## Revise Thurston County Critical Areas Code Regarding Reclaimed Water Use

Proposed implementing entity: Thurston County

Recommendations:

* Consider changes to the Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance, specifically the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas regulations under TCC 24.10.190, 24.30.085, and 24.25.080, to allow for additional uses of reclaimed water. Thurston County’s Critical Areas Ordinance currently does not permit large-scale infiltration of reclaimed water (defined as “application to the land’s surface above agronomic rates”).
* Review additional information from the Regional Groundwater Recharge Scientific Study (now known as LOTT’s Reclaimed Water Infiltration Study) and other sources. Thurston County could reconsider this limitation in light of new state-level guidance and information from LOTT’s pending study, which will be completed in 2021.

Purpose:

Allowing additional uses of reclaimed water would increase options for mitigating streamflows in unincorporated Thurston County, along with other potential benefits, by replenishing groundwater, augmenting streamflows, enhancing wetlands and other habitat, and offsetting the quantity of water that is withdrawn for other purposes.

Funding:

Funding is undetermined and needed through either grants, committee resources, Thurston County general funds, or other potential funding methods.