



Resolution 134 - 2016

Reaffirming Kitsap County's "Water as a Resource" Policy

**WHEREAS**, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners recognizes that storm and surface water runoff is the leading transport medium of pollution into Puget Sound and its associated wetlands, creeks, streams and rivers.

**WHEREAS**, traditional development patterns and practices on private and public property have exacerbated the negative impacts of runoff by shifting the natural hydrology from a regime dominated by evaporation and infiltration to one dominated by surface flow.

**WHEREAS**, recent state studies indicate that commercial, highway and industrial land uses have high pollutant loading rates, but that the majority of the pollutant load to Puget Sound and local Kitsap County water bodies comes from residential land uses and the public infrastructure that supports these uses.

**WHEREAS**, local groundwater studies indicate that approximately 80% of Kitsap County citizens obtain their drinking water from groundwater resources and these resources are only replenished by the infiltration of precipitation that falls on Kitsap County.

**WHEREAS**, the Kitsap County Sewage Treatment Plants discharge large volumes of water into Puget Sound each year and with appropriate treatment this water could be better utilized to lower dependence on groundwater.

**WHEREAS**, regional studies show that sewage plants discharge over 80% of the dissolved inorganic nitrogen load south of Edmonds into Puget Sound. This nitrogen is a contributor to low dissolved oxygen in low circulation areas of Puget Sound.

**WHEREAS**, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners wishes to establish a culture of innovative development and operating practices that treat water as a resource rather than a waste stream.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners that the 2009 "Water is a Resource NOT a Waste Stream" Policy (Resolution 109-2009) is hereby reaffirmed and replaced with the attached 2016 Policy.

Adopted this 9th day of August, 2016.

ATTEST:



Dana Daniels  
Dana Daniels, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Edward E. Wolfe  
EDWARD E. WOLFE, Chair

Charlotte Garrido  
CHARLOTTE GARRIDO, Commissioner

Robert Gelder  
ROBERT GELDER, Commissioner

## Water is a Resource, and **NOT** a waste stream Policy

This policy applies to the Parks, Public Works, Community Development, and Facilities Maintenance Departments and Programs that report to the Board of County Commissioners.

- 1.0 Kitsap County shall treat water as a resource and **NOT** as a waste stream.
- 2.0 Kitsap County citizens value water quality and our actions have significant impacts on water quality and quantity.
  - 2.1 Water pollution was the 5th highest citizen concern in 2004 citizen survey and was the highest rated environmental issue in the 2000 Market Research Corporation Survey of Kitsap County residents.
  - 2.2 On behalf of its citizens, Kitsap County Government owns, operates, or maintains over 1819 lane miles of road, 36 bridges, 4 sewage treatment plants, over 7,278 acres of parks and natural resource land, over 542,877 square feet of public buildings, 6 garbage, recycling and household hazardous waste collection facilities, over 600 stormwater facilities, and the associated infrastructure that supports these assets.
  - 2.3 Many of these assets were created during an era in which impacts to water quality were not a design priority. Many of these assets, with sufficient funding, could be altered to improve water quality.
  - 2.4 Surface water runoff from public and private land is the leading transport medium of pollution to the Puget Sound and its associated wetlands, creeks, streams and rivers.
  - 2.5 Sewage Treatment Plants discharge over 80% of the dissolved inorganic nitrogen into Puget Sound each year. This nitrogen is a major contributor to low dissolved oxygen levels within Puget Sound.
  - 2.6 Local groundwater studies indicate that approximately 80% of Kitsap County citizens obtain their drinking water from groundwater resources and these resources are only replenished by the infiltration of precipitation that falls on Kitsap County.
  - 2.7 Kitsap County's 4 sewage treatment plants discharge over 1.2 billion gallons of water per year into Puget Sound. With additional treatment, this water could be used to reduce the dependence on groundwater and reduce pollution loading to Puget Sound.
- 3.0 Guiding Principles: To assist departments in fulfilling this policy, the following guiding principles are provided:
  - 3.1 Preserve Natural Hydrology
    - 3.1.1 First, preserve natural hydrology by preventing the creation of stormwater runoff.
    - 3.1.2 Where runoff is unavoidable, ensure it is free of pollutants.
  - 3.2 Conserve Groundwater Resources
    - 3.2.1 Infiltrate clean water to maintain aquifer levels.

- 3.2.2 Conserve groundwater resources by eliminating inefficiencies and reducing use.
- 3.2.3 Conserve groundwater resources by pursuing alternative sources for non-potable use. Provide and use water appropriate for its function (e.g., process water, irrigation, etc.).

### 3.3 Reduce Pollutant Loading of Ground and Surface Waters

- 3.3.1 Reduce surface flow volumes.
- 3.3.2 Reduce pollutants entrained in surface and groundwater flows.
- 3.3.3 Use non-polluting products or processes where possible.

### 3.4 Maintain Natural Low Energy Flow Regime

- 3.4.1 Reduce runoff's pollutant carrying capacity.
- 3.4.2 Reduce runoff's destructive potential.

### 3.5 Use land for multiple purposes

- 3.5.1 Use forests and open space to maintain natural recharge.
- 3.5.2 Integrate stormwater management practices into the built landscape.
- 3.5.3 Encourage stormwater management practices that allow the land encumbered by the practice to be used for purposes beyond stormwater management (sports fields, amphitheaters, pervious pavement parking lots/streets, etc.)

### 3.6 Continually refine management tools to reflect latest technology and innovations

- 3.6.1 Search out scientific research and market advances in the field of water resource management.
- 3.6.2 Integrate research findings and market advances into operations and regulatory codes/guidelines.

## 4.0 Asset Development, Management, and Redevelopment

4.0 All departments shall develop, redevelop, retrofit, refurbish, maintain and operate public assets, including natural resource areas, in a manner that supports the policy of treating water as a resource and its guiding principles.

4.1 All departments shall make their employees, consultants, contractors, and customers aware of how their actions involving the creation, operation and maintenance of public assets impact water quality and quantity; relate to the guiding principles; and support the policy of treating water as a resource.

## 5.0 Development Codes and Regulations

The Department of Community Development, in its role as creator of the Comprehensive Plan and the Plan's supporting development and redevelopment codes or construction guidelines, shall:

5.0 Use these guiding principles when creating and implementing development related codes and regulations.

- 5.1 Provide incentives where possible to promote actions that support these guiding principles and the policy of treating water as a resource.
- 5.2 Support the inclusion of best available fire protection practices and technologies for developments in urban, rural and wildland settings to reduce the potential for runoff from fires or fire fighting activities and to decrease the demand and need for dedicated firefighting water supplies.

#### 6.0 Outreach to Employees, Customers, Citizens, and Contractors

- 6.0 Apprise employees, contractors, consultants, customers, and the general public of how actions and decisions within their purview impact water quality and quantity; relate to these guiding principles; and support the policy of treating water as a resource.
- 6.1 Supply resources to employees, contractors, consultants, customers and the general public that show them how to accomplish common tasks within their purview in a way that supports this policy and is protective of water quality.
- 6.2 Provide incentives where possible to promote actions that support these guiding principles and the policy of treating water as a resource.
- 6.3 Create clear messaging to customers and the general public that explains why programs or assets are modified or constructed in a new or different way to support this policy.

#### 7.0 Partnerships

Create partnerships with Tribal Governments, Federal, State, Local agencies, and non profit organizations to:

- 7.1 Synchronize messages to the public on water related issues.
- 7.2 Share resources and costs.
- 7.3 Gain access to skills, funding sources or other resources not normally available to Kitsap County Government.