

# THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING

STORM & SURFACE WATER ADVISORY BOARD – MARCH 21, 2024



## MANAGING WATER QUANTITY - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES

# AGENDA



BACKGROUND ON  
COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN



INTRODUCE  
PROPOSED NEW  
POLICY DIRECTIONS



NEXT STEPS



QUESTIONS

# BACKGROUND: COMP PLAN & WATER RESOURCES

- What does the Comp Plan say about water resources?
  - Watershed Planning, GMA, *Hirst*
  - Stormwater standards
  - Domestic water availability
  - Natural resource industries
  - CIP & Utilities
  - Natural environment



# PROPOSED POLICY DIRECTIONS

Comp Plan policies allow exploration of new instruments that may help prepare for a changing water future in Thurston County:



Consider lengthening  
planning horizons for water  
availability



Explore a variety of  
approaches to Water Banking



Identify and study alternatives  
to permit-exempt drinking  
water wells

# POLICY DIRECTION: LONGER HORIZONS



## Policy Overview

**Direction:** lengthen water supply and demand horizons to evaluate long-term water needs and availability.

**Purpose:** expands the type of projects and eligibility for funding sources that will help improve resiliency.

## Potential Actions

- Develop appropriate methods and analyses for determining long-term:
  - Population growth
  - Water demand
  - Water supply

# POLICY DIRECTION: WATER BANKING



## Policy Overview

**Direction:** explore water bank ideas to serve a variety of functions for diverse interest groups in the county.

**Purpose:** allows administration of water rights locally through collaboration in an emergent market for our region.

## Potential Actions

- Develop clear goals and user groups of a potential water bank
- Identify potential seed water rights
- Outline critical path in establishing a bank
- Identify supportive funding
- Final direction in creating bank

# POLICY DIRECTION: PERMIT-EXEMPT WELLS



## Policy Overview

**Direction:** explore alternatives to current process for permit-exempt drinking water wells serving rural residential development.

**Purpose:** create new programs, development standards, and funding mechanisms to support *Hirst* planning.

## Potential Actions

- Develop incentive programs for alternatives to permit-exempt wells
- Explore development standards for permit-exempt wells where appropriate
- Define funding mechanisms for offset requirements under Streamflow Restoration Act

## NEXT STEPS

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Address questions

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Workshops

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May - SSWAB presentation

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Planning Commission Processes

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BoCC Processes



# QUESTIONS?

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