



May 20, 2013

Olympia City Council and Planning Commission
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967

Dear Council and Commission Members:

SUBJECT: Reclaimed Water Ordinance Revisions

This letter conveys the Utility Advisory Committee's (UAC's) support of proposed revisions to the Reclaimed Water Ordinance, OMC 13.24. Donna Buxton with the City's Reclaimed Water Program led a discussion of the proposed revisions with UAC members on May 2, 2013. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Buxton requested the UAC's recommendations and support of the proposed revisions to the Reclaimed Water Ordinance.

The proposed revisions expand and clarify the current ordinance by closing regulatory gaps; establishing engineering fees, service charges, and consumption rates; and eliminating redundant and inconsistent language.

The UAC supports moving the ordinance forward through the adoption process. One member is particularly concerned about the outdoor use of reclaimed water because of the potential for impacts to groundwater quality, but does support indoor use of reclaimed water. As staff noted, Washington State Departments of Health and Ecology regulations and standards currently allow for both indoor and outdoor use of Class A reclaimed water (Class A is the highest quality of reclaimed water approved for reuse, except drinking).

We appreciate the LOTT Clean Water Alliance's decision to conduct a multi-year Groundwater Recharge Scientific Study. This study is exploring the science of infiltrating reclaimed water and the potential for personal care and pharmaceutical products to affect our region's groundwater resources. We encourage the City to stay engaged in LOTT's study efforts and to continue its current cautious approach regarding infiltration of reclaimed water within City limits. In particular, we support the City's retention of discretionary authority to deny a proposal for a state-approved beneficial reuse of reclaimed water, and would like to see staff develop a process to guide decisions when considering case-by-case prohibitions.

The UAC recognizes the substantial potential value of reclaimed water for non-potable uses; if it can be used without significant environmental risks, it will contribute to conserving the City's water supply, ensuring availability during periods of drought, and benefitting Puget Sound water quality by reducing discharge to Budd Inlet. The carefully managed use of reclaimed water is in the best interest of the City and we will work with the

Olympia City Council and Planning Commission

May 20, 2013

Page 2

Drinking Water Utility to track the LOTT study and to pursue development and funding opportunities. In the near future, the UAC will be working with the Drinking Water Utility on the Reclaimed Water Program financial structure and facilities as part of the 2015-2020 Water System Plan update.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let me or Barbara Day, UAC Vice Chair, know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



THAD CURTZ

Chair

Utility Advisory Committee

TC/Imm

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ec: UAC Members

Steven R. Hall, City Manager

Rich Hoey, P.E., Director of Public Works

Clark Halvorson, Director of Water Resources