DOH-ODW Water System Planning Guidebook Summary

The Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (DOH-ODW) has updated their water system planning resource document, now called the Water System Planning Guidebook DOH 331-068. This new version includes updates driven by the 2003 Municipal Water Law as well as other regulatory changes made as recently as January 2017. The Water System Planning Guidebook includes up-to-date, useful, and comprehensive guidance that builds upon the information included in our soon to be released (or recently released) fourth edition of the Water System Design Manual (WSDM) DOH 331-123, to assist water system owners, operators, engineers and consultants in the preparation of Water System Plans.

Following is a summary of the elements and updates included in the Water System Planning Guidebook:

- Each of the Chapters, 1-10, includes a stated objective and list of chapter topics, as well as a publications reference list. Planning Tip dialogue boxes have been included throughout to highlight useful information.

- Water System Plans assist water systems in developing and demonstrating strong technical, managerial and financial capacity. To that end, elements of technical capacity are found in chapters 2, 3 and 6; managerial capacity in chapters 1, 4, 5, 7 and 10; and, financial capacity in chapters 8 and 9.

- Where available, the Water System Planning Guidebook refers to or links to other publications such as the Water System Design Manual and the Water Use Efficiency Guidebook rather than duplicating information contained in other documents.

- **Chapter 1—Description of the Water System**, includes discussion on Duty to Serve, and Local Government and Watershed Plan Consistency.

- **Chapter 2—Basic Planning Date**, includes distribution system leakage and water supply information. The subject of interties is also included in this chapter.

- **Chapters 3—System Inventory and Analysis**, aligns with the fourth edition WSDM and includes the topics of Asset Inventory and Capacity Analysis.

- **Chapter 4—Water Use Efficiency Program**, identifies the requirements of the Water Use Efficiency Program resulting from the 2003 Municipal Water Law.
• **Chapter 5—Source Water Protection**, clarifies and updates Source Water Protection requirements.

• **Chapter 6—Operations and Maintenance Program**, includes updates to the coliform monitoring program that incorporate the requirements of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).

• **Chapter 7—Distribution Facilities Design and Construction Standards**, aligns with our recently released (or soon to be released) fourth edition Water System Design Manual.

• **Chapter 8—Capital Improvement Program**, is expanded to include the subject of Value Planning.

• **Chapter 9—Financial Program**, is expanded to assist in the identification of the costs of providing water service, including addressing water rates evaluation.

• **Chapter 10—Miscellaneous Documents**, includes recent resources and links and a section on SEPA.