# Water Right Impairment Issues

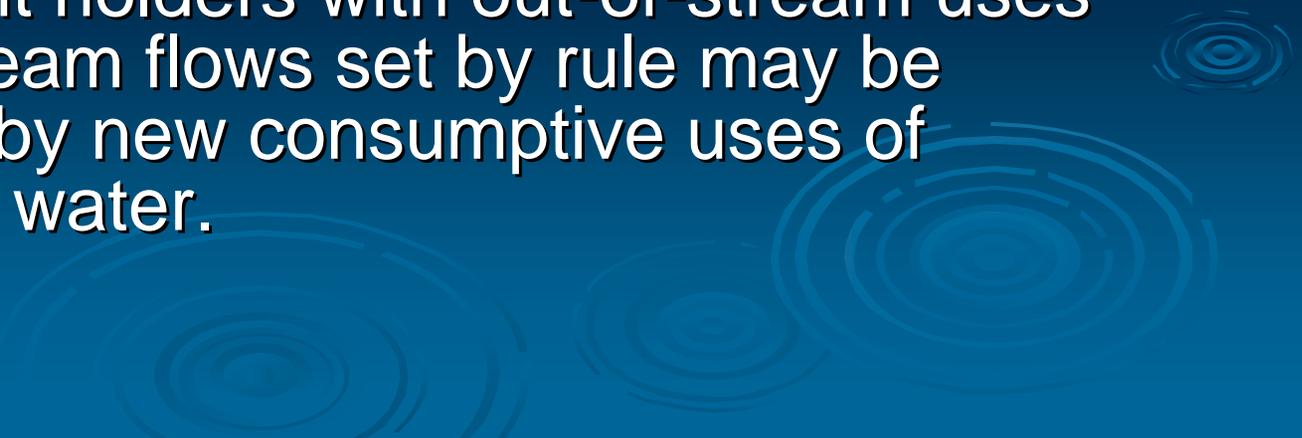
## Assignment

- Ecology was directed to address impairment of the rights of reclaimed water facilities versus the rights of existing water right holders.



## Chapter 7: Water Right Impairment Issues

# Key Messages

- Water right issues are complex and need to be addressed, it is important to consider the broad range of perspectives.
  - Discharges to the Puget Sound estuary or other marine waters would “automatically” not impair existing water rights.
  - Water right holders with out-of-stream uses and in-stream flows set by rule may be impacted by new consumptive uses of reclaimed water.
- 

## Chapter 7: Water Right Impairment Issues

# Status

- 💧 Reviewed other states' approaches to water rights impairment and reclaimed water.
  - 💧 Examined case studies to understand the legal and physical differences across the state.
  - 💧 Developed a list of priority questions needing resolution.
- 

## Chapter 8: Health Report

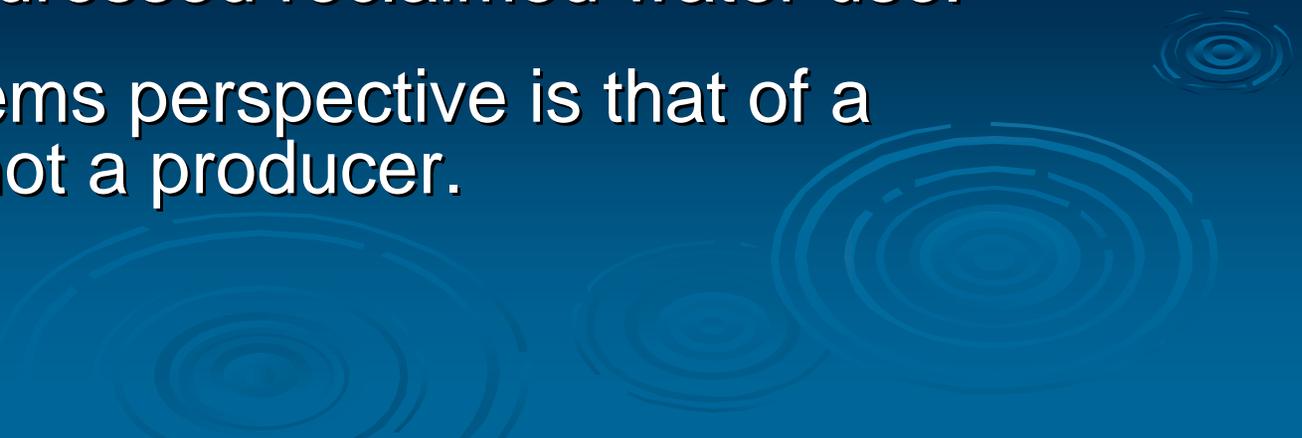
# Related Public Health Issues

### Assignment

- Report the status of greywater standards and guidelines development.
- Report the status of commercial and industrial permit fee development for reclaimed water use.
- Report on DOH analysis of reclaimed water in water system planning.
- Identify potential public health risks associated reclaimed water.
- Identify public information and acceptance programs for reclaimed water.

## Chapter 8: Related Public Health Issues

# Key Messages

- ◆ DOH is on schedule to adopt rules for greywater use by December 2010.
  - ◆ DOH intends to consider permit fees in conjunction with the advisory committee.
  - ◆ 100% of the coordinated water system plans submitted to DOH and 78% of the individual systems addressed reclaimed water use.
  - ◆ Water systems perspective is that of a consumer not a producer.
- 

## Chapter 8: Related Public Health Issues

# Key Messages (continued)

- ◆ Dr. James Crook evaluated potential public health risks.
  - ◆ Public information and outreach are key ways to gain public acceptance of reclaimed water projects.
  - ◆ Most local agencies lack expertise in this area—support from state agencies is necessary.
- 
- The bottom of the slide features a decorative graphic of several concentric, light blue circles that resemble ripples on water, set against the dark blue background.

## Chapter 8: Related Public Health Issues

# Status

- Working toward the goal of achieving a one permit fee system regardless of which agency issues the permit.

Chapter 9: Ecology Report

# Capital Budget Funding Provisions for Puget Sound

## Assignment

Under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1092, Section 3044 –The budget directs Ecology to administer funds solely for grants to local governments in Puget Sound to complete reclaimed water projects.



## Chapter 9: Capital Budget Funding Provisions—Puget Sound

# Key Messages

- The competition for the \$5.4 million of funding was high.
- Ecology received 23 applications with a combined grant request of \$17.5 million.
- Ecology anticipates that all of the funded projects will begin by mid-2008.
- The success of this initial program demonstrates the value of continuing funding support for reclaimed water use projects.

## Chapter 9: Capital Budget Funding Provisions—Puget Sound Status

- ◆ In June 2007, Ecology responded quickly to administer the new funds.
  - ◆ Ecology accepted applications through September 28, 2007, and completed evaluations in November 2007.
  - ◆ Ecology is currently preparing a draft offers and applicant list for posting to the website in December 2007.
  - ◆ In January 2008, Ecology will use information from the funding proposal, to develop grant agreements.
- 

Chapter 10: General Administration Report

# Capital Campus Project

## Assignment

E2SSB 6117, Section 11—directs GA and the City of Olympia to develop a proposal to build the infrastructure, estimate costs, and identify potential funding sources required to use reclaimed water for irrigation and related outdoor uses at the state's Capitol Campus.



## Chapter 10: Capital Campus Project

# Key Messages

- GA and Olympia evaluated three options to achieve their legislative task.
- The recommended approach will cost approximately \$2.32 million.
- The total amount available to the project is \$930,000 leaving a need for \$1,390,000 in new money.
- The savings include:
  - An additional 12 million gallons of potable water each year.
  - Approximately \$40,000 in annual water costs.

## Chapter 10: Capital Campus Project Status

- GA and the Olympia recommend Option 2 described in Chapter 10.
- Estimated cost = \$2.32 million.
- Funding deficit = \$1.39 million.
- Ready to proceed on funding.



Questions?