

## Water Use Efficiency Rule Update for 2012

*In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Law, to address the increasing demand on the state's water resources. The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty and flexibility to help them meet future demand.*



### Goals

On November 19, 2007, Renton City Council adopted three water use efficiency goals developed at a public forum held on November 9, 2007:

1. Reduce the distribution system leakage to 10% or less by 2010.
2. Limit the peak day water demand to 16.5 million gallons per day (MGD) or less through 2015.
3. Continue reduction of the average annual domestic water use per customer connection by one-half percent per year.

These goals were to be in effect for six years, until November 2013, unless they were replaced or renewed prior to that date.

January 2012, the City of Renton joined the Saving Water Partnership (SWP), a collaboration of 19 local water utilities who provide water conservation programs in Seattle and King County. During 2012, the City participated in the Partnership's conservation programs and will formally adopt the 2013-18 SWP regional goal in 2013, which will replace our current goals.

### Efforts taken by the city to achieve the three water use efficiency goals.

- 1. Reduce the distribution system leakage (DSL) to 10% or less by 2010.* In 2012, 2.41 billion gallons of water were produced from all water sources. The DSL for 2012 was 7.7%. This equates to a 11.2% rolling average over the past 3 years. This is still short of our goal of 10%, but an improvement over last year's 12% DSL. The DSL includes: "real losses" such as leaking and broken pipes; and "apparent losses" such as meter inaccuracies, data billing errors, tampering of meters and hydrants, and the flushing and cleaning of mains and reservoirs. We should easily reach 10% rolling average in 2013. This continued three year DSL decline confirms that our Water Control Action Plan (Appendix P of the 2012 Water System Plan) is working as the city continues to take necessary steps to reduce all water losses.
- 2. Limit the peak day water demand to 16.5 million gallons per day or less through 2015.* On September 7, 2012, the city's water supply sources experienced its highest peak day water demand of 11.4 million gallons – well below the 16.5 MGD goal maximum.
- 3. Continue reduction of the average annual domestic water use per customer connection by one-half (0.5%) percent per year.* The average per connection residential customer water use in 2012 (compared to 2011 usage) was approximately 1.6% decrease from 2011. This exceeds the WUE goal of 0.5% reduction. This decrease in per

