



# The Value of Drinking Water

## Bonney Lake

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**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY





## **Office of Drinking Water Mission**

We work with others to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.



# The Value of Water TEDX by Heather Himmelberger

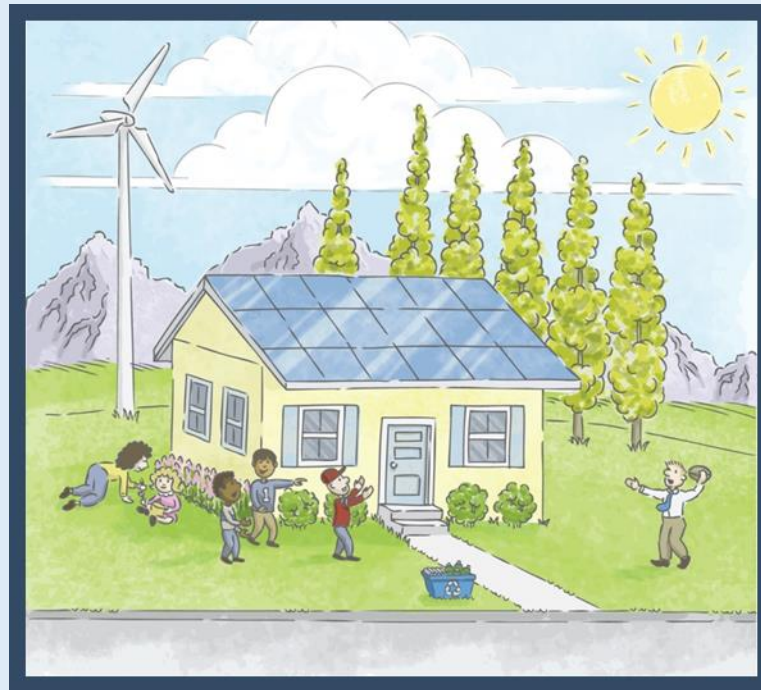
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It's time to put water first | Heather Himmelberger | TEDxABQ  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrEuta9GPGM>



# **A safe and reliable water system is:**

- Paramount to your home value.
- One of your largest investments.



# **“Holy Ravioli Batman”... Drinking Water Infrastructure is Expensive**

## ➤ Out of sight. Out of mind.

- Age
- Condition
- Age
- Criticality

## ➤ Depreciation and Value

- The Great Recession
- Another decade goes by...
- Operations & Maintenance staffing has not kept up with growth



# Facilities and Conveyance System Restoration Times and Associated Economic Losses (Preliminary Estimates – Resiliency Report, 2016)

Regional System A	Cascadia Subduction Zone	South Whidbey Island Fault	Seattle Fault	Tacoma Fault
<b>Everett</b>	\$70 M	\$490 M	\$10 M	\$0
<b>SPU/CWA</b>	\$810 M	\$1,550 M	\$1,770 M	\$240 M
<b>Tacoma Water</b>	\$750 M	\$20 M	not evaluated	\$1,110 M
<b>Total loss</b>	\$1,630 M	\$2,060 M	\$1,780 M	\$1,360 M

# Drinking Water State Regulations

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- WAC 246-290-100 (1) (j) Must demonstrate financial viability.
  - Full-cost of water
  - Fiduciary Responsibility – Mayor and Council
  
- WAC 246-290-100 (j) (ii), provide a balanced budget for the planning period you are requesting to be approved by DOH.
  - Capital Projects and how to pay for them
  - Operations & Maintenance and how to pay for it
  - Providing a portion of rate revenue towards infrastructure replacement projects



# **Water System Plans have Multiple Jurisdictions involved in Approving**

## ➤ **Washington State:**

- Department of Health
- Ecology
- Commerce - Puget Sound Regional Council  
Growth Forecasting

## ➤ **Pierce County:**

- Planning and Land Services
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept – Source  
Water Mapping and Protection
- Fire Marshall

## ➤ **Cities served by Utility – Bonney Lake, Auburn, Sumner**





# A City with a Water System has Much to Juggle

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- Unlike PUD's and Water Districts which only are in the business of running water, sewer, power infrastructure.
- Cities can get distracted from water system duties because of public safety, fire, police, court, parks, economic development and so many assets to care for.
- DOH reminds them safe and reliable water is foundational public health for a good life!



# DOH as a Regulator

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- Review and comment on approximately 24 water system plans per year.
- Review and comment on hundreds of water system projects.
- Sanitary Survey findings – How will utility address?
- Our philosophy is to add value and tell the water system how they are measuring up to others and industry standards.



# DOH as a Regulator, Continued...

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- Water System Approval means:
  - Green operating permit
  - Main extension exemption per review and approval of design specifications
  - Rate ordinance adopted to fund plan.
- Operating permit can be turned to yellow per WAC 246-294-040 (b) (i) if the water system has been notified of the planning provisions and has failed to satisfy the requirements.
- House sales may be impacted by “yellow” operating permit status



# Questions?

