

# Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP)

May 4, 2017



# Water System Coordination Act

- The Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977 (RCW 70.116) established procedures for coordinating, planning, and establishing Critical Water Supply Service Areas (CWSSA).
- A CWSSA is an area characterized by public water system problems related to inadequate water quality, unreliable service, a lack of coordinated water system planning, and/or a proliferation of small or inadequate public water systems
- 1985 – All of Island County declared a CWSSA
- A CWSSA must have a Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) and all water purveyors must participate in the CWSP process
- 1990 – Island County adopted a CWSP in accordance with state requirements



# What is a Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP)?

- A regional supplement to individual water system plans
- A CWSP must:
  - Identify future service areas
  - Designate minimum area-wide water system design standards
  - Include utility service review procedures
  - Include satellite management requirements
  - Include policies and procedures to address failing water systems
  - Contain compilation of existing water system plans



# Island County

## Interdepartmental CWSP Implementation

- **Planning and Community Development**
  - Manage water systems boundaries (Group A's)
  - Review the State's Government Consistency Checklist for all new/revised water system plans
  - Land use regulations to implement the CWSP
- **Public Health**
  - Manage water systems boundaries (Group B's)
  - Design approval for new/expanding water group B water systems
  - Water quality monitoring of approved group B water systems
- **Public Works**
  - Review fire flow proposals for compliance
  - Design approval for new/expanding water systems
  - Provide technical assistance to water purveyors
- **All**
  - Review of individual water system plans



# Water Systems in Island County

- Group A (15+ connections)
  - 285 systems (compared to 82 in Skagit)
- Group B (3 to 14 connections)
  - 597 systems (compared to 143 in Skagit)
- Single/Two-Party Wells
  - 5,919 wells
- 7,692 total wells



# Permit Exempt Wells (Not Subject to Regulations)

- Providing water for livestock (no gallon per day limit)
- Watering a non-commercial lawn or garden one-half acre in size or less (no gallon per day limit, however limited to reasonable use)
- Providing water for a single home or groups of homes (limited to 5,000 gallons per day)
- Providing water for industrial purposes, including irrigation (limited to 5,000 gallons per day but no acre limit)



# Why is an update important?

- CWSP states it will be review every 5 years and amended, as needed
  - Per RCW 70.116.050, local legislature may make changes to CWSP at any time, but DOH cannot require an update more frequently than once every 5 years
  - Per WAC 246-290-100, group A water system plans must be reviewed every 5 years
- Many water system boundaries have discrepancies
- Aging water systems
- Proliferation of small water systems presents regulatory and resource challenges
- Economy of scale allows costs associated with system failure and service delivery to be dispersed among many
- Failures may require county intervention through receivership



# Why is Coordination Important?

## *Camano Water Association Study*

- 2016 State Department of Health Study on Consolidation/Cooperation
- Studied 8 adjacent water systems
- Analyzed existing systems and future infrastructure improvements needed
  - None are saving sufficient money for anticipated repair costs
  - Between \$684 and \$4,571 (average \$1,884) additional annual per household revenue needed for anticipated repairs
- Consolidation had benefits of varying degrees for all water systems
  - For example, if three water systems consolidated, each could save between \$180,000 and \$360,000





# Other Water Systems Challenges/Concerns in Island County

- Limited number of water management companies
- Inadequate repair/replacement savings
- 180+ managed by HOA's

