

Summary of key points from Planners' discussions of the 9/3/20 PSNGP AC Draft Recommendations

The following planners participated in discussions September 15-28, 2020: Angie Silva (Kitsap Co), Brent Baldwin and Rob Johnson (Bellingham), Joyce Phillips and Jeremy Graham (Olympia), Phil Williams (Everett), and Peter Huffman (Tacoma). Carl Schroeder (Association of WA Cities) also participated, and numerous AC members and alternates listened in.

Key points:

- (#13) Relatively few plants are at or above 85% capacity and these should already be planning expansion/upgrades. Focus the PSNGP planning requirements (#53-54) on plants that exceed the cap, rather than those nearing capacity.
- (#44) Planners expressed support for a regional feasibility study and its expected efficiencies. Require (vs. "allow" in #48) coordination among plants. AWC could assist in coordination.
 - Define the regional study deliverables to align with the permit requirements.
 - Do this in parallel with permit development/issuance timeline.
- (#53-54) Planners recommend the first PSNGP orient toward the information in 2030 for a 2032 Comprehensive Plan update (or appropriate date for the county – there are three separate schedules). The timelines are better aligned than for the 2024 update. Jurisdictions are concerned about ability to provide the level of detail needed for the CFP Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) update and the GMA-required funding plan. The required actions under AC consideration impact current plans as well as future updates.
 - Having bookend cost estimates would then not be crucial for 2024 Comp Plan updates for all jurisdictions; special purpose districts are on different timelines (see Dept of Commerce for list). Placeholder language in the 2024 update should suffice.
 - Focus the first permit requirements on data collection, optimization, and other actions plants can currently take, rather than making much progress toward plant upgrades.
 - The CFP is updated every year at many jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions will do more, earlier. Most will want to wait until the target (WQBEL) is defined.
 - Plant size influences ability to plan and to reduce nutrients. Some jurisdictions don't know yet what the impacts to GMA planning are. Need the info for growth targets.
- Overall: Be clear in use of "plan" versus engineering report and other terms defined in WAC.