

Section 11

Plan Implementation

11.1 Introduction

The intent of the Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) is to implement the various provisions of the Public Water System Coordination Act, Chapter 70.116 RCW and the County Comprehensive Plan. This Section briefly outlines the approval process for the CWSP and regional administrative actions for implementation, describes how the CWSP is routinely updated, and provides the environmental review.

11.2 Plan Approval Process

It is the responsibility of each utility to fulfill its water system planning requirements. The level of effort required is based upon the system size, the expansion plans of the utility, and the type of system ownership. Guidelines for preparing water system plans (WSP) are available from Department of Health (DOH). Completed WSPs are kept on file with DOH, Skagit County Planning and Permit Center (SCPPC), and Skagit County Health Department (SCHD) and considered to be a part of the CWSP.

Preparation of the Supplemental Provisions is the responsibility of the County and the local utilities, acting through the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC). The WUCC identified local needs and gave direction to the development of the CWSP as it related to area-wide issues. Through the efforts of the WUCC and the County, the procedures, regional policies, and minimum standards have been completed for the Critical Water Supply Service Area (CWSSA).

The completed CWSP is submitted by the WUCC to the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners appointed Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for review and comment. After addressing CAC comments, the CWSP is submitted to Skagit County for review and to ensure there are no inconsistencies with the County's County-wide Planning Policies and the Comprehensive Plan. (See Exhibit 11-1.)

Any changes to procedures or other CWSP elements, proposed prior to the update of the CWSP, need to follow the same process for amendment as that outlined above for CWSP approval.

11.3 Water System Plan Review and Approval

The Public Water System Coordination Act and DOH implementing regulations (Chapter 246-293 WAC) require that each purveyor within the critical water supply service area prepare a WSP identifying the proposed program for compliance with and implementation of responsibilities defined in the CWSP (certain exemptions exist for non-municipally owned systems in existence as of September 21, 1977, see WAC 246-293-230). Water system plans are to be completed and submitted for review and approval by all expanding systems in Skagit County.

By statute, DOH is responsible for WSP approval. This approval authority may be delegated to the SCHD for smaller systems. The conditions of such delegation would be set forth in a formal agreement between the agencies.

The County's review must include all plans involving facilities in the unincorporated area, including municipal activities outside corporate boundaries. This review should be coordinated by the SCPPC to determine consistency of proposed actions with county land use policies and plans. When the activities and facilities of a public water purveyor are located entirely within the corporate limits of a city, the review for consistency is to be made by the city. Appropriate recommendations should then be provided to DOH or SCPPC regarding conditions of approval.

Exhibit 11-2 illustrates the procedure described above for review and approval of WSPs. Exhibit 11-3 identifies approved interties between the water systems to provide for sharing of water supplies.

In this Section of the plan, the Swinomish Tribal Planning Department will be substituted for all references to the Skagit County or DOH for purposes of review of proposed new or expanded water systems within the exterior boundaries of the Swinomish Indian Reservation. This will not preclude the Tribe, County, or State from coordinating technical review of proposed systems on the Reservation as is currently practiced.

11.4 Coordinated Water System Plan Update

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Water System Coordination Act, the CWSP shall be reviewed and updated by the WUCC, if necessary. It is recommended that all individual WSPs included within the CWSP updates and submitted for review and approval at the same time as the CWSP. A uniform approval date will allow the Regional Supplement for the CWSP and the individual WSPs to be updated on the same schedule, ensuring the use of current information among all the utilities.

17938

11.5 Environmental Document

The State Environmental Policy Act of 1971, Chapter 43.21C RCW, requires that all water system plans be accompanied by an appropriate environmental document. An Environmental Checklist has been prepared for the Skagit County CWSP and its recommended activities. This Checklist is included in Appendix J.

The CWSP has been prepared to establish administrative, management, and policy procedures to respond to the needs of existing and future customers in Skagit County. It is intended to address regional concerns within the County, which are not ordinarily included in each utility's WSP. Examples of those regional issues are: potentially shared facilities, regional sources of supply, procedures for reviewing and approving future water use activities, minimum design standards, designated water utility service areas, and water utility management policies.

The CWSP contents are referenced in the Checklist. It is anticipated that implementation of the individual WSPs will have both negative and positive impacts. The CWSP has been developed in accordance with Skagit County and city land use documents to reflect local land use policies and requirements. Therefore, implementation of this CWSP and the employment of sound engineering and construction practices during the implementation of each utility's WSP will minimize any adverse impacts.

A final environmental determination must be made by Skagit County prior to the submittal of the CWSP to DOH. This final determination is to be attached to or incorporated within the CWSP at the time of submittal.

Exhibit 11-1**State Regulation Relating to Local Review of Plan****WAC 246-293-290 Coordinated Water System Plan - Local Review**

(1) Prior to submission of a coordinated water system plan to the department for approval, the plan shall be reviewed by the county legislative authority(ies) in the county(ies) in which the critical water supply service area is located. County review of the coordinated water system plan shall include at least one public hearing.

(2) If no comments have been received from the county legislative authority(ies) within 60 days of receipt of the coordinated water system plan, the department may consider the plan for approval.

(3) If within 60 days of receipt of the coordinated water system plan, the county legislative authority(ies) find any segment of the plan to be inconsistent with adopted land use plans, shorelines master programs, the following shall occur:

(a) The county legislative authority(ies) shall submit written description of their determination and justification supporting their determination prior to the end of the 60 day period to the department and all affected parties.

(b) The county legislative authority(ies) shall make every effort to resolve any inconsistencies within 60 days of submittal of written justification.

(c) The department may approve those portions of the coordinated water system plan found not to be inconsistent with adopted plans and policies at any time after the initial determination by the county legislative authority(ies).

(d) If after the 60 day period established for resolution of inconsistencies an inconsistency still exists, the affected parties shall each present their final recommended alternative solution to the department. The department shall then review all alternative solutions and discuss its recommendations with the county(ies) and the water utility coordinating committee. If after two years of the declaration of the critical water supply service area the inconsistencies persist, the department may deny proposals to establish or to expand any public water system facilities which affect that portion of the critical water supply service area being contested.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-293-290, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.116 RCW. 78-07-048 (Order 1309), § 248-56-800, filed 6/28/78.]

Exhibit 11-2 Skagit County CWSP Water System Plan Review

17938

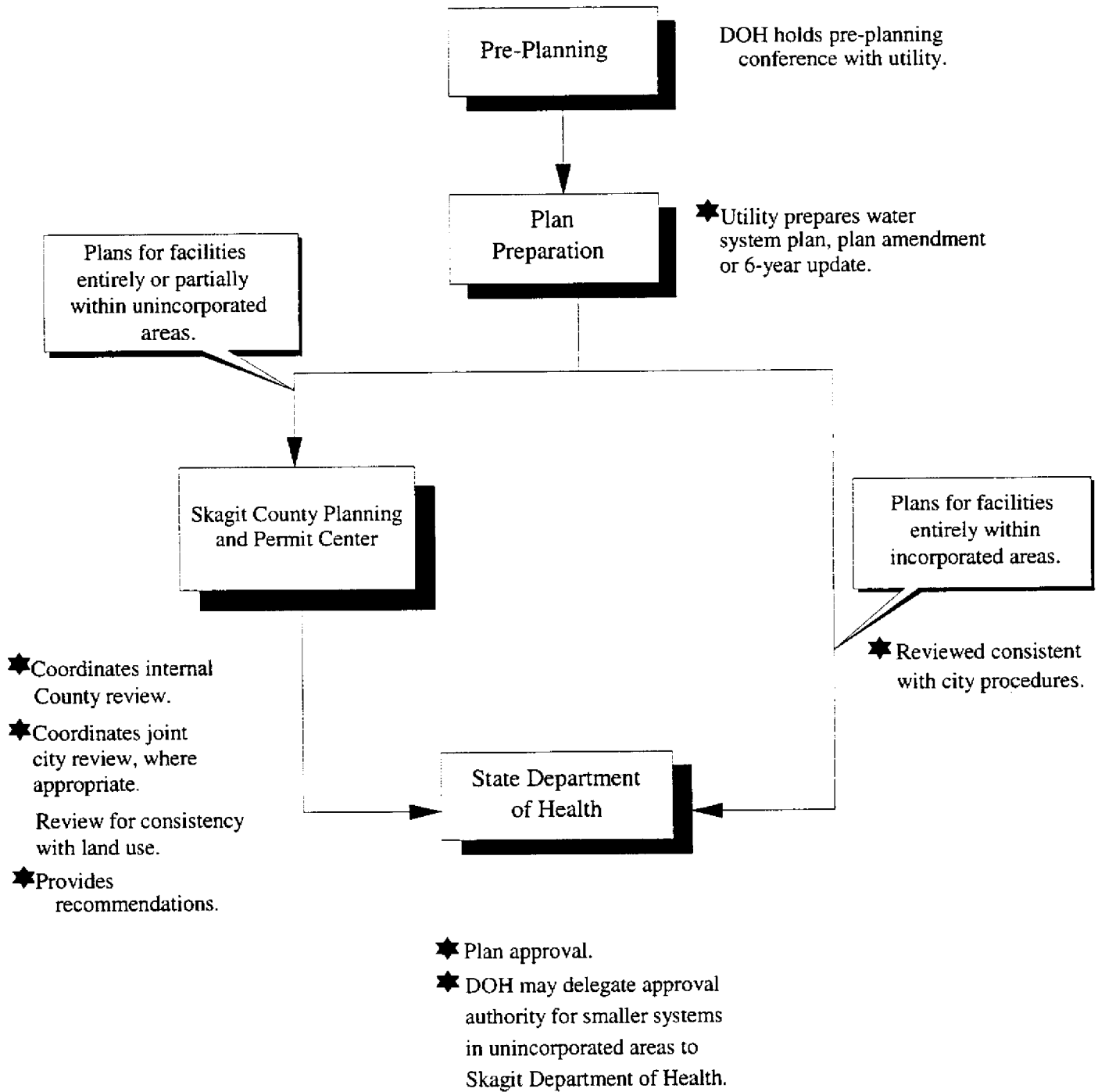


Exhibit 11-3

Existing and Proposed Interties

Intertie	Existing ¹	Proposed	Function ²
1. Anacortes – Oak Harbor and US Navy	X		Base
2. Anacortes – LaConner/ Shelter Bay/ Swinomish Reservation	X		Base and Emergency (Swinomish)
3. Anacortes – Skagit PUD			
a) Fidalgo Island (4 each)	X		Base
b) Fredonia	X		Base
c) Memorial Highway	X		Base
d) Avon	X		Base
e) Riverbend	X		Seasonal/Peak
4. Anacortes – Del Mar Community	X		Seasonal/Peak
5. Skagit PUD – Blanchard Edison	X		Emergency
6. Skagit PUD – Samish Farms	X		Base

Footnotes:

¹ Except for the Anacortes – Skagit PUD Riverbend facility, all interties were in existence on January 1, 1991.

² The function of the interties are categorized as follows for the purposes of this CWSP:

- Emergency – The connecting valve is closed except during short-term periods when water shortages exist due to emergency conditions.
- Seasonal/peak – The intertie is routinely used on an annual basis, normally during the summer, peak use period.
- Base – The intertie provides the base supply to a utility as a wholesale customer.
- Conjunctive – Two or more sources of water are utilized by the intertied utilities to improve overall system reliability, optimize system operations, and/or achieve the most efficient use of the combined resources.

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