



## Introduction

The Island County Water Resource Management Plan is a dynamic working document for ongoing and future water management. Its recommendations were developed in a series of Topic Papers over a three-year period (see the Final Plan, Appendix F, for a compilation of all Topic Papers). Most of the Plan’s thirty-one recommendations are strategies for comprehensively ensuring safe and adequate water supplies.

This Implementation Plan proposes “Actions” to fulfill the objectives of the Island County Water Resource Management Plan. These Actions are meant to be realistic and doable, and represent creative compromise between best case scenarios and reality.

All of the Water Resource Management Plan’s recommendations are considered important. Within the Implementation Plan, some Actions are considered higher priority based on effectiveness, public acceptance, ease of implementation, and costs. Actions are grouped within the Implementation Plan as “High Priority,” “Medium Priority,” or “Low Priority.”

**High Priority Actions:** These actions have high effectiveness, low cost, high public acceptance, and high ease of implementation. They may already be in process of being implemented, and may build on existing Island County operations and programs.

**Medium Priority Actions:** Island County recognizes the value of these actions. Their effectiveness is such that it is a matter of when, not if, to implement. In some cases, their effectiveness may not have high enough to justify costs. In other cases, an action may have high effectiveness (such as outreach and education) but require a commitment to ongoing funding.

**Low Priority Actions:** Although these actions may be effective, they may have high cost, low public acceptance, or low ease of implementation. Island County recognizes that additional cost-benefit analysis should take place before allocating resources for implementation. If funding for an action became available, the Water Resource Advisory Committee or appropriate implementing agency should reassess priority.

The Implementation Plan will provide detailed descriptions of Actions (based on Plan Recommendations), including timeframes, implementing agencies, supporting agencies, and tasks description. Appendix A provides a list of various agencies, which can provide potential funding for ongoing and future projects in this Implementation Plan. Because the planning process is a dynamic process, the priorities, actions, and timelines may change over time as new issues emerge or funding resources change. The priorities, actions, and timelines described in this document represent the best estimate of implementation of the plan right now.



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

Island County passed an ordinance to implement several key recommendations in the Watershed Plan. The Board of Island County Commissioners adopted the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and Seawater Intrusion Policy soon after the Water Resource Management Plan was adopted in June of 2005. The Water Resources Advisory Committee, Island County and the State Department of Ecology and State Department of Health are discussing if implementation of watershed recommendations requires formal agreements. Other implementation actions that require agreements, permitting needs, or ordinances and rules, may develop over time.



## **High Priority Action (A)**

### **Data Collection**

Request input and/or feedback, from Island County water system operators, regarding Water Resources Implementation Plan actions.

**Background:** As per RCW 90.82.048, Island County needs to ensure that stake holders, for municipal water supply purposes not currently in use, are asked to participate in defining the interim milestones to be included in the detailed implementation plan. Involve Whidbey Island Water Systems Association and Camano Island Water Systems Association in these processes.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing, completed by 2008

### **Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Public Health

### **Supporting Agencies:**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Water Resource Advisory Committee

### **Task Description:**

1. Send out letter to all holders of municipal water systems, inviting them to participate in the process of the evaluation of a countywide assessment of the water resource capacity to help define inchoate rights in Island County.  
Interim Milestone: 2007
2. Upon completion of Task 1, an assessment could be made of the future use of inchoate water rights, which may help define projected water supply needs.  
Interim Milestone: 2007/2008
3. Identify sub-basins of watersheds where coordination is needed between water system planning and local watershed planning.  
Interim Milestone: 2008
4. Develop a work plan for conducting the necessary coordination.  
Interim Milestone: 2008

### **Potential Funding Source:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds

## High Priority Action (B)

### Water System Coordination

Facilitate communication between water systems. (*Recommendation 1*)

**Background:** Support and partner with the Camano Water Systems Association and the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association, to provide education for water system operators and managers. Water Systems Associations can help water systems increase their efficiencies, when the associations share resources and information. Water operator and purveyor education is an important aspect of better water system management. Both the Camano Water Systems Association and the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association are models of encouraging communication between purveyors. Their successes include educational workshops, disseminating informational materials, and identifying industry and government sponsors for offering workshops.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Camano Water Systems Association  
Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

**Supporting Agencies:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee  
Island County Public Health

**Tasks:**

1. As opportunities arise, Island County Water Resources Advisory Committee will continue to work with the Camano Water Systems Association and the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association, to disseminate educational materials to their member systems and to offer educational workshops for all water system operators and managers.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
2. As needs or issues emerge, Island County Water Resources Advisory Committee will provide newsletter articles for the Camano Water Systems Association and the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
3. As needs or issues emerge, Island County Water Resources Advisory Committee will provide speakers for meetings of the Camano Water Systems Association and the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
4. Continue to develop partnerships with existing community groups.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

### **Potential Funding Source:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds



## High Priority Action (C)

### Water System Coordination

Update the Island County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP, 1990).  
(*Recommendation 6A*)

**Background:** An updated Island County CWSP would enable water purveyors and regulatory agencies to better manage and develop public water supplies. The CWSP is an element of the Island County Comprehensive Plan, which should be updated every five years, and has not yet been updated.

**Timeframe:** Because revising the Coordinated Water System Plan requires significant resources and authorization by elected official to commence, developing a timeframe for implementation is difficult. The current timeframe to begin an update is 2008.

#### **Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Planning Department

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Washington State Department of Health  
Island County Public Health  
Island County Public Works  
Water Resource Advisory Committee  
City of Langley  
City of Oak Harbor  
Town of Coupeville  
Camano Water Systems Association  
Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

#### **Tasks:**

1. Form an advisory group to update the Island County CWSP; gain Board of Island County Commissioner approval for process.  
Interim Milestone: 2008
2. Ensure that the following recommendations are considered during the update of the CWSP.  
Interim Milestone: 2009
  - Redistribute groundwater from areas with high quality and quantity to impacted areas (most likely shorelines); would require water system infrastructure improvements, standardization, and connections.
  - Require individuals to make a “request for existing water service” before drilling new wells. State Department of Ecology well drilling guidelines should include checking for existing water service prior to drilling; notification would then be



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

given to nearby public water systems, Island County Public Health, and the State Department of Health.

- Work to update service area maps and disseminate between departments.
- Add value to the Department of Health State Revolving Fund for consolidating systems; expand definition of “water system improvements” to include management with other systems. Want smaller systems to hook together and consolidate, which would require additional infrastructure. When applicants apply for a loan, they should get additional credit if working towards standardization.

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, County Funds, and United States Department of Agriculture.



## **High Priority Action (D)**

### **Water System Coordination**

Emergency planning for potable water supplies.

**Background:** From various recommendations in the Water Resource Management Plan, the Water Resource Advisory Committee developed a subcommittee to assist developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan for potable water. This plan will identify how to access potable water in an emergency and will become a component of the Island County Emergency Services Plan.

**Timeframe:** The planning stage is in process and is scheduled to be completed in 2007. Education and outreach would continue after the plan is implemented in 2007.

#### **Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Department of Emergency Management

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee  
Camano Water Systems Association  
Whidbey Island Water Systems Association  
Island County Public Health  
Island County Public Works  
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
City of Langley  
City of Oak Harbor  
Town of Coupeville  
Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Department of Ecology

#### **Tasks:**

1. Facilitate and coordinate discussions between water supply entities and emergency services agencies.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
2. Develop a plan to identify the resources and assets for potable water, and how to access these in the event of an emergency.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing, with the plan scheduled for completion in 2007.
3. Ensure that Education and Outreach of Emergency Preparedness are considered during and after the development of the Plan.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing, future

#### **Potential Funding Source:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds and County Funds





## High Priority Action (E)

### Education and Outreach

Develop various comprehensive public outreach and education programs.

*(Recommendation 3D, 3B, and 3A)*

**Background:** Obtaining long-term funding for education and outreach efforts has always been difficult. As such, the Island County Water Resource Management Plan proposes high effectiveness and low cost recommendations. The Water Resources Advisory Committee members and Island County staff currently speak at local events, workshops, and distribute educational material.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee

**Supporting Agencies:**

Island County Public Health

Island County WSU Extension (Beach Watcher, Master Gardener, Shore Stewards, Waste Wise, & Marine Resource Committee)

Camano Water Systems Association

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Snohomish Conservation District

Whidbey Island Conservation District

League of Women Voters

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Health

**Tasks:**

1. Continue to develop partnerships with existing community groups (i.e., in addition to supporting agencies listed above, these include informal groups such as water purveyors, realtors, teachers, homeowner associations, and service groups). Working in partnership would increase the coordination and dissemination of Island County's Water Resource Management messages. Local groups have established programs and communication networks that reach a broad audience of people. Education and outreach opportunities may also exist through existing regulatory points-of-contact.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing

2. Implement a public education program for water system managers and homeowners. Topics could include conservation (rate structures, household conservation methods), infrastructure management, water resource information, and financial management.  
Interim Milestone: 2008 +



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

- A. Develop key messages for educational materials (brochures, newsletters, and presentations) and outreach methods (mailings, media, and educational workshops/continuing education).
- Uses, benefits, and guidelines of rainwater catchments.
  - Benefit and methods of Low Impact Development
  - Develop educational materials of application of CARA Map
  - Write a white paper for desalination plants
  - Incorporate social marketing into education and outreach.
- B. Coordinate the following Action Items: High Priority Action B, D, G, K, L and Low Priority Action A through education and outreach to the community.

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, County Funds and PIE Grants



## **High Priority Action (F)**

### **Water Supply Alternatives**

Utilize reclaimed water for non-potable uses, such as outdoor irrigation, dual plumbing and groundwater recharge. Sources include stormwater runoff and rainwater. (*Recommendation 4F*)

**Background:** Island County's main water supply is groundwater (72% of county residents rely on local groundwater wells). Although local groundwater wells are currently a feasible water supply, utilizing reclaimed water for non-potable uses is a high priority that should be worked towards gradually, over the long-term.

**Timeframe:** Because many of the barriers to developing alternative water systems are regulatory, the Water Resources Advisory Committee has limited ability to implement some of these recommendations. This fact also makes it difficult to determine timelines for actions. The Water Resources Advisory Committee will support removal of barriers to developing safe water supply alternative throughout the implementation process.

### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Island County Public Health  
Water Resource Advisory Committee

### **Supporting Agencies:**

Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Department of Ecology

### **Tasks:**

1. Support amendments to the Washington State Plumbing Code to allow for dual plumbing (i.e., reclaimed water use) in residential buildings. The Washington State Department of Health does not support dual plumbing, due to potential of cross connections, general public health risks, and high cost of installations. However, the State Plumbing Code currently allows dual plumbing in commercial buildings.  
Interim Milestone: The next version of the State Plumbing Code will become effective July 1, 2007, with new codes adopted every three years afterwards, and amendments as needed.
2. Investigate the long-term feasibility of using storm-water runoff as reclaimed water sources for non-potable uses.
3. Support Department of Ecology as they continue to develop an expedited permitting process for rainwater collection for non-potable use.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing, refer to High Priority Action G.

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, State and Local Funds



## High Priority Action (G)

### Water Supply Alternatives

Encourage rainwater Catchment systems for non-potable uses. (*Recommendation 5*)

**Background:** Island County’s main water supply is groundwater (72% of county residents rely on local groundwater wells). Although local groundwater wells are currently a feasible water supply, allowing the use of rainwater for non-potable uses (e.g., outdoor irrigation, groundwater recharge, and dual plumbing) is a high priority that should be encouraged.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Washington State Department of Ecology

**Supporting Agencies:**

Island County Public Health

Water Resource Advisory Committee

Whidbey Island Conservation District

**Tasks:**

1. Recommend that Catchment systems storing up to 25,000 gallons per site be authorized. This would be allowed under a “blanket water right permit” for Island County, which is granted by the State Department of Ecology through a general permit process or reservation. This water source would be for non-potable uses, such as outdoor irrigation, groundwater recharge and dual plumbing.  
Interim Milestone: 2008
2. Make educational resources available for those interested in any size rainwater Catchment system.  
Interim Milestone: 2008
3. Develop public outreach programs and educational materials for non-potable use of water.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing, refer to High Priority Action E.

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Implementation Funds, Ecology funds for State Responsibilities



## **High Priority Action (H)**

### **Data Collection and Management**

Obtain additional dedicated monitoring wells for addition to the Island County Public Health well monitoring network. (*Recommendation #10*)

**Background:** Dedicated monitoring wells enable accurate static water level sampling, water quantity and water chemistry trends. These are key elements of the updated Island County Seawater Intrusion Policy (Island County Code 8.09). Department of Ecology granted \$150,000 to Island County Public Health to install monitoring wells. The plan development is in progress, and construction of the wells is planned for spring of 2007.

**Timeframe:** 2006-2007

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Public Health

**Supporting Agencies:**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Water Resource Advisory Committee

**Tasks:**

1. Install monitoring wells and monitoring equipment, as per Ecology Grant # G0600084.  
Interim Milestone: Construction of the wells will be completed by summer 2007.
2. Continue monitoring of existing network and additional wells after installation.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
3. Pursue funding for additional dedicated monitoring wells for addition to the Island County Public Health well monitoring network.  
Interim Milestone: Future

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Supplemental Watershed Implementation Funds, Additional Department of Ecology Watershed Funds, County Funds for ongoing monitoring costs.



## High Priority Action (I)

### **Data Collection and Management**

Data collection and management efforts should continue to be a high priority for Island County. (*Recommendations 8A, 8B, 9A, and 9B*)

**Background:** Data and collection management efforts require ongoing/long-term funding. Data and collection management efforts include the following: 1) maintain the hydrogeology program within Island County Public Health, 2) improve data streamlining and exchange between Island County Public Health, and the State Departments of Health and Ecology, and 3) centralize and link data, at county and State levels.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Public Health

**Supporting Agencies:**

Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Island County Central Services  
Water Resource Advisory Committee

**Tasks:**

1. Give clear direction to policy-makers regarding the necessity of ongoing funding for data collection and management efforts.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
2. Link well log data to water right and water quality monitoring information (Island County Public Health database and Department of Health Sentry database); resolve well location issues.  
Interim Milestone: 2007
3. Centralize data and make it accessible, at State and county levels; continue working with Island County Central Services to improve website capacities, and launch interactive data system.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
4. Obtain additional dedicated monitoring wells for addition to the Island County Public Health well monitoring network. Refer to High Priority Action H.

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, County Funds, State Agency Funds for state agency responsibilities.



## **High Priority Action (J)**

### **Water Rights Processing**

Water right application processing should be facilitated by Island County Public Health, using its water resource management capacities. (*Recommendations 12A, 12B, and 11B*)

**Background:** The State Department of Ecology estimates it will eliminate Island County's current backlog of water rights applications by 2008. To avoid future backlogs, new water right applications should be processed as they are received. This action focuses on facilitating timely water rights processing. Actions related to water rights processing issues focus on the following goals: 1) Water rights processing should be timely, 2) Water right processing should be efficient; the application process, the information required of applications, and the State Department of Ecology review time should be clear to applicants, and 3) Water right processing costs to the applicant should reflect the true cost of review, and be coupled with an assurance of timely, efficient review.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing through 2009, with a sustainable program beyond 2009.

### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Island County Public Health  
Washington State Department of Ecology

### **Supporting Agencies:**

Island County Conservancy Board  
Water Resource Advisory Committee

### **Tasks:**

1. Develop a process to assist water right applicants in developing technical information and administrative paperwork. Work accomplished in advance (by applicant and Island County Public Health) would reduce the State Department of Ecology time required for water right review, therefore facilitating water rights processing.  
Interim Milestone: 2008 - 2009
2. Continue the use of the Island County Early Action Plan, to provide order and priorities of current and future water right processing. As needed, this guidance document should be updated to reflect changing needs and conditions.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing
3. Work with the Department of Ecology to develop a process to help administer a cost reimbursement program (i.e., where water right applicant elect to pay for full application cost and any senior applicants). County government could facilitate cost reimbursement through conducting preliminary technical and legal analysis, and/or encouraging groups of applicants to collectively fund water right review. This would be possible within existing water law.  
Interim Milestone: 2008-2009



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, State Operational Funds for state responsibilities, County Funds, Applicant Funds





## High Priority Action (K)

### **Groundwater Protection** *(more accurate than “GW Recharge”; more positive than “GW Contamination”)*

Use the newly developed “Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas” (CARA) map to identify areas of “limited,” “moderate,” and “high” susceptibility to groundwater contamination.

*(Recommendations 14A and 14B)*

**Background:** A “Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas” (CARA) map was developed for Island County and incorporated into Island County Code 8.09, to protect areas susceptible to groundwater contamination. In areas of “high” susceptibility, Island County will continue its current levels of review for groundwater protection; examples of projects or activities that would receive a high level of review are included in Island County Code 8.09. Areas of “limited” or “moderate” susceptibility have been removed from unnecessary review.

**Timeframe:** 2007, and ongoing

### **Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Public Health

### **Supporting Agencies:**

Island County Planning Department  
Whidbey Island Conservation District  
Snohomish Conservation District  
Water Resources Advisory Committee  
City of Langley  
City of Oak Harbor  
Town of Coupeville

### **Tasks:**

1. Ensure uniform use of CARA maps by all county departments (especially Island County Public Health and Island County Planning); this will ensure a more uniform permit process within “high” susceptibility areas.  
Interim Milestone: 2007
2. Educate the Planning departments of the City of Langley, the City of Oak Harbor, and the Town of Coupeville, of the applications and uses of the CARA maps.  
Interim Milestone: 2007, Ongoing
3. Inform the public, through permit review process, the differences between “high,” “moderate,” and “limited” susceptibility areas, for Planning Department and Public Health permits. This will enable applicants to make informed development decisions prior to the application process.  
Interim Milestone: 2007, Ongoing



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

4. Include groundwater protection and CARA map information in outreach and education messages.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing, refer to High Priority Action E.
5. Provide support to the Whidbey Island Conservation District and the Snohomish Conservation District, as they develop a grant-funded program for farm operation practices in “high” susceptibility areas.  
Interim Milestone: Ongoing

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Implementation Funds, County Funds

### High Priority Action (L)

#### **Groundwater Recharge/Low Impact Development**

Encourage the use of “Low Impact Development” (LID) methods that help maintain groundwater recharge rates. (*Recommendation 14C*)

**Background:** Groundwater quantity is dependent upon maintaining adequate groundwater recharge rates. Human activities can greatly decrease groundwater recharge rates. As an area develops, natural rainwater percolation rates can be maintained by using “Low Impact Development” (LID) methods. These methods include minimizing grading and clearing, minimizing amounts of paved or impervious surfaces, and retaining surface water runoff for onsite percolation. Surface water runoff should not be treated as waste, but as a resource. All tasks should include the use and implementation of LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (January 2005).

**Timeframe:** 2007, and Ongoing

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Water Resources Advisory Committee

**Supporting Agencies:**

Island County Public Works  
Island County Planning Department  
Island County Public Health  
Whidbey Island Conservation District  
Skagit County Conservation District  
City of Langley  
City of Oak Harbor  
Town of Coupeville  
Puget Sound Action Team  
Island County WSU Extension Programs

**Tasks:**

1. Coordinate Island County departments (Island County Public Health, Island County Public Works and Island County Planning), so that LID is strongly encouraged with incentives, and required by code as a regular aspect of building and development. Island County Code section 11.30.220 provides LID as an alternate for storm water and surface water drainage systems.  
Interim Milestone: 2008
2. Educate the general public and the building/development community on LID benefits and methods. Include LID methods in outreach and education messages; partner with the “Skagit and Island Counties Builders Association” (SICBA).  
Interim Milestone: 2007, refer to High Priority Action E.



## Water Resources Implementation Plan Ecology Grant No. G0600084 – Phase 4

---

3. Provide support to the Whidbey Island Conservation District, as it develops an LID pilot project in the City of Langley. In future, educate the planning departments of the City of Oak Harbor and the Town of Coupeville, so that LID is encouraged and becomes a regular aspect of building and development.  
Interim Milestone: 2006, Ongoing

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, Local Funds, Puget Sound Action Team, PIE Grants

\* Grant monies will be available, through the Puget Sound Action Team, in 2007 to assist governments in Washington State as they revise code to incorporate LID.



## **High Priority Action (M)**

### **Seawater Intrusion**

Uniformly apply Island County's updated Seawater Intrusion Policy, now incorporated into Island County Code 8.09, to all water system developments.

*(Recommendation 15B)*

**Background:** Island County, the State Department of Health and the State Department of Ecology should coordinate their efforts to formally address how seawater intrusion protection strategies will be applied to developing Group A systems. Island County Public Health currently reviews individual wells, Group B water systems, and land subdivision proposals. Department of Health provides oversight of Group A systems. Department of Ecology reviews all water right permit applications.

**Timeframe:** 2007, and Ongoing

### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Island County Public Health  
State Department of Health  
State Department of Ecology

### **Supporting Agency:**

Water Resources Advisory Committee  
Inter-Agency Groundwater Council

### **Tasks:**

1. Work with the Inter-Agency Groundwater Council and Department of Health; facilitate Department of Health focus on resource protection (instead of only focusing on health effects of saline drinking water).  
Interim Milestone: 2007
2. Develop formal agreements between Island County Public Health, Department of Health and Department of Ecology.  
Interim Milestone: 2008  
A proposed mechanism is as follows:
  - Island County Public Health would maintain the seawater intrusion maps identifying risk areas,
  - Department of Health would utilize these maps to evaluate the need for review of seawater intrusion risk, and
  - Department of Ecology would provide technical review and regulatory authority, when need for review was triggered.

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, Local Funds



## **Medium Priority Action (A)**

### **Water Conservation**

Petition the State to extend low interest loans for Group B water systems.

*(Recommendation 2)*

**Background:** These loans would fund infrastructure and water use efficiency improvements, and could require tiered rate structures (this income would enable systems to raise funds for loan payments).

**Timeframe:** Implementation of this recommendation requires changes in state regulations and/or policies. Thus, the Water Resources Advisory Committee has no direct ability to implement this action and predicting a timeframe for implementation is difficult.

### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee

State Department of Ecology

Island County Public Health

#### **Task Description:**

1. Work with the Department of Health to develop affordable funding mechanisms for Group B systems, which is an ongoing effort.
2. Educate local legislative representative on the funding issue for Group B water system improvements, which is an ongoing effort.

#### **Potential Funding Sources:**

County Funds, Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds



## **Medium Priority Action (B)**

### **Water Conservation & Water System Coordination Policy Guidance Recommendations**

Provide comment of county and state resource policy and program development.  
(*Recommendation 7A*)

**Background:** The Island County Water Resource Advisory Committee should comment on county and state resource policy and program development. The following are examples to monitor and track:

- Conservation legislation on the “use it or lose it” portions of the State water code,
- Conservation programs that increase water conservation and efficiency measures for all public water systems;
- Water system coordination programs that increase the financial viability of small and large water systems,
- Water system coordination programs or legislation that increase the number of Group B systems entering into agreements with satellite management agencies,
- Development of an effective public water system schedule and service area maps for Island County;

**Timeframe:** Annually as legislation and policy issues emerge.

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Water Resources Advisory Committee

**Supporting Agency:**

Island County Public Health  
State Department of Ecology

**Task Description:**

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, Local Funds supporting the Water Resources Advisory Committee



## **Medium Priority Action (C)**

### **Data Collection and Management**

Collect additional data for surface water quality and quantity monitoring.  
(*Recommendation 8C*)

#### **Background:**

Secure stable funding source for ongoing surface water quality and quantity monitoring efforts. The Island County Planning Department and Board of Island County Commissioners proposed a long-term surface water-monitoring program. The program was developed in spring of 2006.

**Timeframe:** 2006, in process

#### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Island County Planning Department

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

Water Resources Advisory Committee

#### **Task Description:**

1. Collect data for surface water quality and quantity monitoring.  
Interim Milestone: 2006 +, Ongoing

#### **Potential Funding Sources:**

County Funds





## **Low Priority Action (A)**

### **Education and Outreach**

Develop an “education and outreach” liaison, either within Island County or a partner agency or community group. (*Recommendation 3C*)

**Background:** An education and outreach liaison would provide a point-of-contact and coordination, including identifying funding sources for improved water efficiencies.

**Timeframe:** Long term after 2010

**Lead Implementing Agency:**

Island County Public Health

**Supporting Agency:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee

**Task Description:**

1. Recommend to appropriate decision makers, such as the Board of Island County Commissioners and Department Heads, to establish a position to coordinate education and outreach efforts in Island County.  
Interim Milestone: Long term after 2010

**Potential Funding Sources:**

Local Funds, Department of Ecology Watershed Implementation Funds, Other Environmental Education Grants and Funding Sources.



## Low Priority Action (B)

### **Stream flows and Aquatic Habitat Instream Flow Recommendations**

Seek additional scientific information to support current and future allocations of instream water resources. (*Recommendation 13*)

#### **Background:**

Adequate instream flows are important to all aspects of Island County's water resources. Groundwater resources, streams, wetlands, lakes, and nearshore areas are hydrological connected. Stream flow is important to support both stream and nearshore fish populations.

Additional information would include the following:

- Further assessment of water withdrawal impacts on stream flows,
- Enhanced Island County Early Action Plan recognition of instream flow importance, and
- Analysis of what the county could do to establish minimum instream flow recommendations.

**Timeframe:** Future, long term.

#### **Lead Implementing Agencies:**

Island County Planning Department

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

Water Resource Advisory Committee

Island County Washington State University Extension Programs

#### **Task Description:**

1. Enhance Early Action Plan recognition of stream importance to groundwater resources. Assess the potential for groundwater withdrawal impacts on streams and collection of data for surface and groundwater investigation.  
Interim Milestone: 2010, future
2. Analyze if regulatory instream flow rules are needed to protect streams in Island County.  
Interim Milestone: 2010, future

#### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Local Funds



## **APPENDIX A**

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

In addition to listing the potential funding sources with each action item, a list of various agencies is listed below which can provide potential funding for ongoing and future projects in this Implementation Plan. However, the primary source of funding is through the Department of Ecology Implementation Grant Funds, with \$400,000 over a five year period. The allocations are for \$100,000 for the first three years and \$50,000 for the last two years. This grant is subject to a local match of 10%. Thanks to Department of Ecology, a portion of these monies staff the Island County Public Health Watershed Planning position.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

Bureau of Reclamation provides assistance in data collection and analysis related to water supply and water quality, engineering, hydrologic studies, sedimentation, and water resources planning. Priorities include water use efficiencies, and long-term water supply planning.

#### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution through watershed program, non-point source program, and monitoring and assessment program.

Education, demonstration, outreach, risk reduction, measurement/monitoring, risk mitigation, and technology transfer to reduce risks associated with the use of pesticides in agricultural and non-agricultural settings

EPA awards grants to states to capitalize their Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. States use a portion of their capitalization grants to set up a revolving fund from which loans and other types of assistance are provided to eligible public water system(publicly and privately owned) to finance the cost of infrastructure projects. States may also use a portion of their capitalization grants to fund set-aside activities that help to prevent contamination problems of surface and ground water drinking water supplies, as well as enhance water system management through source water protection, capacity development, and operator certification programs.

Establishing and maintaining adequate measures for prevention and control of surface water and groundwater pollution.

Projects must focus on one of the following: (1) improving environmental education teaching skills; (2) educating teachers, students, or the public about human health problems; (3) building state, local, or tribal government capacity to develop such programs; (4) educating communities through community-based organization; or (5) educating the public through print, broadcast, or other media.

Financial assistance to support development of new, or augmentation and enhancement of existing wetland programs. Opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.



### **The Groundwater Foundation**

Provides educational programs for all ages on groundwater.

### **Island County**

Provides support though staffing of various programs.

### **Public Information and Education Grant**

The PIE program is one of the most powerful tools available for protecting and improving Puget Sound's water quality and marine resources. PIE dollars help citizens, schools, businesses, non-profits, local and tribal governments to: Create solutions to local pollution problems; Protect, preserve and restore habitat; Motivate people to be environmental stewards; and Partner with others for lasting results. The maximum funding for the large awards is \$45,000.

### **United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development**

Emergency community water assistance, to obtain adequate quantities of water for residents in rural areas that have experienced a significant decline in water quantity or quality. Waterline extensions from existing systems; construction of new water lines; repairs to existing systems; construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and other water sources; equipment replacement.

### **United State Geological Survey**

The USGS Cooperative Water Program jointly funds water-resources projects in an ongoing partnership between the USGS and non-Federal agencies.

### **Wal-Mart Foundation**

Offers programs such as Environmental Education, a Community-Matching Program and a Grant Program. Financial Assistance is available to communities where a Wal-Mart is located. All requests for funding must be directed through the Wal-Mart Stores.

### **Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development**

Programs provide funding for water, wastewater, economic development and community facilities.

### **Washington State Department of Ecology**

A primary source of funding is through the Department of Ecology Implementation Grant Funding, with \$400,000 over a five year period. The allocations are for \$100,000 for the first three years and \$50,000 for the last two years. This grant is subject to a local match of 10%. Currently, Island County Public Health is in contract year two of the five year period.

Promote and facilitate the use of reclaimed water to replace potable water in non-potable applications. Projects, which prevent and control water pollution, can be potentially funded through the Centennial Clean Water Fund.

### **Whidbey Island and Snohomish Conservation District**

The Conservation District's serves residents and operators of Whidbey and Camano Islands. They assist farmers, rural landowners, and others with issues relating to natural resource management and water quality.