

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This Surface Water Quality Management Plan (Management Plan) for the City of Sultan (the City) consists of a review of existing conditions that affect surface water flow and quality within the City of Sultan to establish a basis for surface water quality management within the City. The existing regulatory environment within which the City operates was also evaluated and the City's present surface water management efforts described.

Water quality and flooding issues and solutions were identified and solutions prepared to address the localized surface water management issues. In addition to changes in City government, planning level cost estimates and funding mechanisms were examined to implement the recommended solutions.

As part of this study, surface water quality monitoring was conducted by students at Sultan High School, and the general public was invited to express their opinions on the purpose, findings, and recommendations of this study.

The Management Plan was funded through the financial assistance of the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and was adopted by the City on _____. The development of the plan was coordinated with DOE and City of Sultan staff, as well as the public, through several public meetings and a public hearing on the plan.

1.1 PURPOSE

Previously, the City's primary focus on the management of surface water was its Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) program to minimize and mitigate catastrophic flooding damage. The purpose of this Management Plan is to identify the existing surface water conveyance and quality problems and to assist the City in protecting the existing high quality of the surface waters surrounding the City, in accordance with the statutory and regulatory environment. This Management Plan will augment the FEMA related efforts concerning catastrophic flooding.

Current laws and regulations directly affect how cities develop and implement programs to manage surface water. These laws and regulations govern the structural solutions that might be envisioned, as well as the inspection and maintenance functions required to manage surface water in the municipal environment. Compliance with these laws and regulations is a corollary purpose of this Management Plan.

1.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The larger goal for the Management Plan was to develop a long term municipal government mechanism to manage surface water in a way that water quality was preserved and localized flooding and erosion problems were reduced. To achieve this goal, four planning level goals were established for the Management Plan process, each with their own objective. These are summarized in Table 1-1, Goals and Objectives of the Management Plan.

1.3 STUDY HORIZON

The City is undergoing significant change, with the increasing urbanization of Snohomish County and the subsequent movement of people to the less populated areas. The population of the City has doubled in the last ten years and municipal infrastructure has changed, as well. Larger schools, streets and roadways,

sidewalks, municipal buildings, as well as small housing subdivisions and light commercial and industrial activities have developed. The City's comprehensive land use plan envisions this to continue. For the purpose of this study, it was assumed that the land-use and zoning pattern would not be significantly altered for the next ten years; however, build-out would continue along recent trends. The ten year planning horizon was selected for this Management Plan with the knowledge that a Surface Water and Drainage Comprehensive Plan, mandated by existing regulation, would likely be prepared as an outcome of the recommended changes to City government contained in this plan.

1.4 AUTHORIZATION

Preparation of the Management Plan was authorized by the City of Sultan with the financial and technical assistance of the Washington State Department of Ecology.

1.5 PREVIOUS AND ONGOING STUDIES

This plan has the benefit of the preparation of previous and ongoing plans associated with surface water quality and surface water management in Sultan. These plans include:

- Original design documents for the Central Business District stormwater system.
- The City of Sultan Drainage Master Plan, prepared by KCM (undated). This plan identified improvements to the CBD stormwater collection system.
- The Federal Emergency Management Administration Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan, developed by the City, in conjunction with Earth Tech, (2002).
- The Sanitary Sewer Infiltration and Inflow Mitigation Plan, developed by Berryman & Henigar, (2002).
- The Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City, developed by Beckwith Consulting Group (2002).

TABLE 1-1
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goal 1 - Characterize Existing Conditions

- Develop baseline maps of the study area including topography, land use, wetlands and aquatic resources, drainage ways and flood plains, municipal infrastructure, buildings and other human activities.
- Inventory and characterize physical, hydrological and biological features as they relate to surface water management and water quality.
- Identify the regulatory environment that influences existing or proposed City programs.

Goal 2 - Identify Hydraulic and Water Quality Problems

- Identify surface water runoff patterns and impacts through anecdotal references and field observations.
- Identify potential surface water contaminants based upon land use patterns.
- Evaluate the contribution of the City's stormwater collection system inflow to the sanitary sewer system.
- Conduct surface water quality monitoring of select streams within the City using Sultan High School science students.

Goal 3 - Develop the Management Plan

- Develop a conceptual management plan to address regulatory requirements, funding requirements for desired activities, and to manage surface water quality programs and projects.
- Identify drainage programs and facility requirements.
- Develop an implementation plan that includes legal, financial and staffing elements.

Goal 4 - Involve the Public in the Management Plan Development

- Coordinate water quality observation teams with Sultan High School students and staff.
- Hold public meetings to gather input and present project progress.
- Conduct public hearing on draft Management Plan hearings.