



King County

KING COUNTY REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

State Funding Request Fact Sheet

What is the proposed planning process?

On October 31, 2005, a broad-based “Scoping Committee” endorsed a “Planning Framework” to move discussions forward on water resource and water supply planning for King County. The objective is to initiate a formal planning process by September 2006, and complete the planning by updating existing Coordinated Water Supply Plans, or developing a new one(s), by December 2007.

The potential elements of the planning process identified by the Scoping Committee include assuring adequate water supplies to meet population and economic growth, evaluating and prioritizing instream flow needs for fish, incorporating climate change impacts on both water supplies and instream flows, addressing public health and resource management problems associated with failing systems and exempt wells, and adding the use of reclaimed water as a feasible source of supply for nonpotable purposes. Each of these topics, and several others, will be addressed by technical committees that will convene in early 2006, and develop information and recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the formal planning process.

Who is participating in the planning process?

The planning process was initiated under a February, 2005 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on water resource and water supply planning between King County and the Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade)—a group of eight local governments and special purpose districts in King County. The members of Cascade are the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond, and Tukwila, and the Covington Water District, the Skyway Water and Sewer District, and the Sammamish Plateau Sewer and Water District. Cascade provides wholesale water supplies to over 300,000 residents of King County.

Pursuant to the MOU, the King County Executive invited participation in a “Scoping Committee” by a large group of stakeholders. All of the invitees chose to participate. The entities represented included the City of Seattle; City of Auburn; King County Council; Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; Washington Environmental Council; Shared Strategy for Puget Sound; three state agencies (the Departments of Ecology, Health, and Fish and Wildlife); Tacoma Public Utilities; Lakehaven Utility District; Woodinville Water District; Cedar River Water and Sewer District; Seattle-King County Public Health; and King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) and Cascade. The

Committee was chaired by Louise Miller (former state legislator and former King County Council member), and facilitated by Dan Silver, former Deputy Director of the Department of Ecology, and Kaleen Cottingham, former Deputy Commissioner of Public Lands for the state Department of Natural Resources.

The Scoping Committee members have agreed to continue as members of a “Coordinating Committee” to oversee the next phase of the process. This Committee’s membership is being expanded to include a business representative; another environmental organization; a Pierce County Council representative; and an additional suburban city in King County. This group has also created an “Executive Committee” to guide the broader Coordinating Committee. Members of the Executive Committee include King County, Cascade, City of Seattle, City of Auburn, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Department of Ecology.

What is the expected outcome of the planning process?

Each of the technical committees will produce reports and recommendations on elements that could be included in a water planning process. King County and Cascade have identified minimum planning objectives that include meeting state water supply planning requirements, including the Public Water System Coordination Act, and incorporating reclaimed water into the water supply alternatives within King County. The scope may be broader, depending on recommendations and agreements produced by the technical and coordinating committees. The formal planning process will be initiated in September 2006, presumably under the Public Water System Coordination Act. Participation in the planning process under the Coordination Act will be voluntary, and the process will comply with relevant provisions of state law (RCW 70.116).

Has King County done any planning under either the Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82) or Salmon Recovery Act (RCW 77.85)?

All the watersheds in King County have developed salmon recovery plans under the Salmon Recovery Act, which have just been endorsed by the federal services as components of a Puget Sound-wide recovery plan under the Endangered Species Act. No planning has been undertaken under the Watershed Planning Act, largely because of difficulties under that law with recognition of tribal rights and interests.

How will the King County process relate to broader regional water planning?

There is currently no regional water planning process. Some of the technical issues—e.g., demand forecast, supply options, and climate change—are broader issues, and will not be limited to King County. Technical committee work on these topics will be linked with other groups or processes already engaged—such as the Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers Forum, which will take the lead for developing a regional demand forecast.

How will the planning process be funded?

The current plan is to do the initial work, to the extent possible, within the existing or planned resources of the participants. A complete budget, and a funding strategy, will not be completed until the technical committees have finished their work.

What will state funding be used for?

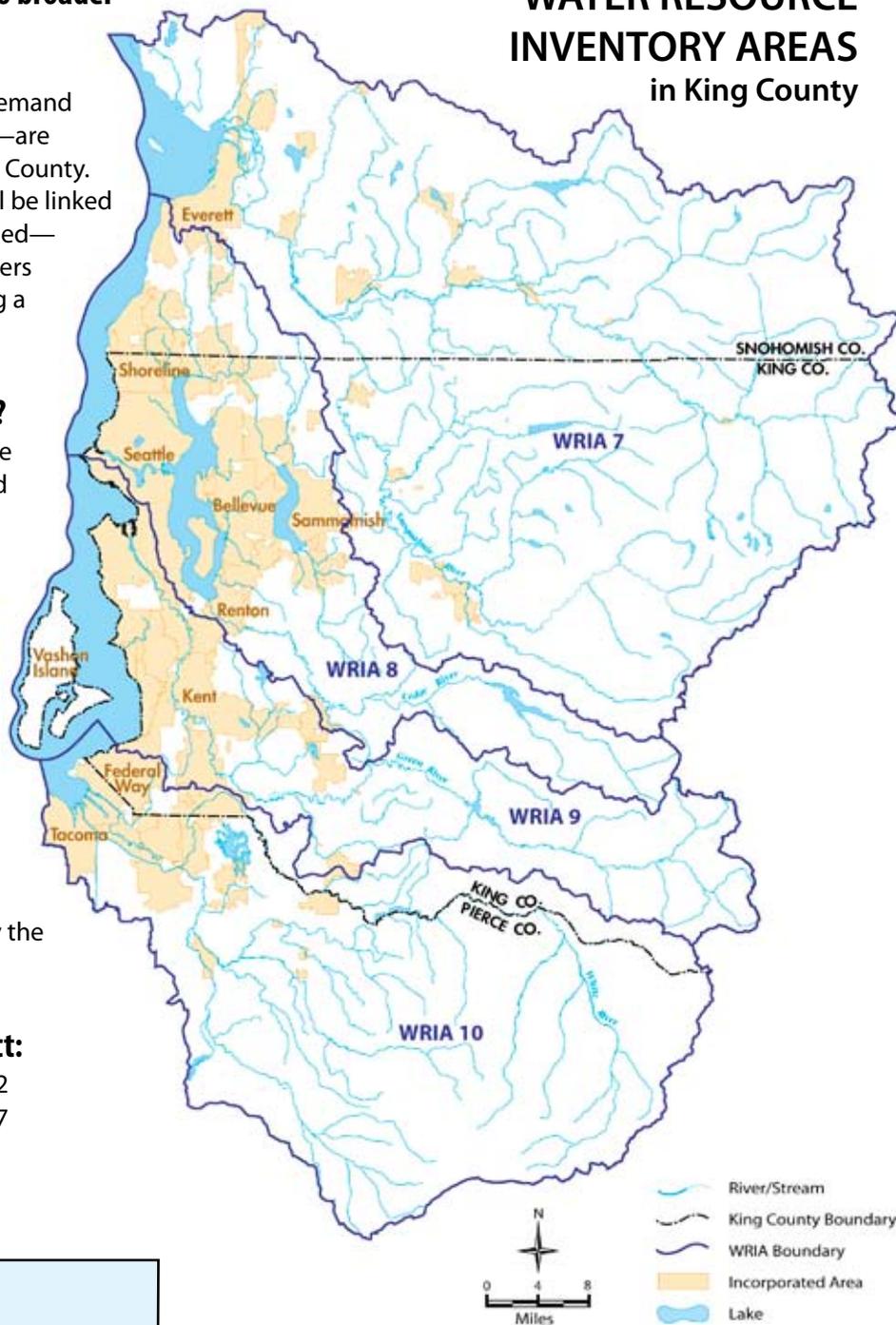
At this point, the intended use will be for (1) state agency participation, (2) some technical studies, (3) facilitation, (4) administration, and (5) potentially some expenses of participant stakeholders. State funding would supplement, and not replace, the funding already committed or planned by the participants.

For additional information, please contact:

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WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREAS in King County



KING COUNTY

- Largest, most-populated county in Washington: current population of about 1.8 million, forecasted to grow to 2.2 million by 2022
- Four major watersheds with multiple fish runs, including ESA-listed species (chinook salmon, bull trout)
- Nearly 1900 public water systems, ranging in size from two connections to the largest in the state (Seattle)
- Four federally-recognized Indian tribes with either reservations or treaty rights in King County



King County

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Wastewater Treatment Division

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Alternative Formats Available
206-296-6500 711 (TTY Relay)

