

Summary of Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee June 3, 2021 Meeting for June 2021 MWPAAC General Meeting

Reclaimed Water Program Update

King County produces Class A reclaimed water (or as King County prefers to call it “recycled water”) at West Point, Brightwater, and South Plant. This year, the Recycled Water Program is focusing on these tasks:

Coordination with drinking water utilities – representatives of Cascade Water Alliance, Seattle Public Utilities, Renton, and Soos Creek have formed a work group with WTD to discuss issues related to distributing recycled water. One objective is to create frameworks for coordinating current and future recycled water uses, collaborating on long-term planning, establishing guidelines to evaluate financial and water quality impacts, and resolving disputes.

Brightwater Reclaimed Water Storage Project – developing a design feasibility study to construct a recycled water storage facility to improve water delivery to customers and provide greater operational flexibility. The study should be completed next spring, with construction complete in late 2026.

Sammamish Valley Agricultural Irrigation Study – evaluating the presence of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) in recycled water and if they affect plant, soil, and human health. CECs include pharmaceuticals, bisphenols, herbicides, and perfluorinated compounds (PFAS). The study sampled Sammamish River water, groundwater, and Brightwater recycled water in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, the project installed a research garden and irrigated vegetables with river water and recycled water and sampled the water, soil and plant tissue for presence of CECs. CECs were detected in all water sources at very low levels (parts per trillion [ppt]) as well as in plant tissue. The study supports other published research that irrigating with reclaimed water “is a low exposure pathway for CECs”.

Decennial Flow Monitoring (DFM) Program

The DFM program has been monitoring flows from sewer basins throughout the WTD system for the past 2 years. The monitoring will continue until spring 2022. The data is being field-validated throughout the monitoring period, as well as being used to calibrate the computer models. The data will be used by WTD’s modeling team in conjunction with the 2020 Census data to prioritize future projects and size future conveyance facilities. See the presentation materials for a link to flow monitoring sites throughout the regional system.

Questions?

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