



The Office of Drinking Water works with others to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.




Washington State Department of  
**Health**


**WHAT'S NEW IN WATER  
SYSTEM PLANNING?**

Office of Drinking Water

Presenters



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SWRO



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## Why Things are Changing and How

- Three kinds of changes
  - Response to regulatory updates
  - The world is more complex
  - Evolving relationship with the public
- Today's topics
  - Planning documentation
  - Environmental considerations
  - Funding and financing

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## Section One

### PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

## Drinking Water in Planning

- PAS Report 588: Planners and Water
  - American Planning Association, August 2017
- Coordinated Planning Guide
  - Water Research Foundation, 2018
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA)
  - Critical Areas Ordinances and the Growth Management Act



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## Group A Planning

- Update enacted in January 2017
- Plan Approval Period up to 10 years
  - Water System Plans
  - Watershed Control Program
  - Water Use Efficiency goal setting
  - Documentation must cover full plan approval period
- Service Areas



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## Coordination Act

- Is the Coordination Act useful?
- Can the Coordination Act fix rural water resources challenges?
- Coordination Act Rule (WAC 246-293) needs to be updated
- Road Map to Washington's Future
  - Coordination Act and water system planning are parts of the state's planning framework



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## Asset Management

- Definition adopted
- Increasing expectation for full cost recovery including capital expenses
- DWSRF planning requirements



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## Publication Updates

- Water System Design Manual
  - Updates the 2009 version
- Water System Planning Manual
  - Updates the 1997 Water System Planning Handbook
- Satellite Management Agency Planning Manual
  - Updates the 1995 Satellite Management Planning Handbook



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## Section Two

### ENVIRONMENTAL

## Water Resources

- Metering requirement
- Water Audits and Loss Control Programs
  - AWWA Manual M36
- Foster/Hirst
  - County GMA rural plans are being challenged
  - Expect earlier growth pressure



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## State Environmental Policy Act

- Twelve inches and smaller are exempt
- Differing categorical exemptions:
  - Your categorical exemptions are in WAC 197-11-800, especially in (4), (15), and (23)
  - DOH's categorical exemptions are in WAC 197-11-845
  - Example: Water System Plans



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## Climate Change

- Past performance is no guarantee of future results
- How does it affect water systems?
  - Impacts on demand
  - Impacts on supply
  - Impacts on operations
- Scenario planning may be a useful approach



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## Water Quality

- Lead and Copper
  - Delay in EPA rulemaking
  - Schools are being tested
- Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
  - State Board of Health is pursuing a State Advisory Level (SAL)
- Cross-Connection Control
  - Program enhancement is on hold
- Nitrate
  - Seasonal exceeders



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# Program Planning

● Top to bottom program review is underway

Satellite Management	Nitrate	Water Quality
Lead and Copper	Water System Planning	Capacity Development
Water System Registration	Arsenic Treatment Optimization	Emergency Preparedness and Response
Water Use Efficiency	State Revolving Fund	Sanitary Survey
Coliform	Cross Connection Control	Surface Water
Disinfection	Public Right to Know	Compliance



# Section Three

## FUNDING AND FINANCING

## Funding Requirements

- Current DOH Programs:
  - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
  - Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (WSARP)
- Planning:
  - Project in current, approved plan
  - General consolidation language



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## Affordability

- With increasing concerns about infrastructure costs, there's increasing concerns about infrastructure affordability
  - Needs Assessment results
  - Community affordability
  - Individual affordability
- There is a session in the next hour about customer assistance programs



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## Sync

- Interagency Multijurisdictional System Improvement Team, now known as Sync
  - Created by legislative act (ESHB 1677)
  - Composed of state departments, local agencies, and associations
  - Tasked with:
    - Reporting on the current state of program structures
    - Find system improvements for existing programs
    - Identifying statutory and regulatory barriers



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## Fees

- We are currently considering the pros and cons of updating:
  - Operating permit fees
  - Fee-for-service rates
- Rates are unlikely to change prior to 2020.



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## WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND?

## Sync

