



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Sue Sullivan, Environmental Health Manager

DATE: MAY 27, 2025

RE: 2025 COORDINATED WATER SYSTEM PLAN (CWSP) UPDATE

Chapter 70A.100 RCW, Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977, authorizes the state or local legislative authority to determine that the CWSP should be updated or revised. The contract to facilitate this update was approved by Council in December 2023. The last major update was done in 2016, with a minor amendment in 2019. As per Section 9.3 of the CWSP, it is recommended that the CWSP be updated in coordination with updates of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (WCCP).

Based on WRIA1 feedback regarding issues with plan language, and the intent of Planning and Development Services (PDS) to update the WCCP, HCS initiated a plan update scope of work for review by the WA State Department of Health and the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC). The scope of work was approved by the WUCC on July 18, 2023.

The plan update includes:

1. Water demand projections based on updated population projections and per capita water consumption values
2. Discussion of the impacts of climate change on water systems
3. Identifying areas of higher risk to evaluate
4. Updates on the Nooksack adjudication process and recent legislation allowing more flexibility with respect to accessory dwelling units on property within the urban growth area.

The tentative schedule for the remainder of the CWSP update process is as follows:

Date	Step in Process	Action Requested
May 27, 2025	Present CWSP Preliminary Draft	Review and provide comment
June – July 2025	Public Comment Period, Public Hearing	Submit comment
August – September 2025	Receive, reconcile and respond to comments	N/A
October 2025	WUCC meets to review proposed changes based on comments/ feedback and results of SEPA Determination	WUCC vote of full CWSP draft
December 2025	WA State Department of Health approval. HCS presentation of final draft.	Council approval of resolution/ final draft.

Please call Sue Sullivan at 360-778-6026 if there are any questions. Thank you.

