

# Building Cities in the Rain



*Photo: SvR Design*

Puget Sound Regional  
Council: Regional Staff

*June 19, 2014*

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# Overview

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2. Project Accomplishments
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*Photo: SvR Design*

# Context – Project Origin

The logo for the Puget Sound Partnership, featuring the text "PugetSoundPartnership" in a blue, sans-serif font.

LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

## Action Agenda

### **Commerce Near Term Action A1.2.1:**

“Land Use Planning Barriers, BMPs and Example Policies”: address barriers to policies that encourage compact growth, increased density, water quality standards, redevelopment.....”

**South Central LIO Near Term Action SC13:** “Develop recommendations for incentives and cost effective tools to meet stormwater management and GMA ... to encourage infill... in urban centers instead of greenfield... and to improve water quality.”

# Growth Management Policy Board

## “NPDES v. GMA”

**NPDES v. GMA:** Stormwater regulations are often more costly in ultra-urban areas than in green-fields.



**NPDES & GMA/Regional Growth Strategy:** How to encourage development in designated urban centers while meeting stormwater requirements?



# VISION 2040: Jobs & Housing for 1.7 Million



2 more Seattles + 2 more Tacomas

## Central Puget Sound Region



M:\gis\pds\pds\Map\PIB\PIB01es.mxd 7/11/13

# VISION 2040

Focus on designated centers linked by transit:

## 27 Regional Growth Centers

- 2.5% of total UGA ( $\approx 25$  sq mi)
- Currently 29% of region's jobs

## 8 Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

- 3.7% of total UGA area

“TOD” = compact urban form;  
mostly *redevelopment*; less cars,  
roads and parking per capita



# Project Accomplishments

# Background report

Summarizes GMPB sessions, literature review, interviews & meetings with:

- American Public Works Association
- NPDES Permit Coordinators
- MBA-Pierce County
- Pierce County Growth Management Coordinating Committee
- Olympic Peninsula Planners Forum

## ***Building cities in the rain: background memo***

### **Introduction**

Consistent with the Growth Management Act, [VISION 2040](#) sets forth a vision and strategy for accommodating growth in the central Puget Sound region by concentrating housing and jobs in designated growth centers. In most areas, reaching population and employment targets will require substantial infill development. In addition to encouraging efficient use of urban land through infill, VISION 2040 encourages maintaining hydrological functions, and where feasible, restoring them to a more natural state. The [Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda](#) also calls for concentrated growth in UGAs and improved stormwater controls.

However, the Puget Sound Regional Council [Growth Management Policy Board](#) (GMPB) has heard concerns from cities that the high cost of site-by-site stormwater regulations, in combination with other costs such as demolition, brownfield remediation, historic preservation, and aging infrastructure repairs, may stifle redevelopment of urban areas. If costs are too high developers may look outside concentrated growth centers for lower cost strategies or options for their projects, or downsize redevelopment projects to avoid triggering thresholds for expensive stormwater requirements to the detriment of desired density.

Some areas have found regional stormwater facilities can help address the challenges of infill development, but those approaches may not work in all cities depending on local real estate markets, or constraints of local geology or hydrology.

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group *Subcommittee on Stormwater and Infill Development* is building on Growth Management Policy Board discussions with help from Commerce (*see sidebar*). This memo provides background information on stormwater management challenges in infill situations based on information presented to the GMPB as well as preliminary input from interviews and meetings with builders, planners and state and local stormwater managers.<sup>1</sup>

**Who, What and Why:** *The South Central Action Area Caucus Group is a regional "Local Integrating Organization" (LIO) designated with advancing the Puget Sound Action Agenda. This project is intended to further one of the group goals: "Better alignment of land use planning with conditions for, and implementation of municipal NPDES permits to reduce stormwater impacts."*

*This memo was prepared by Department of Commerce with a grant from the National Estuary Program directed at promoting regional collaboration efforts that advance protection of Puget Sound. For information visit the project [EZ](#). View website or contact [Tim Gates](#), Commerce, at 360.725.3058; or [DeSean Quinn](#), Caucus Group Coordinator, at 206.263.3420.*

# National Conversation – Density as BMP?

 United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA 231-R-05-001  
January 2006  
[www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth)



**PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES  
WITH HIGHER-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT**

 United States Environmental Protection Agency



Using Smart Growth Techniques as  
**Stormwater Best  
Management Practices**

# SvR Innovative Practices - Key Messages



- Integrate stormwater and LID into comprehensive land use plans and development plans **early**
- Public/private partnerships are important
- Consider regional facilities rather than site-by-site mitigation

*Schematic: SvR Design*

# Flexibility in the Permits

# Flexibility in the Permit: Regional Facilities/Shared Solutions

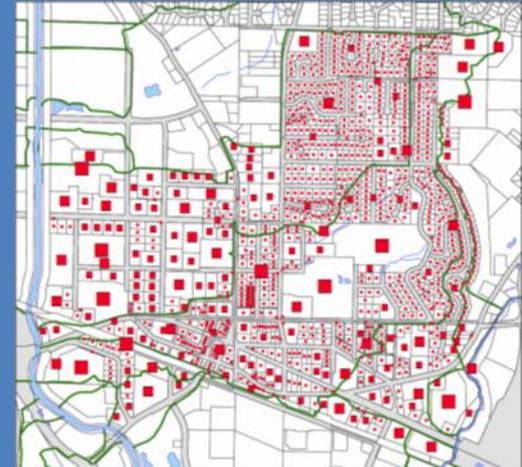
Centralized mitigation projects  
(big ponds/vaults, or pipes to  
exempt waters)

Escapes the “tyranny of site  
constraints”

Scalable: can treat large areas or  
small neighborhoods

Concerns:  
Need the right geography.  
How to pay for facilities?

Redmond: example  
alternative to site-by-  
site flow controls

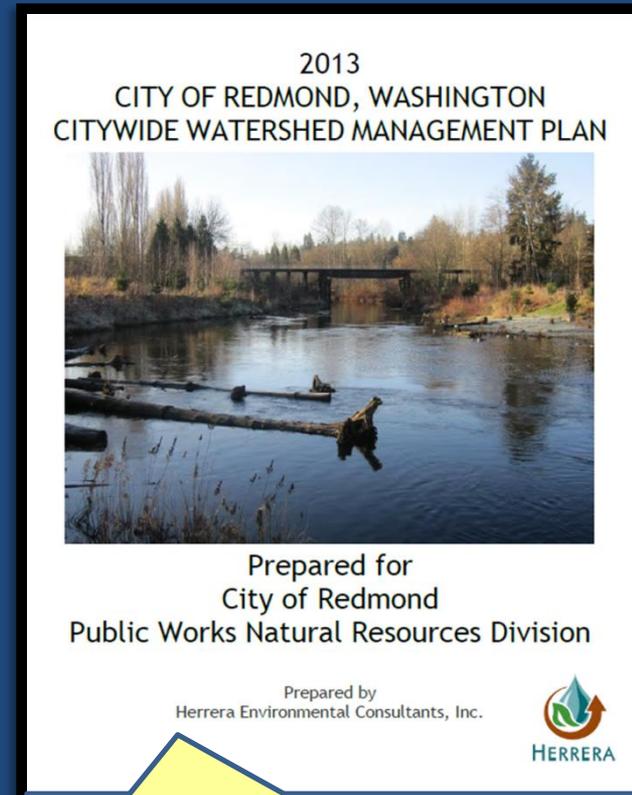


# Flexibility in Permit: Watershed Planning

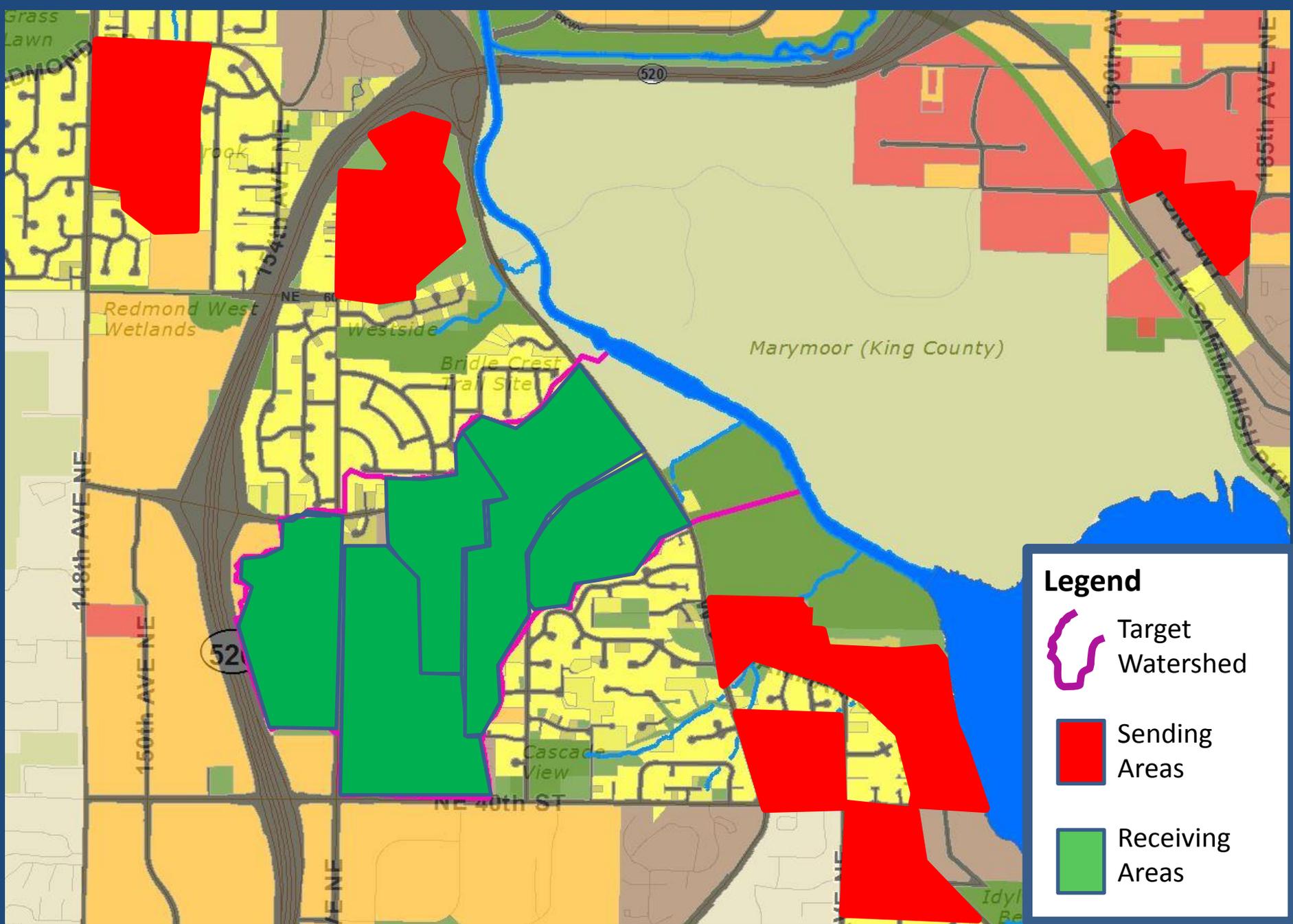
Redmond approach approved February 2014.  
Template for other cities.

## Basic approach:

- Identify areas where dense development is desired; and “stormwater mitigation areas” where stormwater retrofits will have near term ecological benefits
- City builds stormwater retrofits to address hydrology and water quality issues caused by development
- Developers pay fee-in-lieu to pay back stormwater retrofits



Carefully decouples mitigation from project site



**Legend**

-  Target Watershed
-  Sending Areas
-  Receiving Areas

# Other Progress Since Project Started

# City of Redmond

1. Redmond adopted Citywide Watershed Management Plan
2. Ecology approved Redmond's Watershed Management Plan
3. Redmond received two NEP Watershed grants for implementation of its Watershed Management Plan

# City of Tacoma

Tacoma received an NEP Watershed grant for a Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, including an areawide stormwater strategy



# March 27, 2014 Settlement Agreement

5		
6		POLLUTION CONTROL HEARINGS BOARD
7		STATE OF WASHINGTON
8	COALITION OF GOVERNMENTAL	
9	ENTITIES: CITY OF AUBURN, CITY OF	No. 12-097c
10	BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, CITY OF	
11	BELLEVUE, CITY OF BURLINGTON,	<b>STIPULATION AND AGREED ORDER</b>
12	CITY OF DES MOINES, CITY OF	<b>OF DISMISSAL OF PHASE II</b>
13	EVERETT, CITY OF KENT, CITY OF	<b>NON-CONSOLIDATED LEGAL ISSUES</b>
14	ISSAQUAH, CITY OF MOUNT VERNON,	<b>No. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15</b>
15	CITY OF RENTON, CITY OF SEATAC,	
	CITY OF SNOQUALMIE, CITY OF	
	SUMNER, all of which are municipal	
	corporations of the State of Washington,	
	COWLITZ COUNTY, a political subdivision	
	of the State of Washington; and KING	
	COUNTY, a political subdivision	

“Ecology agrees to continue to work with Phase II Coalition members, other permittees, and the Department of Commerce to **explore options** for meeting stormwater development/flow control standards on small, redevelopment sites in urban growth centers.”

# Next Steps

# Developing Guidance and Outreach

Task	Action	Notes
<b>Guidance</b>	Develop guidance for identifying priority “stormwater mitigation areas” for stormwater facilities	Develop prioritization guidance that compliments/integrates with Ecology’s (developing) guidance on a stormwater control transfer program
<b>Outreach</b>	Communication with and engagement of stakeholders	Tribes, environmental community, cities/counties, building community, etc.

# Desired Outcome = Vibrant Designated Urban Centers + Clean Water and Restored Fish Habitat



*Photo: SvR Design*

# For More Information



## Building Cities in the Rain

[Portal ID #1780]

Overview | **Contacts** | Events | Library

### Summary of the project

The Washington State Department of Commerce, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, is partnering with the South Central Sound Puget Caucus to identify approaches to managing stormwater in infill areas.

**Problem Statement:**  
Current regulatory and legal requirements, including stormwater management, provide important environmental protections but can also make development in urban centers more expensive than in less dense areas. What approaches can the region use to both encourage development in dense urban centers to meet land use goals, while meeting water quality requirements?

**Need:**  
The challenge of meeting growth management and stormwater goals is complex and involves many disciplines such as water resources, science and engineering, architecture, real estate development and finance, land use and environmental regulation, and urban design, among others. Infill development can include costs for demolition, brownfield remediation, historic preservation, aging infrastructure repair, and stormwater infrastructure. These types of requirements can ultimately make an infill project more expensive than a similar project in a less developed area.

*Pictures*



Courtesy SVR Design

Visit the project web site at [www.ezview.wa.gov](http://www.ezview.wa.gov)  
or contact Heather Ballash at  
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