

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Wastewater Reclamation Project

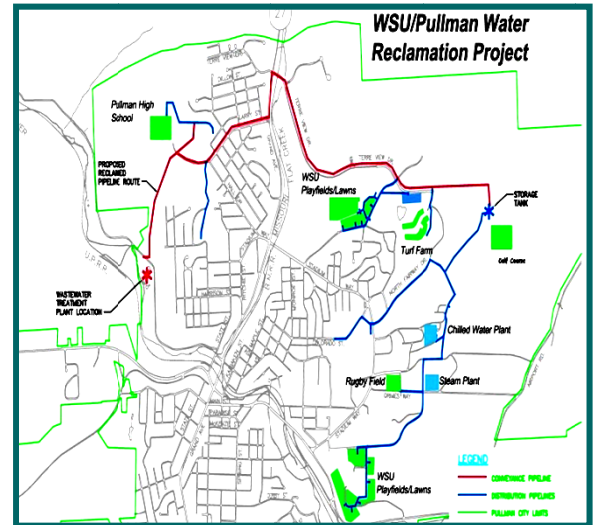
2009 – 2011 Request:	\$15,750,000	Project Type:	Preservation (Infrastructure)
Institution Priority:	#11	Project Phase:	Design/Constr
		Gross Square Ft:	1

A \$16 million project to reduce the stress on a declining water table in the Palouse region is requested by Washington State University.

The City of Pullman and WSU Pullman both draw water from the Grande Rhonde Aquifer. It is dropping at the rate of between one and two feet per year.

Funding is sought for construction of a wastewater reclamation plant addition to the existing City of Pullman Waste Treatment facility. Predesign was funded in the 1999-01 biennia and completed in June 2000.

The Wastewater Reclamation Project will provide up to one million gallons per day of treated water for seasonal irrigation of WSU recreational areas, parks, and agricultural lands. Combined with continued aggressive conservation practices, the university expects to relieve pressure on the declining aquifer that feeds the region's water supply.



Reclaimed water has the potential to be used for uses such as the energy plant and chilled water plant, thus reducing the need for potable water. This reclaimed water is treated to the Washington State Class A standard. It is suitable for irrigation and industrial uses, will reduce the reliance on water pumped directly from the aquifer for WSU consumption.

Although the University contributes 34% of the effluent into the City of Pullman Wastewater Treatment Facility, WSU will receive 100% of the wastewater reclaimed in the current capital project request. This will save WSU the cost of developing as many new wells as existing wells become less productive.

This project, in accordance with regional bi-state planning goals, serves as a major conservation measure to reduce dependence on the Grande Rhonde Aquifer and has also been identified as a project of high priority for water conservation by the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) and the WIRA 34 Watershed Planning process. Since predesign completion, WSU and the City of Pullman have explored many alternative funding possibilities, but have not been able to identify any practical solutions except state funding for this project.

Examples of funding sources pursued and resulting information: The Centennial Clean Water Fund grants for effluent reuse projects were found to be only for demonstration projects. DOE funded four pilot projects in 1986 but reported no funding currently available for this purpose. Federal grants

identified were reportedly awarded only to very large cities to clean up their effluent into major waterways. WSU has been unsuccessful in finding any solution to this problem through local governments or federal jurisdictions.

Specific project components include a filter building, storage tanks, chemical feed system, and metering pumps at the City of Pullman wastewater treatment plant; a reclaimed water transmission system extending to a storage reservoir on the east campus of WSU; and distribution piping / irrigation systems to final use areas.