

Source:  
Airbus USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, FCS, OS, NMA, Geodastasy,  
and the GIS User Community, Esri Content Program



# Lower Issaquah Valley PFAS Cleanup Sites

Public Comment Period: April 22 – June 6, 2024

Documents for Review: Agreed Orders & Public Participation Plan

Public Meetings: May 1 (online) and May 2 (in-person), 2024 | 6:30 pm

# Welcome!

We will start our presentation shortly.  
No sound? We will unmute soon for sound checks.

## Join

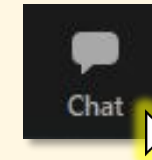
Connect Audio & Join



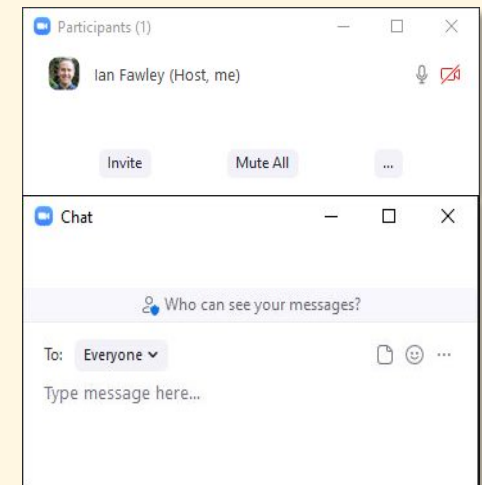
**Tip** Try your computer audio *first*.

If you'd like, you can test your speaker and microphone *before* joining.

## Participate



Question?  
Need help?  
Chat with us!



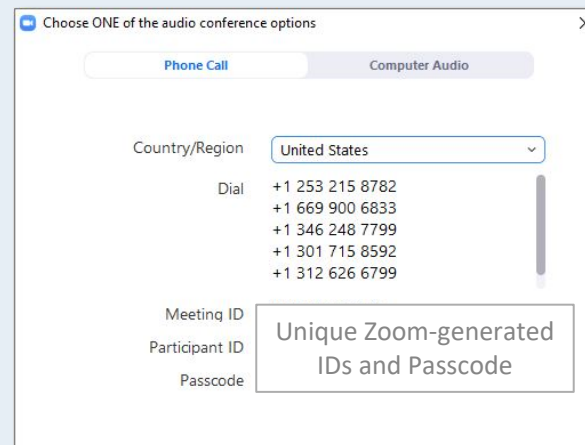
Turn on the Chat box and Participant list from your toolbar.

## Audio

**A** Best Option: Use computer for audio

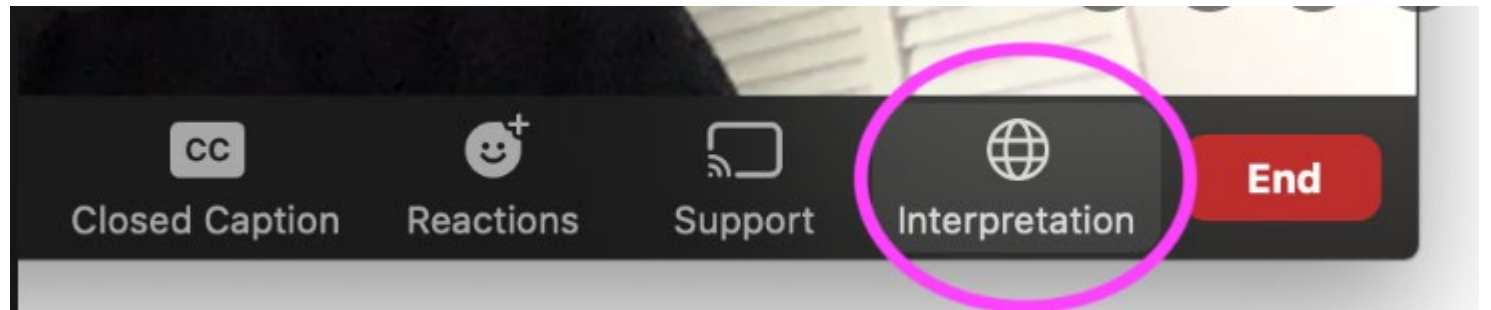
**B** If selecting "Phone Call"...

- Dial: **253-215-8782 (Tacoma)**
- Enter Zoom Meeting ID **810 1492 0264** followed by "#"
- Enter your unique Zoom Participant ID, followed by "#"
- (If you do not enter the Participant ID, you will be prompted to enter the Passcode.)

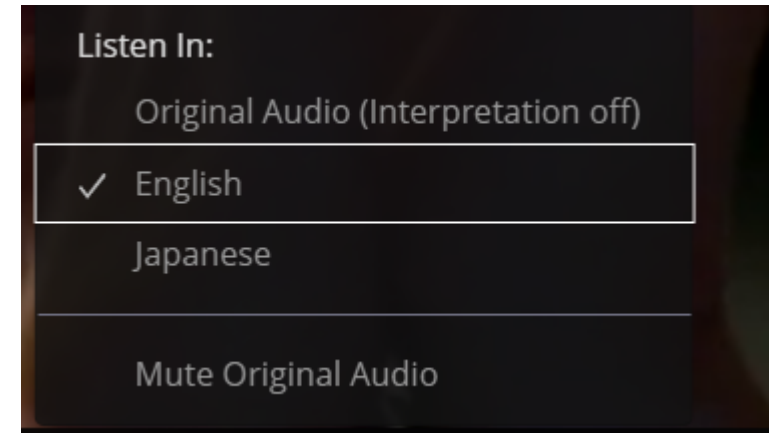
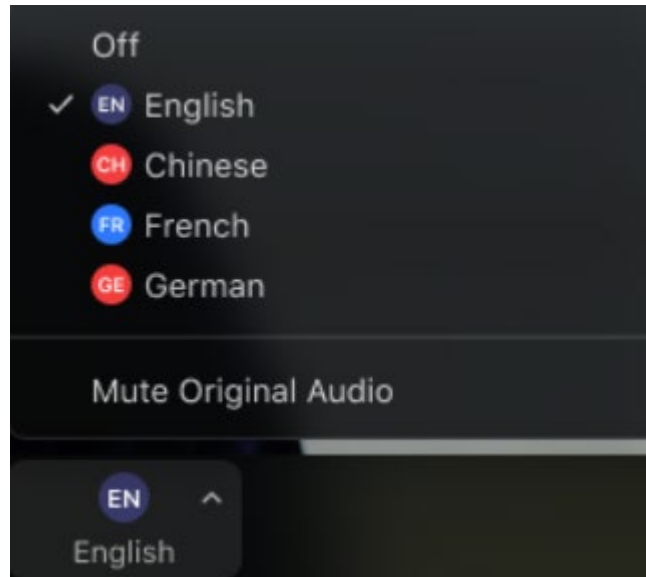


# Joining a language line.

1. Click Interpretation



2. Select the language you prefer.

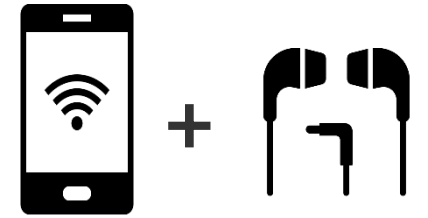


## Joining a language line.

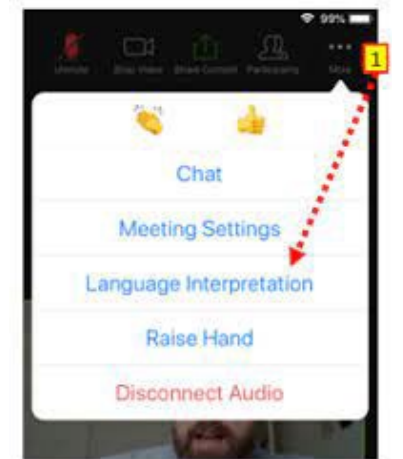
**Español:** Interpretación disponible con un teléfono inteligente y auriculares

**中文:** 可通过智能手机和耳机获取翻译

**हिन्दी:** स्मार्टफोन और हेडफोन के साथ व्याख्या उपलब्ध है



**zoom**



# Online Meeting Participation

## During the Presentation

- Please save questions for Q&A at the end of the presentation.

(This will help our interpreters who are joining online.)

## During Q&A

- Start with English, then Spanish, Chinese, and Hindi
- Write your question in the chat box to be addressed in sequence and raise your Zoom hand if you need to be unmuted.

**Verbal questions are NOT *formal* comments and will NOT receive *formal* responses.**

A link will be provided to submit *formal* comments. →

# In-person Meeting Participation

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# Online Q&A Ground Rules

- For inclusivity, we will address questions in the chat as a queue
- If you need to verbalize a question, raise your Zoom hand
- Once unmuted, speak slowly and clearly
- Be respectful of all thoughts and opinions
- Focus on the objective (to answer questions related to the cleanup of the site)
- Find a quiet area to participate
- Turn your camera off when moving around

# In-person Q&A Ground Rules

- For inclusivity, we will address questions topically – However, with consideration of additional questions on other topics, we may need to move on and come back later.
- Raise your hand and a facilitator will call on you
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Be respectful of all thoughts and opinions
- Focus on the objective (to answer questions related to the cleanup of the site)



# Presentation Outline



- **Introductions**
- **PFAS**
- **Cleanup Process and Public Participation**
- **Site Information**
  - Two Sites
  - Overview and Contamination
  - Service Areas
- **Conclusion**
  - Planned Next Steps
  - How to Comment
  - Questions and Answers



# Introductions

# Meet Your Presenters



**Brett Carp**

Site Manager and Aquatics Unit Supervisor

**Ian Fawley**

Senior Outreach Planner

**Kristen Forkeutis**

Outreach Specialist



**Emily Moon**

Public Works Director



**Ben Lane**

Fire Chief



**Claire Nitsche**

Health Educator

# Meet Your Team for Q&A





**PFAS**

# What ARE PFAS?

- “PFAS” is short for “per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.”
  - “Forever chemicals.”
- Family of 10,000 human-made chemicals.
  - PFOA and PFOS = two of the most studied, no longer used in U.S. manufacturing.
- Used since 1950s in wide range of consumer products.
  - Historically used in AFFF firefighting foam.

# PFAS are a problem because...



**Some are  
toxic.**



**Escape from  
products.**



**Can get into  
soil and  
groundwater.**



**Don't break  
down easily.**



**Spread easily  
in outdoor  
environment.**

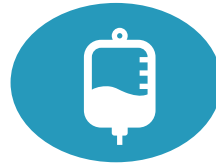


**Bioaccumulate.**

# Having higher levels of PFAS in your body could...



**Affect your immune system and make some vaccinations less effective.**



**Increase risk for kidney cancer.**



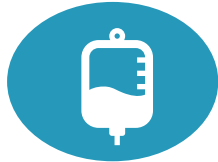
**Increase risk for high cholesterol.**



**Increase risk for low birthweights.**



# Exposure to PFAS may also increase your risk for...



**Other cancers,  
like testicular  
cancer.**



**Thyroid  
disease.**



**High blood  
pressure during  
pregnancy.**



**Other  
reproductive  
issues.**

# Who is most vulnerable?



**Pregnant people.**



**Babies in the  
womb.**



**Children ages 5  
and younger.**

# What is my risk?

Current public health studies look at how PFAS affect people's health on a community level.

## Factors that influence how your body responds to ANY toxic chemical:

- 1) Your diet, lifestyle, and habits.
- 2) Your individual and family medical history.
- 3) Your overall health.

## Individual exposure:

- 1) How much of the chemicals you were exposed to.
- 2) How often you were exposed.
- 3) How long you were exposed for.
- 4) Which PFAS chemicals you were exposed to.

# DOH's role with PFAS

- DOH's role is to determine health risks and impacts related to PFAS exposure from the environment (drinking water, consumer products, etc.), and give health advice on how to keep yourself and your family healthy.
  - We also support large public water systems (DOH Office of Drinking Water) and local health jurisdictions.
- Because PFAS move through the environment, it is important that PFAS are cleaned up in the environment when they are found so they don't get into water.
  - Our partners at ECY handle this work.

# PFAS Regulations in Drinking Water

- **WA State Action Levels (SALs)**
  - In 2021, WA state implemented state action levels (SALs) for five types of PFAS in drinking water.
  - Set to be protective of the most vulnerable people with the best information we had at the time.
  - All Group A water systems have to test for PFAS and give results to DOH by Jan 1, 2025.
- **EPA Federal Regulations – Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)**
  - On April 10, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six types of PFAS in drinking water.
  - Based on the best new science we have now on health impacts.
  - New “law of the land” about how much PFAS can be in drinking water.
    - MCLs have replaced SALs.
    - We are working with State Board of Health to determine what steps they want to take moving forward.
    - Washington State can set levels stricter than the MCLs if we want, but no water system can be less strict.
    - National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)
      - Water systems must complete initial water testing by 2027.
      - Water systems must comply with regulations by 2029.



# Cleanup Process & Public Participation

# Washington's Cleanup Process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

## 2. Where will we be next?

Public input opportunity



## 1. Where are we now?

# Public Participation

Public Comment Period: Monday, April 22 – Thursday, June 6, 2024



**Ecology has three documents ready for public review and comment.**

## **Two Agreed Orders (legal agreements)**

- Legal documents that require the City and EF&R to investigate environmental conditions, complete a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and a draft Cleanup Action Plan.

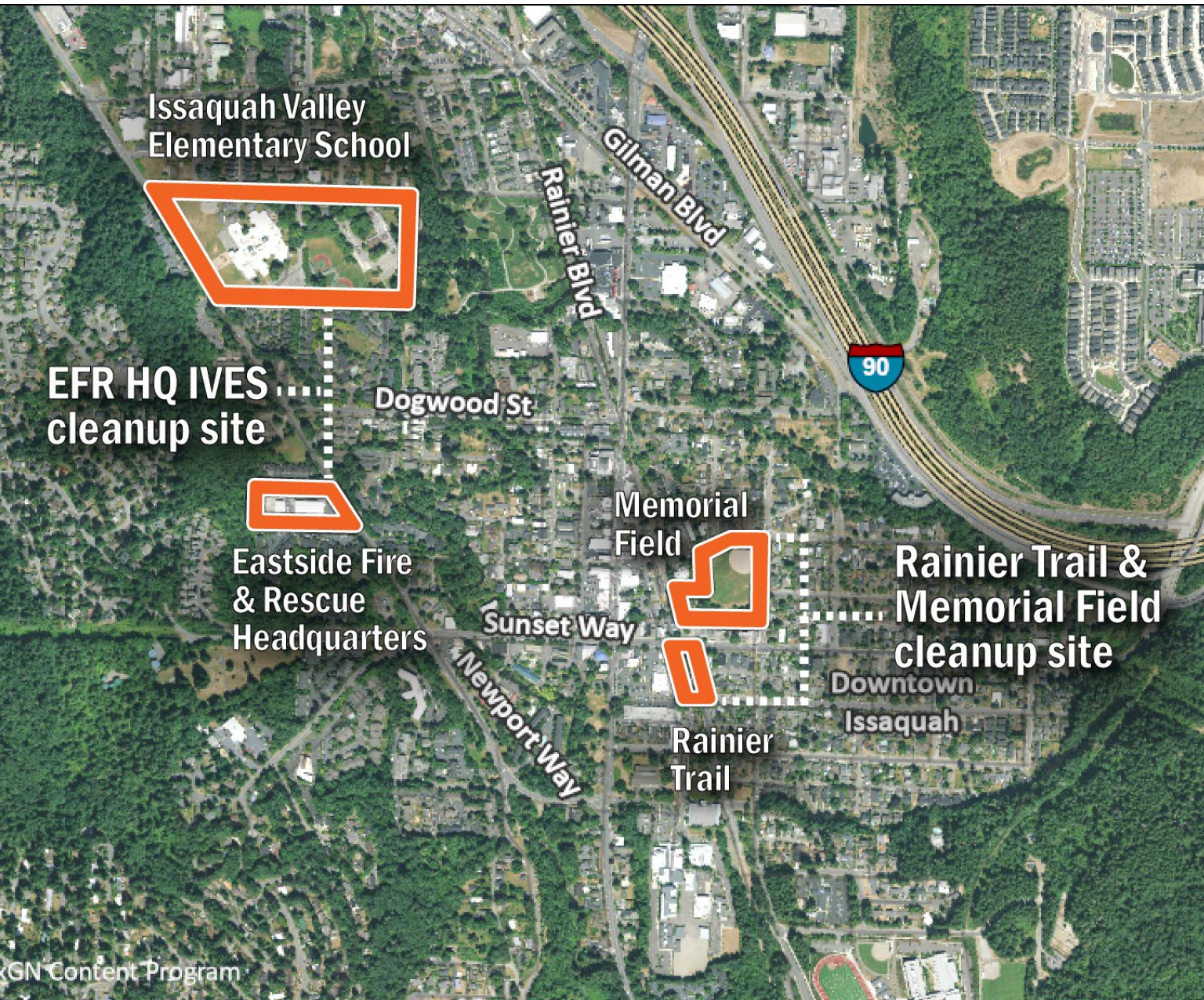
## **One Public Participation Plan**

- Describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and ways to become involved.





# Site Information



# Two Sites

## 1. EFR HQ IVES Cleanup Site

### Two source areas:

1. Issaquah Valley Elementary School
2. Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters

## 2. Rainier Trail & Memorial Field Cleanup Site

### Two source areas:

1. Memorial Field
2. Rainier Trail

More info: <https://ecology.wa.gov/liv>

# Site Overview

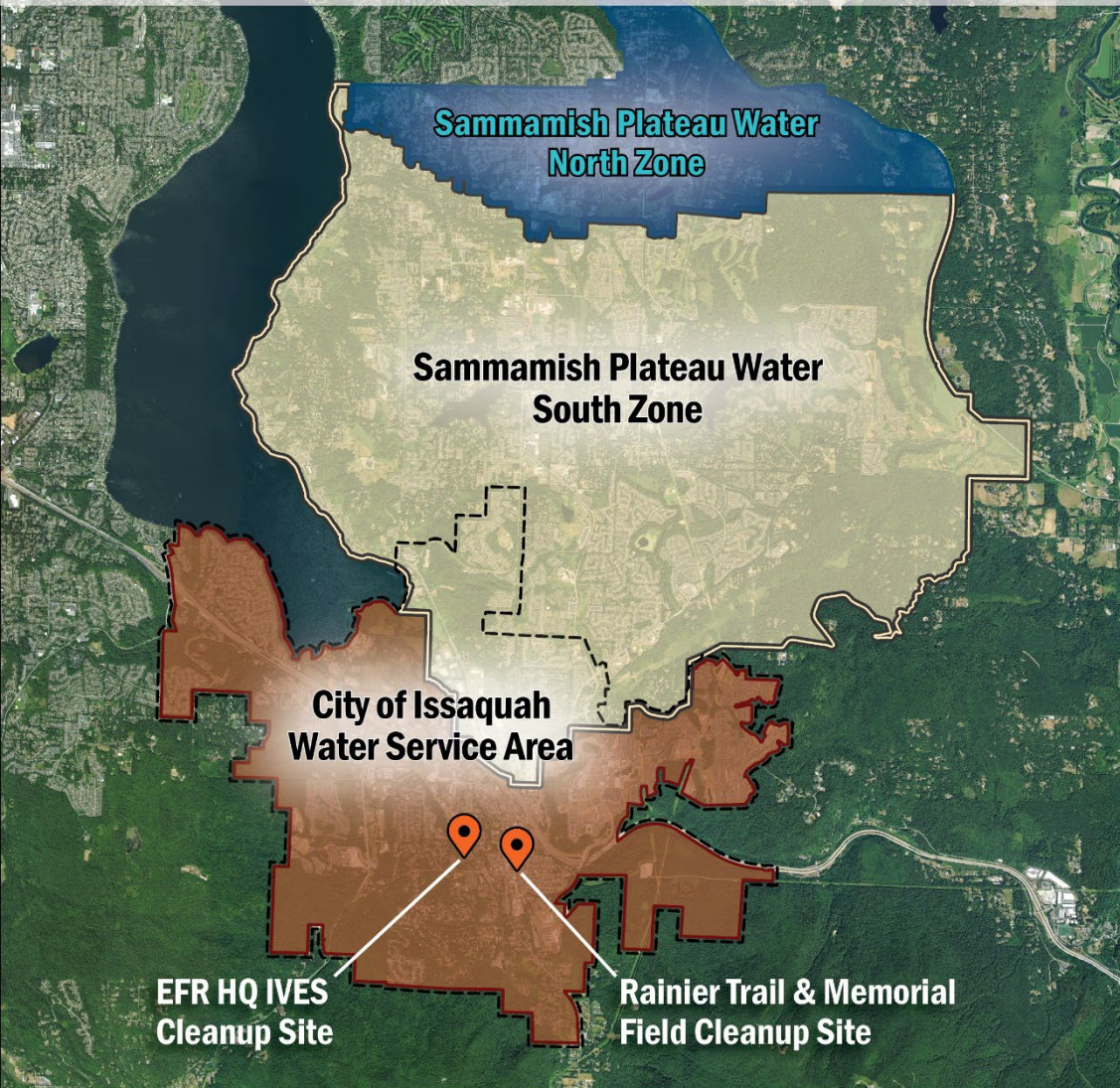
- Both sites were identified due to releases of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to soil and groundwater.
- Investigations determined the likely source of PFAS is firefighting foam formerly used at the sites during lawful training activities.
- The potentially liable persons (PLPs) for the releases of PFAS include the City of Issaquah (City) and Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R).



# Site Contamination

- PFAS has been detected in soil and groundwater at these sites.
- When PFAS is in the soil, it is transported via groundwater flow.
- Evaluations to date indicate that it's safe for people and pets to touch the soil.

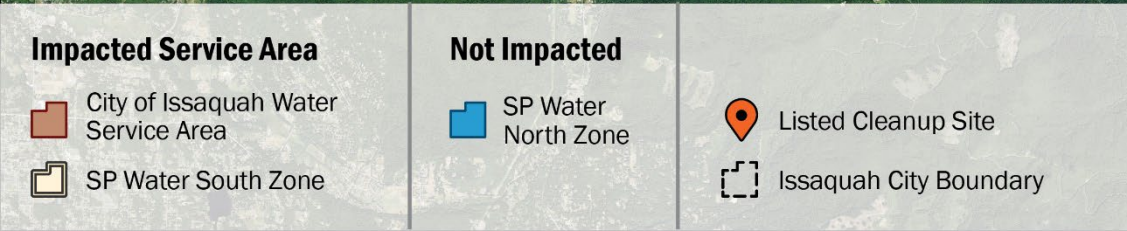




# Service Areas

- City of Issaquah Water Service Area
- Sammamish Plateau Water South Zone

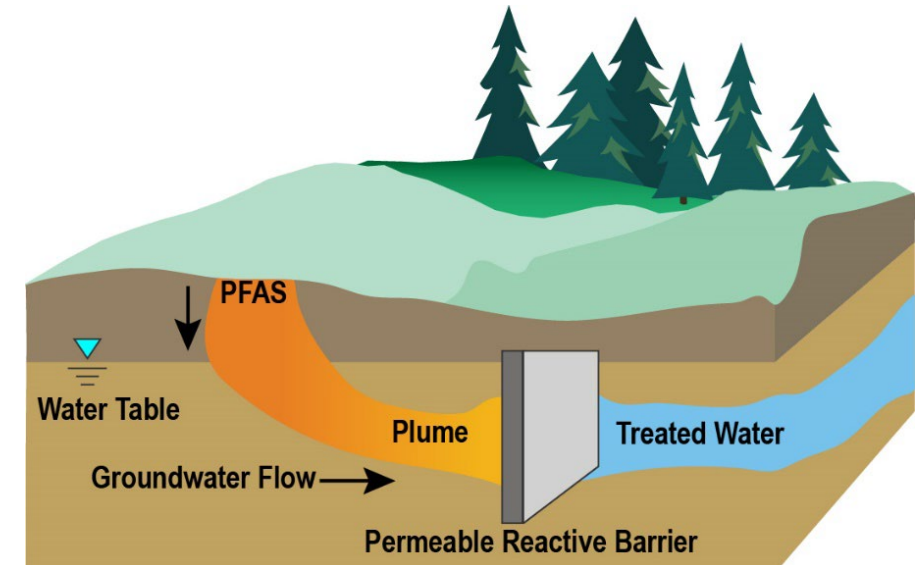
**NOTE:** Sammamish Plateau Water North Zone is not impacted



# City and EF&R Proactive Efforts

Since Issaquah became aware of PFAS in Oct 2015, the City partners have remained at the national forefront of:

- Drinking water treatment and monitoring
  - Frequent testing, installation of filtration system
  - More regional water purchased
  - The City continues to meet safe drinking water standards.
- Identification of sources
  - Test project was successful
- Advocating for impacted communities
  - Community outreach (website, media, etc.)
  - Lobbying for cleanup standards, funding
- Next steps – Investigate and clean up contamination



# Responsibilities

- **The City and EF&R have agreed to be named "Potentially Liable Persons" (or PLPs) since we:**
  - Can access resources and focus on clean up and providing water that is safe to drink.
- **There is ongoing litigation against the chemical manufacturers of PFAS at the state and national level.**

**'Forever chemicals' were everywhere in 2023. Expect more litigation in 2024**

By Clark Mindock

December 28, 2023 7:54 AM PST · Updated 3 months ago



**The New York Times**

## ***Three 'Forever Chemicals' Makers Settle Public Water Lawsuits***

The \$1.19 billion agreement, announced by Chemours, DuPont and Corteva, wouldn't resolve all the claims against them.

# Sammamish Plateau Water

**PFAS has been detected in some water supply wells operated by Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District (SP Water).**

- Wells with the highest PFAS levels were removed from service in 2017.
- SP Water continues to monitor and evaluate their drinking water. Learn more: <https://letstalkaboutourwater.org>
- SP Water is advancing efforts to design and build a water treatment facility to remove PFAS from its impacted wells.





# Conclusion

# Planned Next Steps



Summer 2024



2024



2025

- Respond to public comments
- Finalize documents

- Study both sites
- Planned Interim Action (early partial cleanup) for EFR HQ IVES site

- Continue to study sites
- Consider cleanup options



# How to Comment

April 22–  
June 6, 2024



## Comment Online

<https://bit.ly/ecology-liv-comments>



## Contact Site Manager

Brett Carp – Aquatics Unit Supervisor

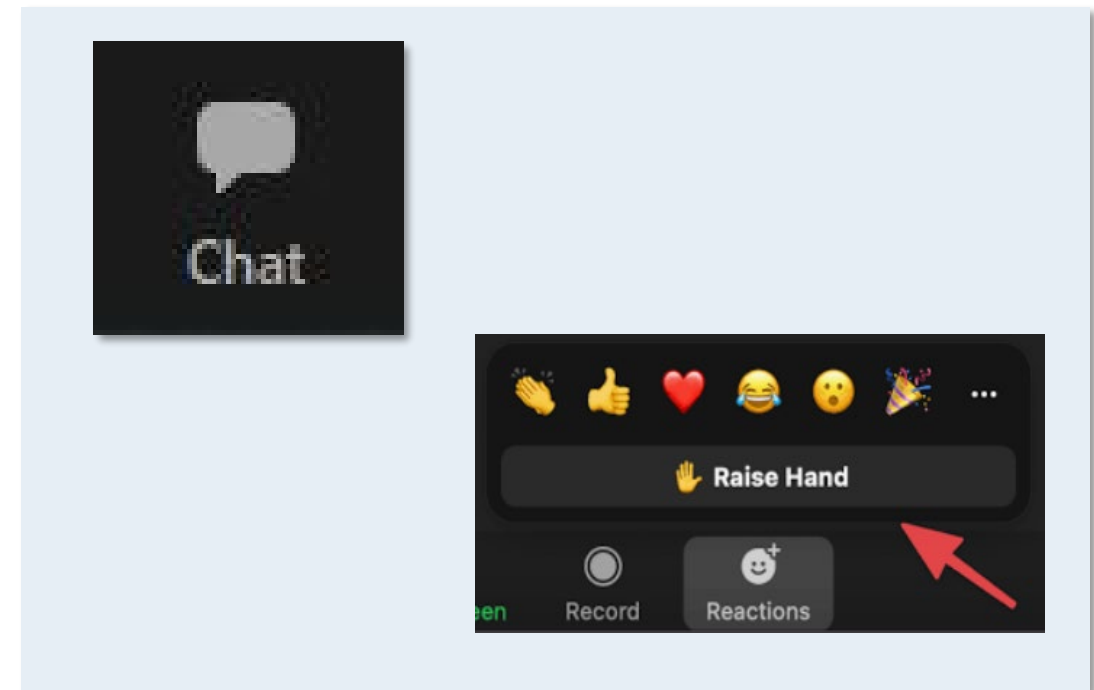
PO Box 330316

Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

[Brett.Carp@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Brett.Carp@ecy.wa.gov)

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## Lower Issaquah Valley PFAS Cleanup Sites



# Thank you

**Brett Carp**

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**Kristen Forkeutis**

(425) 240-4353

[Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov)

## Reminder:

A digital PDF of this presentation will be available on Ecology's webpage:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/liv>



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington