



Focus on

# Reclaiming Our Valuable Water

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

## The problem

Washington's growing human population increasingly competes with fish and the rest of our natural environment for water, which is in short supply in some areas and further threatened by climate change. Treated wastewater can be re-used, or "reclaimed" for everything from golf courses to crops and cemeteries. Re-using this makes sense and protects Puget Sound, rivers lakes, and other waters from receiving unneeded discharges of treated water.

## The solution

We already know that reclaiming water is an elegant way to conserve water and protect the environment. Right now, 19 facilities capable of reclaiming water in Washington already produce a total of about 24 million gallons of reclaimed water each year. (*See statewide map attached*)

But Washington can do even better by taking two important steps right now:

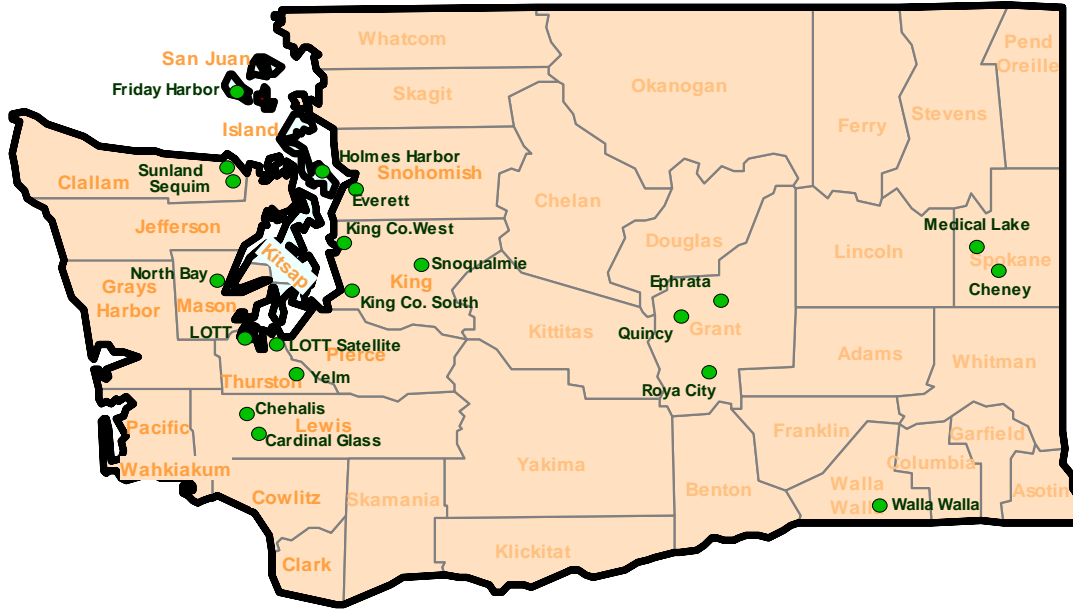
- Provide the Department of Ecology the ability to speed up rule making in order to set standards for reclaiming more water all across Washington. The lack of proper standards, involving issues from water quality to water rights, is hindering implementation of already proposed reclaimed-water projects. With the support it needs, Ecology will speed up the rules process to accommodate reclamation of more than 56 million gallons per day within ten years.
- Follow the advice of the Puget Sound Partnership and invest in new and existing treatment plants in the Puget Sound region to reclaim more water. Facilities all around the Sound (*see Puget Sound map attached*) would compete for the grant funding. The investments would be made in water-short areas, and in sensitive water-quality areas where reclaimed water can be used to protect or restore complex water systems.

## Without the bill

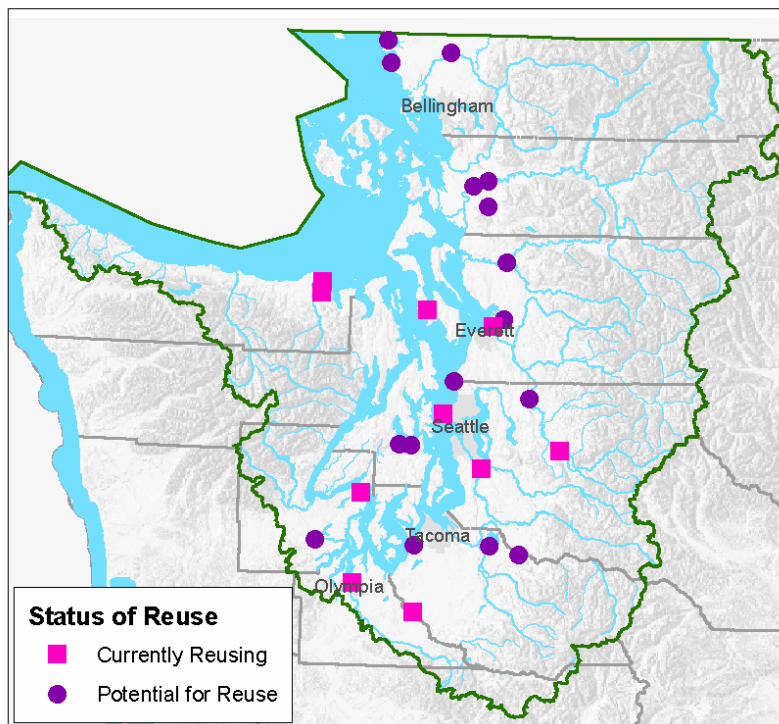
The opportunity to preserve and reuse increasing scarce water resources and at the same time protect fish and the rest of the natural environment will be weakened.

2007-2009 Budget, \$246,000 (operating) Water Quality Account-State, \$6.08 million (capital) State Building Construction Account-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State.

# Statewide Wastewater Treatment Plants Reclaiming Water



## Puget Sound Wastewater Treatment Plants Reclaiming Water



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