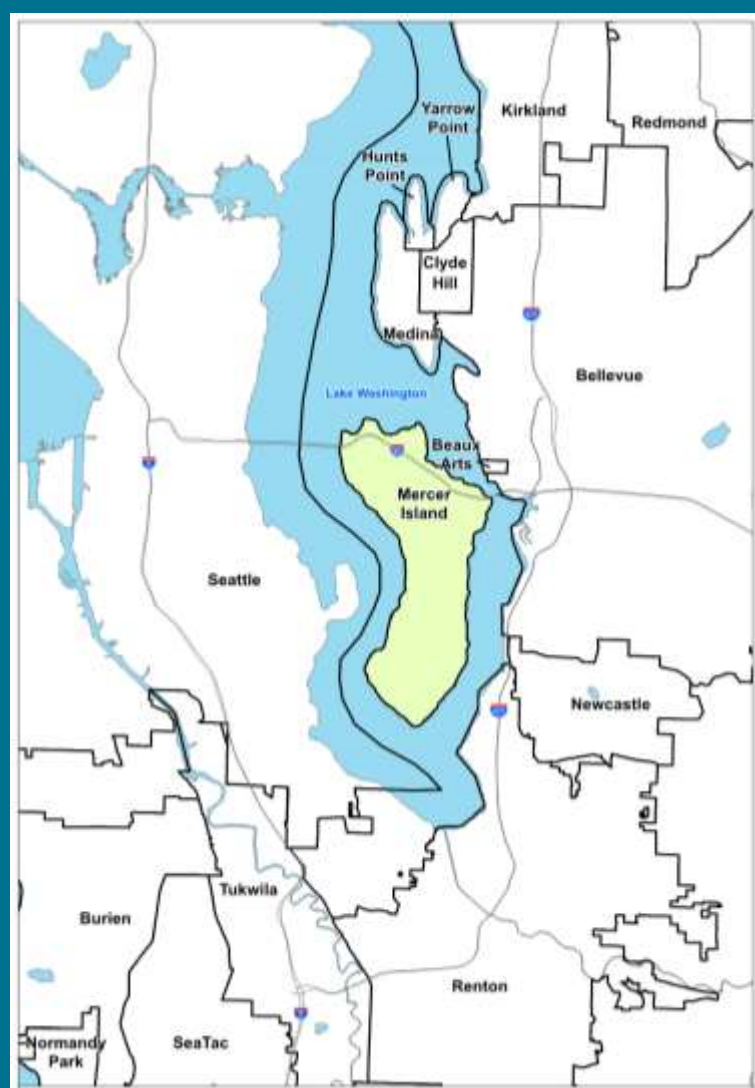


# Using Water Quality Risk Management to Support Capital Improvement Planning: Mercer Island Case Study

Anne Tonella-Howe, PE  
Assistant City Engineer  
City of Mercer Island

Alex Mofidi, PE  
Confluence Engineering



2018 TACOMA PNWS-AWWA

2018 PNWS-AWWA  
Annual Conference  
Tacoma, Washington



# Using Water Quality Risk Management to Support Capital Improvements Planning: Mercer Island Case Study

## Additional Acknowledgements:



Mike Helten

Rona Lin

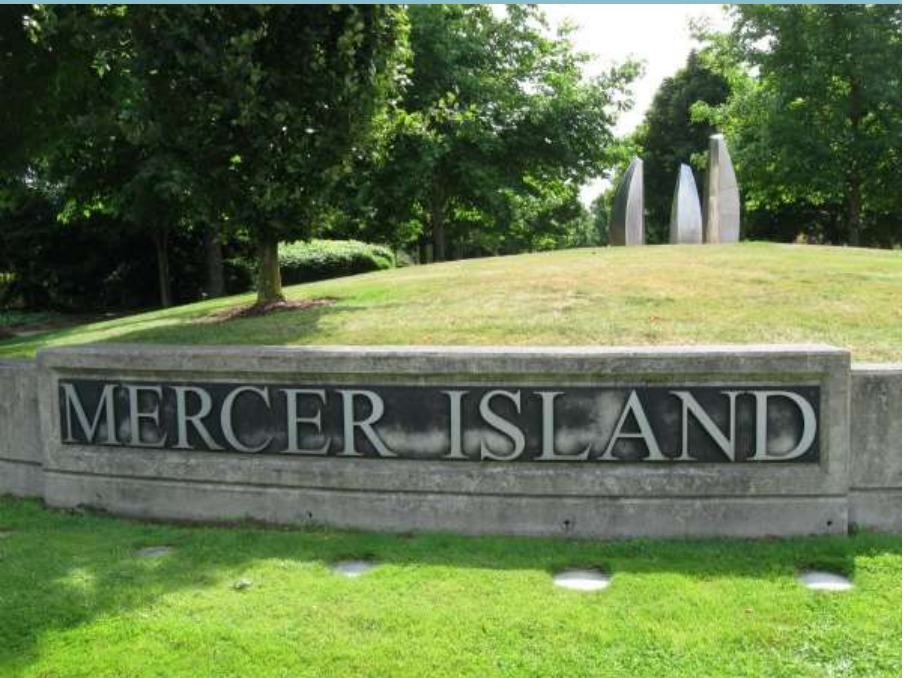
Brian McDaniel

Melinda Friedman

Andrew Hill

Michael Hallett

Amie Hanson



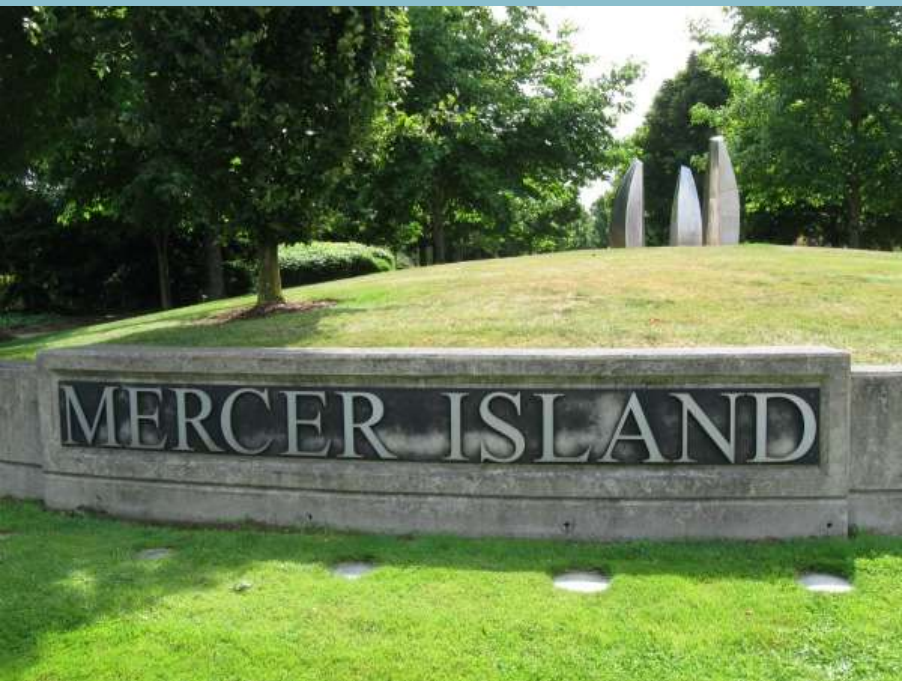


1 Introduction and Project Background

2 Updating the City CIP Program

3 Water Quality CIP Concepts & Integration Findings

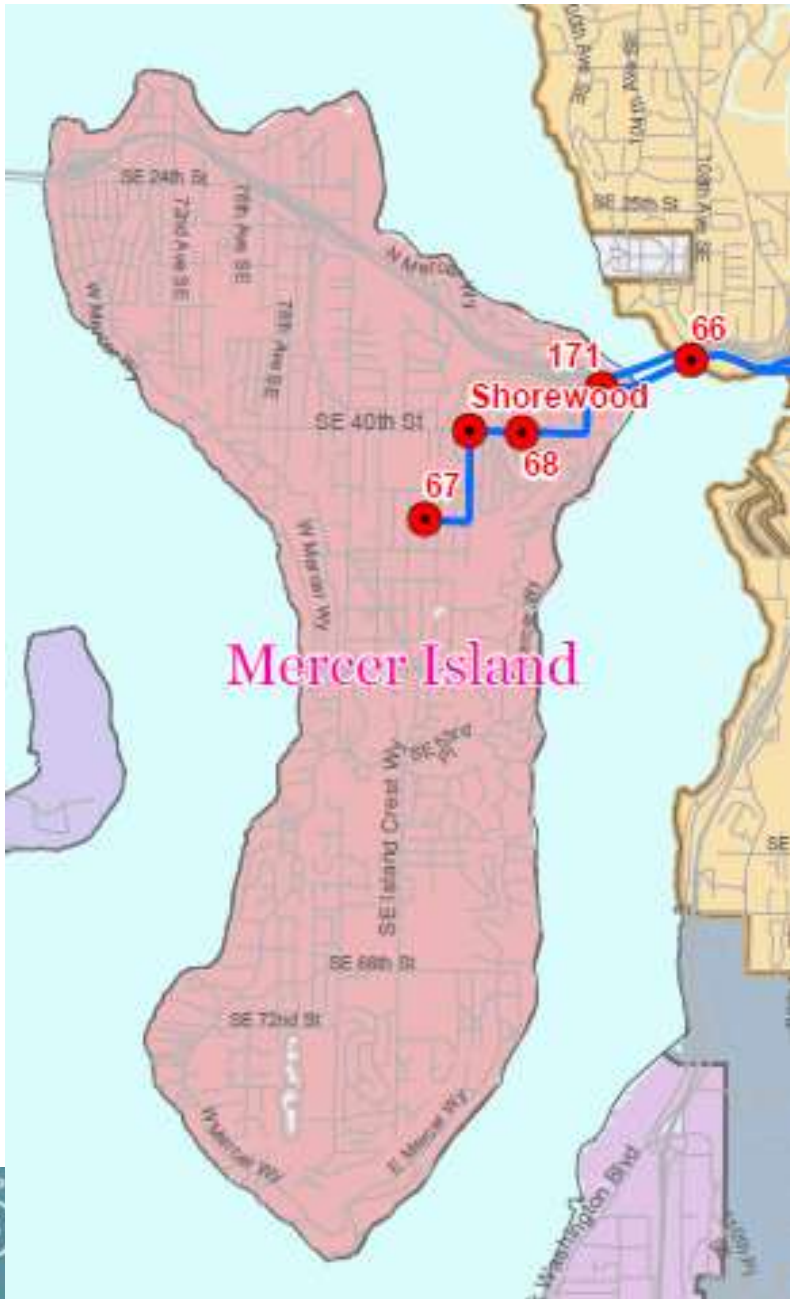
4 Results & Next Steps



# 1 Introduction and Project Background

# Mercer Island

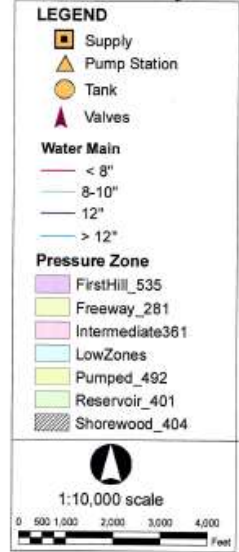
- Southern portion of Lake Washington
- 6.3 square miles with a population of 22,700
- Water System
  - Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) wholesale customer
  - Supply can be Tolt or Cedar water or blend
  - Three service connections



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# Mercer Island

Mercer Island Water Distribution System



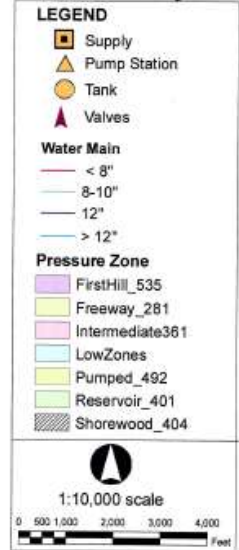
- Southern portion of Lake Washington
- 6.3 square miles with a population of 22,700
- Water System
  - Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) wholesale customer
  - Supply can be Tolt or Cedar water or blend
  - Three service connections
  - 120 mi of water main (primarily unlined cast iron)
  - 2 x 4 MG reservoir storage
  - 83 pressure reducing stations
  - 30+ small PRV zones along shoreline



# *E.coli* Event & Response

- 18 samples/month from 5 TCR locations
- September 2014 TC and *E.coli* present

Mercer Island Water Distribution System



★ Total Coliform (TC) Absent  
★ TC and *E.coli* present



## *E.coli* Event & Response

- 18 samples/month from 5 TCR locations
- September 2014 TC and *E.coli* present
  - Investigation, sampling, flushing, booster chlorine
  - Significant help from SPU and WSDOH
  - Transitory event / no “smoking gun”

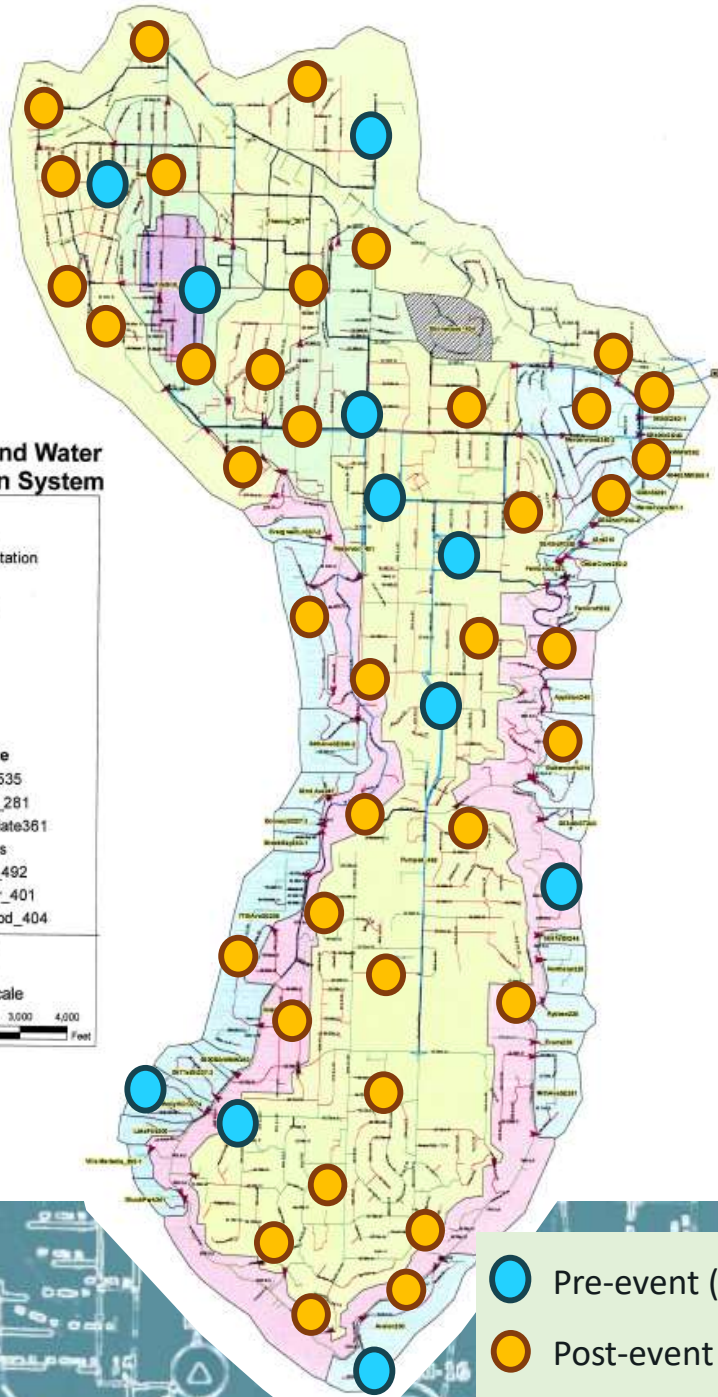
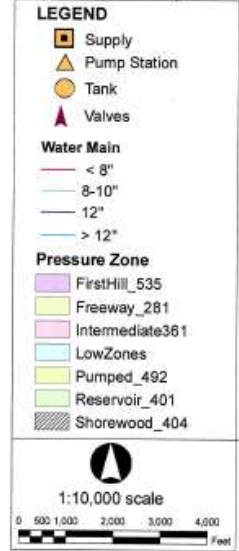


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# *E.coli* Event & Response

Mercer Island Water Distribution System



● Pre-event (On-line, TCR, DBPs)  
● Post-event additional surveillance

- 18 samples/month from 5 TCR locations
- September 2014 TC and *E.coli* present
  - Investigation, sampling, flushing, booster chlorine
  - Significant help from SPU and WSDOH
  - Transitory event / no “smoking gun”
- After event: Engaged Confluence
  - Opportunity to modify O&M practices
  - Included increased surveillance monitoring (at left)
  - 4 Key focus areas (next slides)



# Project Focus Areas

## Disinfectant Residual Increase and Maintenance

- Booster disinfection
- Flushing to reduce water age
- Evaluate Cl<sub>2</sub> demand
- Main cleaning

## Reduce Contamination Risks

- Retrofit PRV vaults
- Cross-connection control program

## Operating Procedures and Documentation

- Pressure control
- Develop written SOPs

## Water Quality Monitoring

- Event response and transition monitoring
- Cl<sub>2</sub> residual surveys
- Permanent TCR plan
- Surveillance monitoring
- Analyzer upgrades

Integrate water quality into the CIP planning



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## 2 Updating the City's CIP Program

# Current City CIP Planning

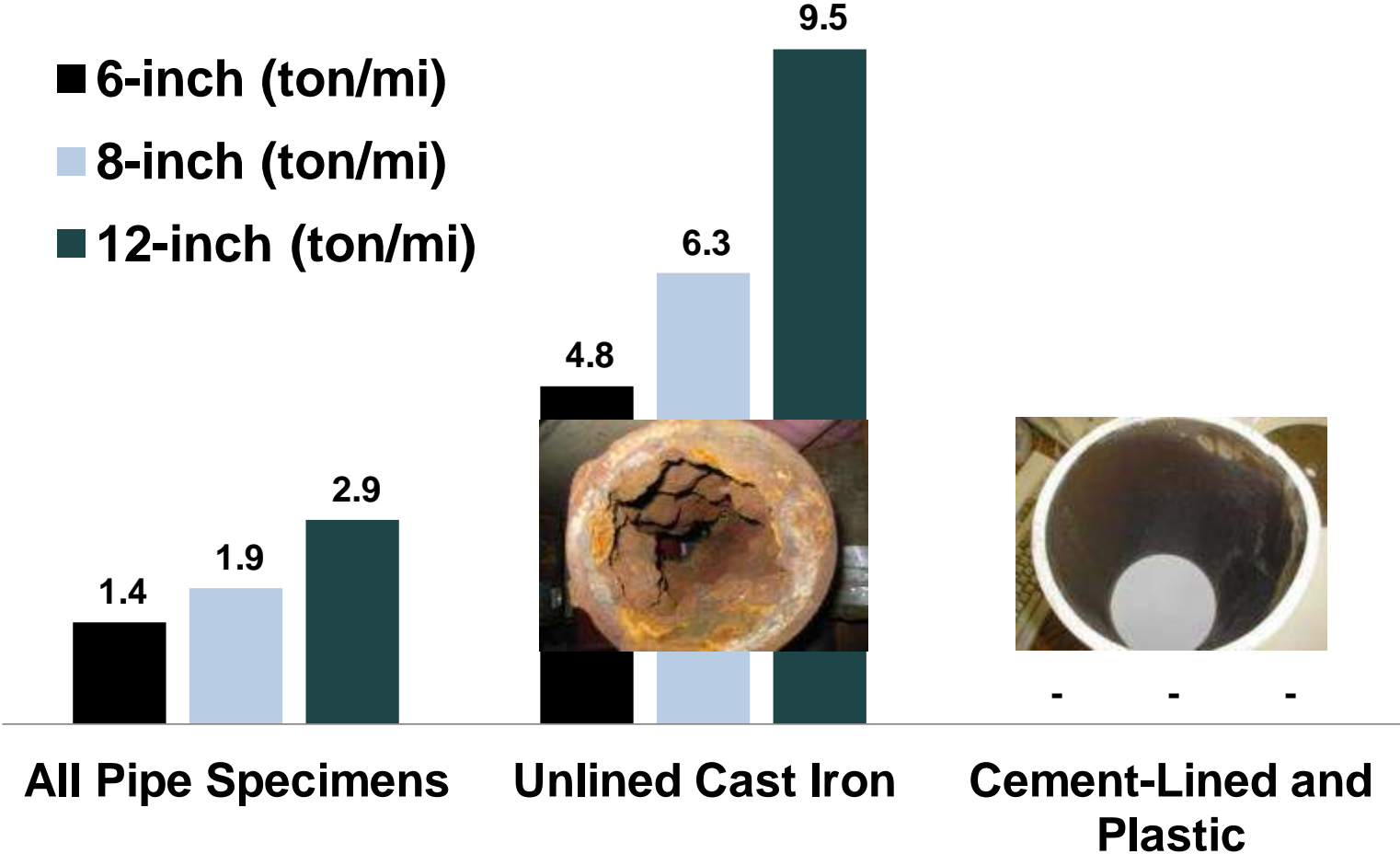
- Asset Rankings
  - Fire flow modeling
  - Pipe diameter
  - Service area considerations
- Condition Rankings
  - Frequency of pipe breaks
  - Pipe material
  - Pipe age
- Ranking multi-project coordination/construction
- High number is 'bad', low number is 'good'

**City of Mercer Island  
2014 CIP Water Projects Ranking Criteria**

Points		Weight Factor	Weighted Points
<b>"FIRE FLOW" FACTORS</b>			
<b>Fire Flow Availability</b>			
3	Modeling indicates less than 50% of required fire flow	2	6
2	51 to 75% of required fire flow	2	4
1	76 to 99% of required fire flow	2	2
0	100% or greater of required fire flow	2	0
<b>Pipe Diameter</b>			
3	Pipe diameter 4 inch or smaller	2	6
2	Pipe diameter is 6 inches or smaller (but > 4 inches)	2	4
1	Pipe diameter is 8 inches or smaller (but > 6 inches)	2	2
0	Pipe diameter is larger than 8 inches	2	0
<b>Benefit Area/Affected Area</b>			
3	Non single-family connections (multi-family, condo, church, and etc)	3	9
2	Large area served (greater than 50 connections)	3	6
1	Medium area served (between 25 and 50 connections)	3	3
0	Small area served (less than 25 connections)	3	0
<b>"PIPE CONDITION" FACTORS</b>			
<b>Maintenance/Breaks History</b>			
3	High frequency of breaks (3 or more breaks within recorded years)	4	12
2	Medium frequency of breaks (2 breaks within recorded years)	4	8
1	Low frequency of breaks (a break has occurred)	4	4
0	No maintenance and no history of problems	4	0
<b>Pipe Material</b>			
2	Asbestos Cement (AC), Galvanized (Gal), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), or Steel	3	6
1	Cast Iron (CI)	3	3
0	Ductile Iron (DI)	3	0
<b>Age of Pipe</b>			
3	Over 50 years	1	3
2	Over 40 years	1	2
1	Over 30 years	1	1
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS - Extra Weighting Points For Involving Projects.</b>			
<b>Coordination with Other Projects in the Same Area</b>			
5	Other project scheduled next year	2	10
4	Other project scheduled in 2 years	2	8
3	Other project scheduled in 3 years	2	6
2	Other project scheduled in 4 years	2	4
1	Other project scheduled in 5 years	2	2
0	Other project scheduled in 6 years, beyond, or not scheduled	2	0



# Should Water Quality be A Factor in CIP Decisions?



**Median Solids Accumulation Rates (tons per mile)**

Source: Friedman and Hill et al., 2010, Water Research Foundation



# Water Quality Should be Considered in CIP Planning!

- Risk increases with time (pipe age) and DS water age
- Low-level loading of iron/manganese
- Pipe materials (unlined cast iron)
- Lack of effective mains cleaning strategy
- Practices that encourage 'release' events
  - Source and/or treatment changes
  - Hydraulic shifts (planned or unplanned)

4-inch Unlined Cast Iron Main



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# Goal: Incorporate Water Quality Into City CIP Planning and Decision Making

- Current System
  - Mostly unlined cast iron pipe
  - Main replacement
    - Industry recommendation: >1% / year (AwwaRF 2005)
    - City: 0.4% / year
  - No Main cleaning program
- Develop Water Quality “Tool” Add-On To CIP
  - Identify worst water quality offending areas
  - Consider flushing or replacement with CIP



2-inch service line



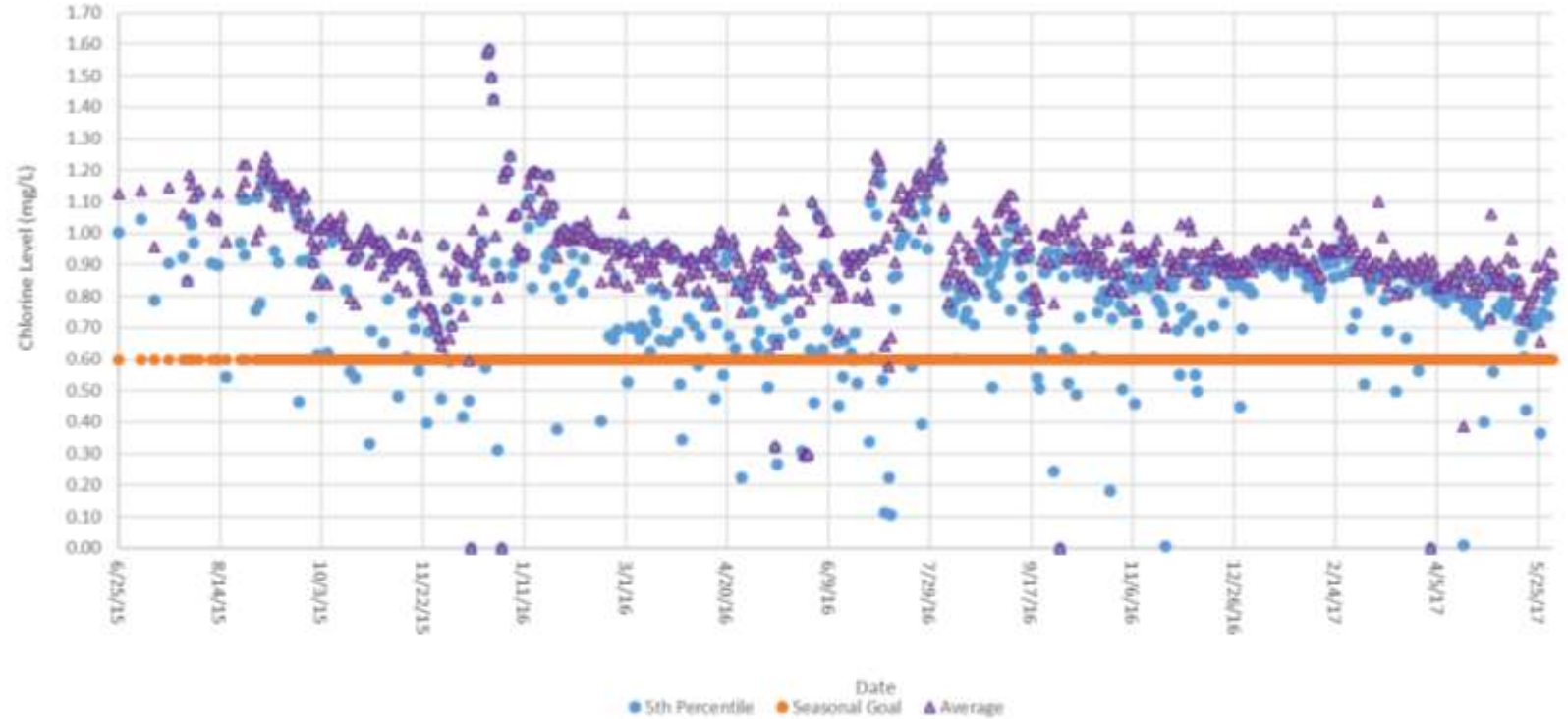
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# 3 Water Quality CIP Concepts & Integration Findings



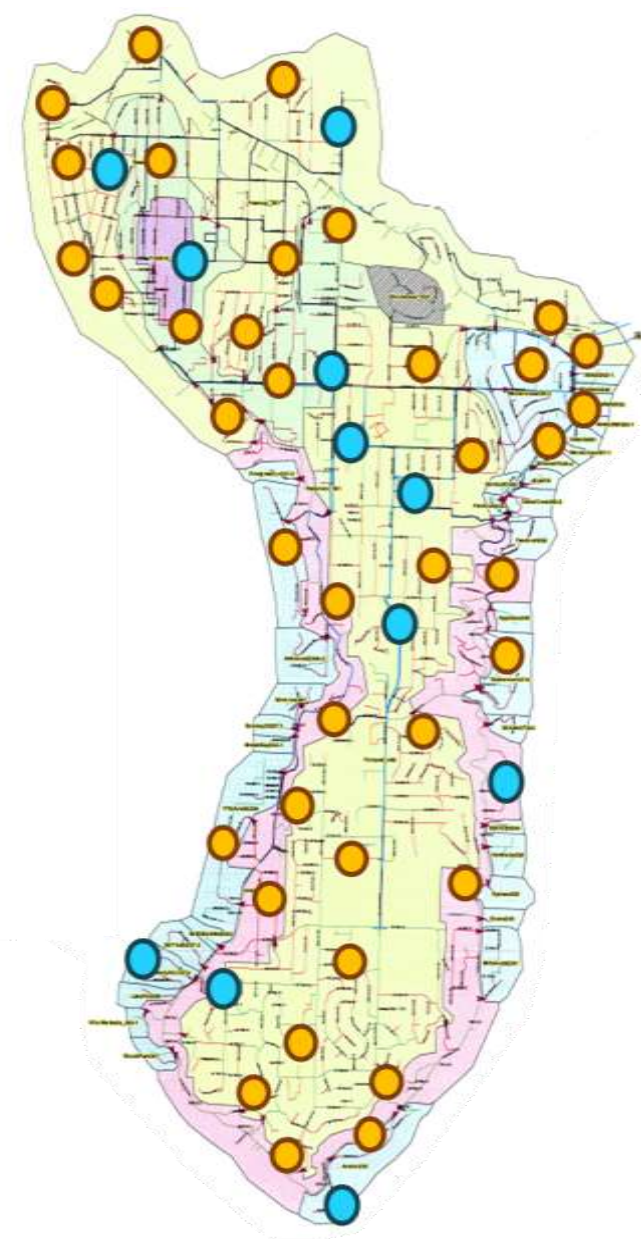
# Developing Water Quality Tool to Assist CIP Planning

- Goal
  - Based on real data
  - Flexible / robust to change
  - Complimentary to current CIP process
- Water Quality Data
  - Chlorine residual
  - R2A HPC bacteria
  - Iron, total
  - Customer complaints
  - Other?



# Approach & Qualitative Tool Input Variables

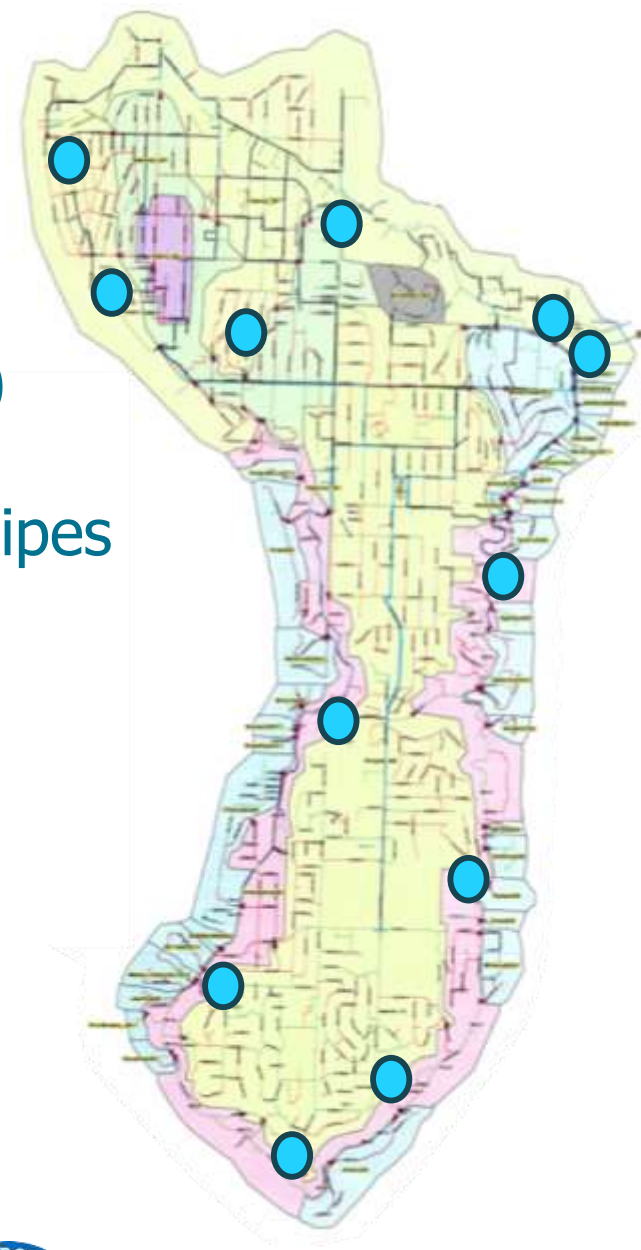
- 3-Step Approach / Application to CIP Process
  - Conduct monitoring
  - Develop method to assign risk levels to pipe assets
  - Manage risk
    - Manage with O&M activities
    - Elevate to CIP / renewals if O&M not appropriate or feasible
- Parameters Included
  - Chlorine Residual
  - R2A HPC bacteria
  - Iron, total
  - Other Parameters May Be Added Later (customer complaints)



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# Approach & Qualitative Tool Input Variables

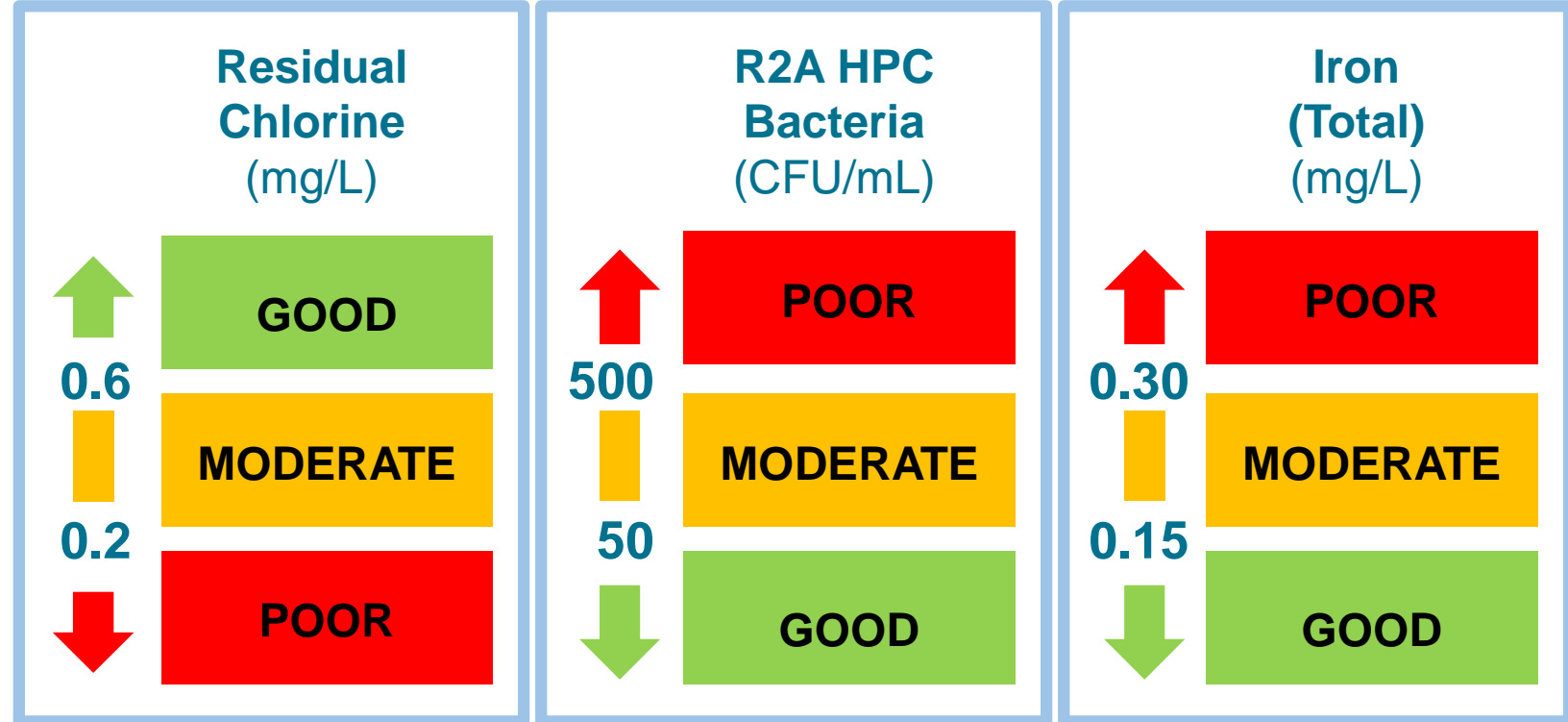
- This is a “First Step” in Tool Development (can be refined later)
- Merge Water Quality Data with City GIS / Apply to All System Pipes
  - Strategic sample locations chosen
    - 12 sites having best historical data
    - Sampled from June 2015 through July 2017
  - City GIS database support
- Assumptions
  - Flow not considered (add later)
  - Quantitative method: Statistical data analysis & characterization
  - Qualitative application: Results summarized in risk levels

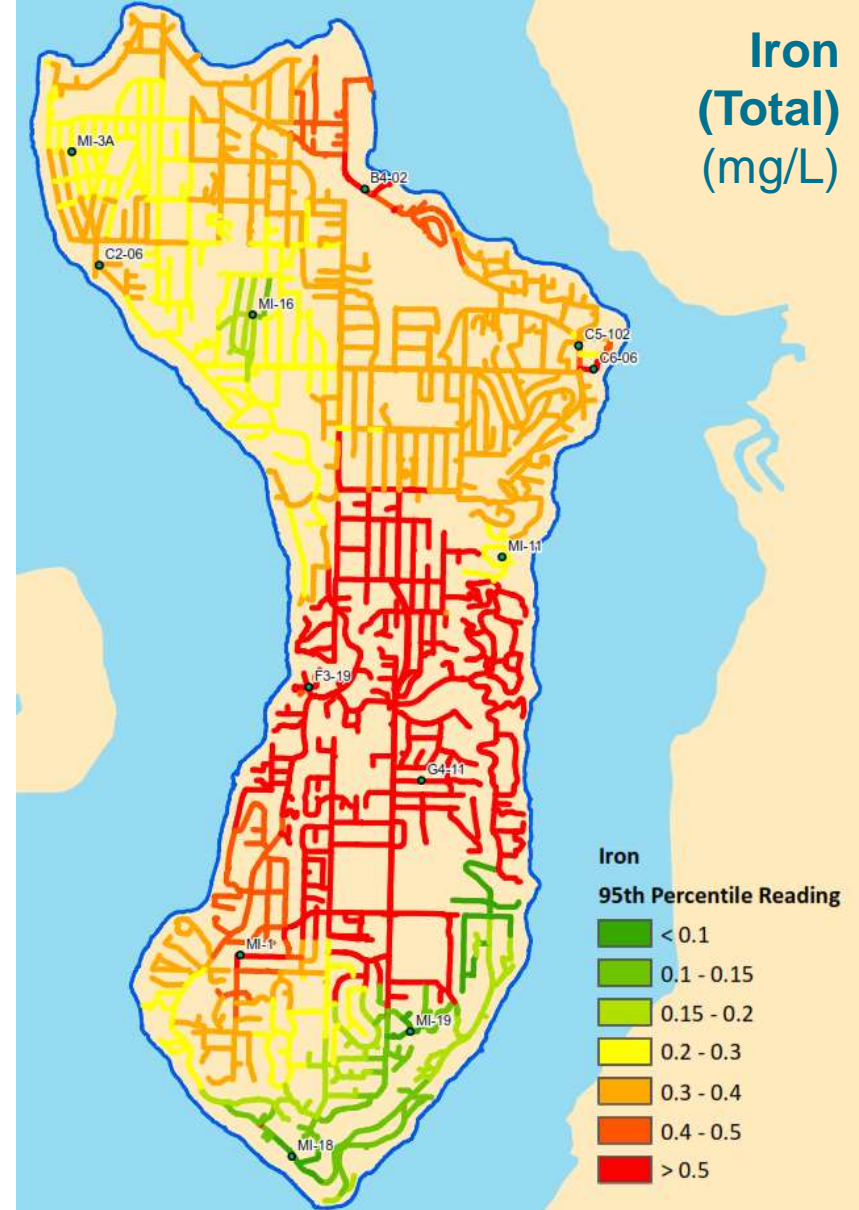
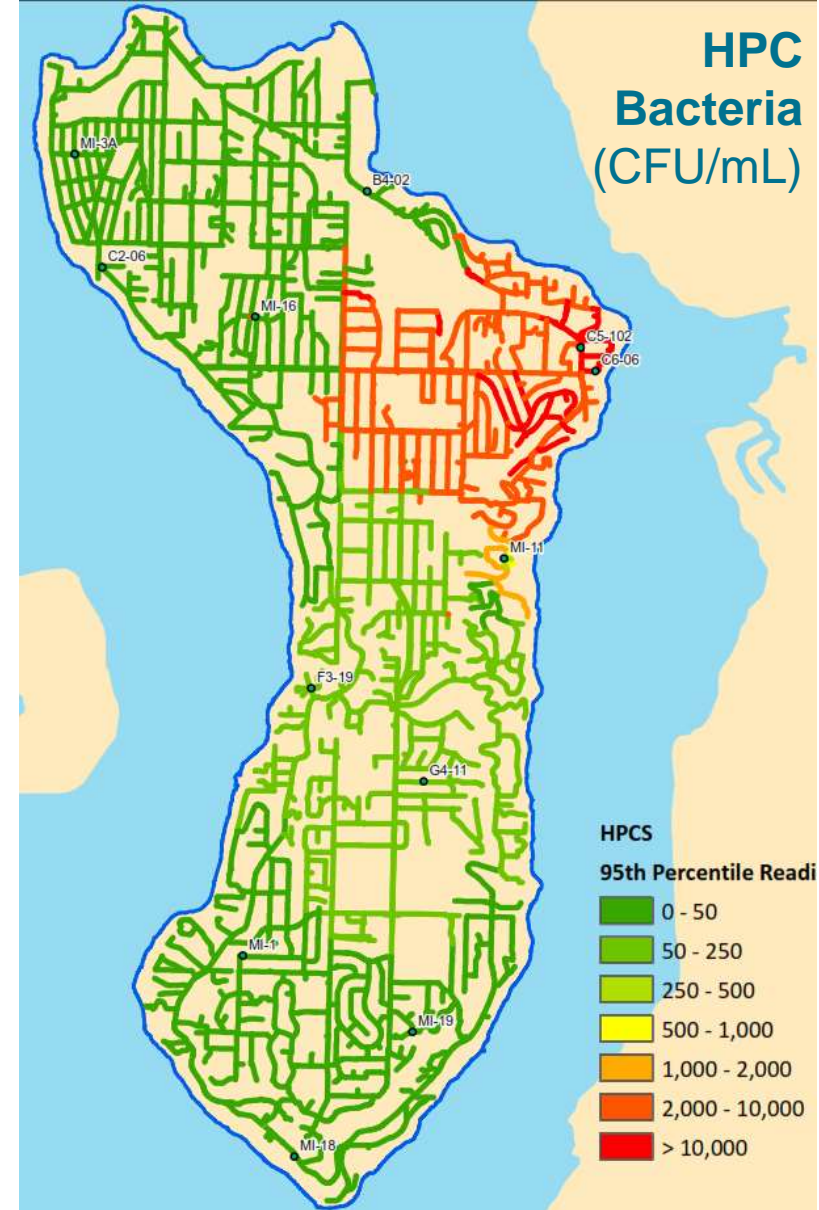
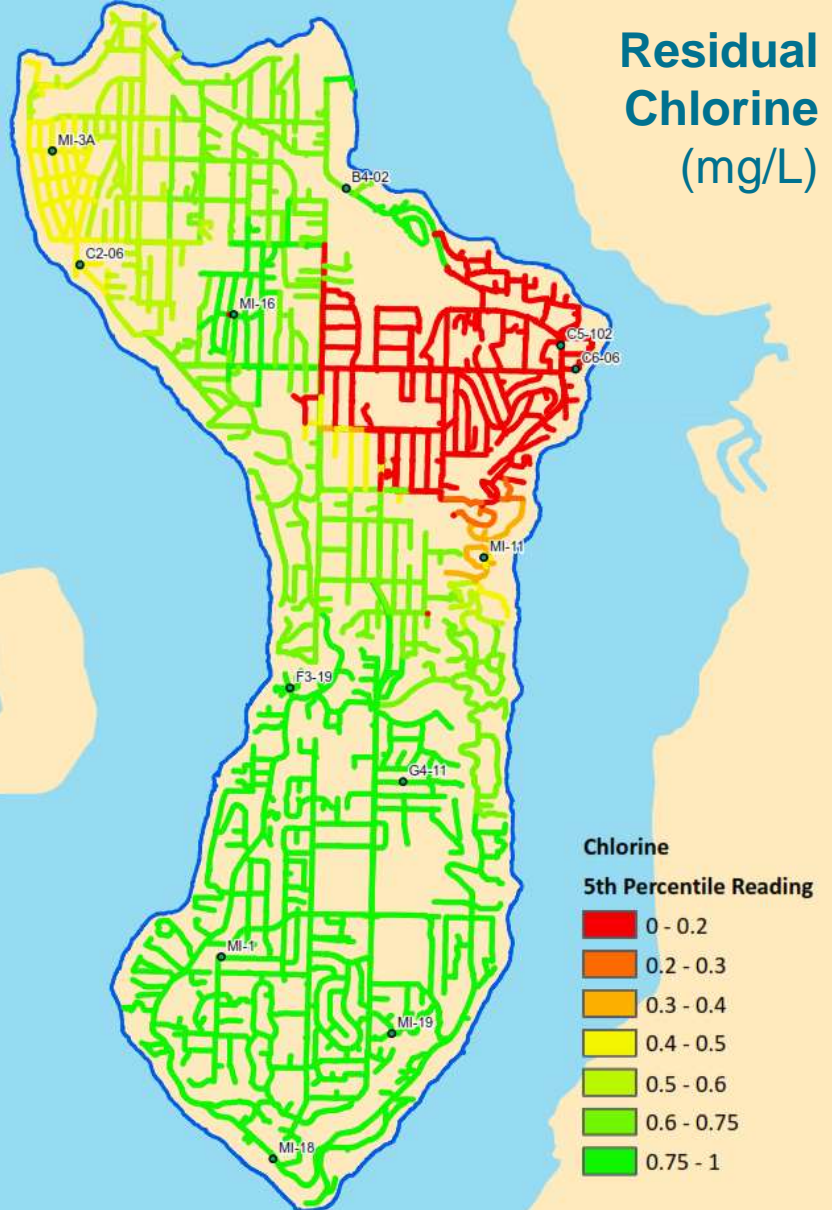


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# Developing Risk Levels

- Annualized Data
  - 5<sup>th</sup> percentile (low)
  - 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (high)
- Interpolate Between Sample Stations
  - Up to 1,000 ft distance
  - No flow direction impact
- Calculation of 'Risk' Level
  - Kept it simple
  - Sensitivity analysis
  - Poor=5, Moderate = 2, Good = 0





# Integrating Water Quality Characterizations to the CIP

- Original Ranking Database
- Water Quality Conditions
- Rankings With WQ Risk

City of Mercer Island  
2014 CIP Water Projects Ranking Criteria

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1	Pipe diameter is 8 inches or smaller (but > 6 inches)		2
0	Pipe diameter is larger than 8 inches		0
<b>Benefit Area/Affected Area</b>			
3	Non single-family connections		6
2	Low		4
1	Med		2
0	High		0
<b>Other</b>			
3	Other		6
2	Other		4
1	Other		2
0	Other		0

**Water Quality Condition Assessment**

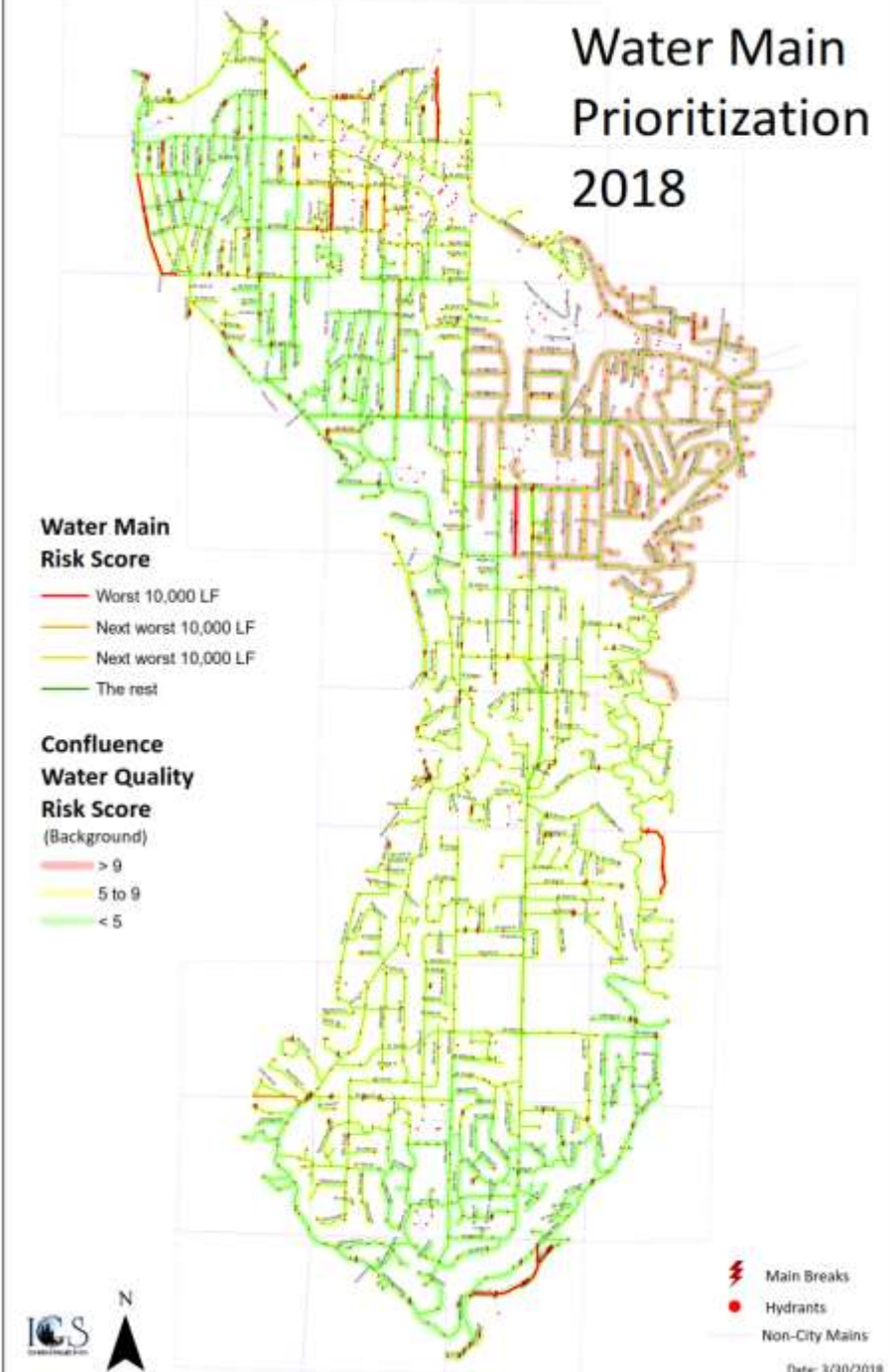
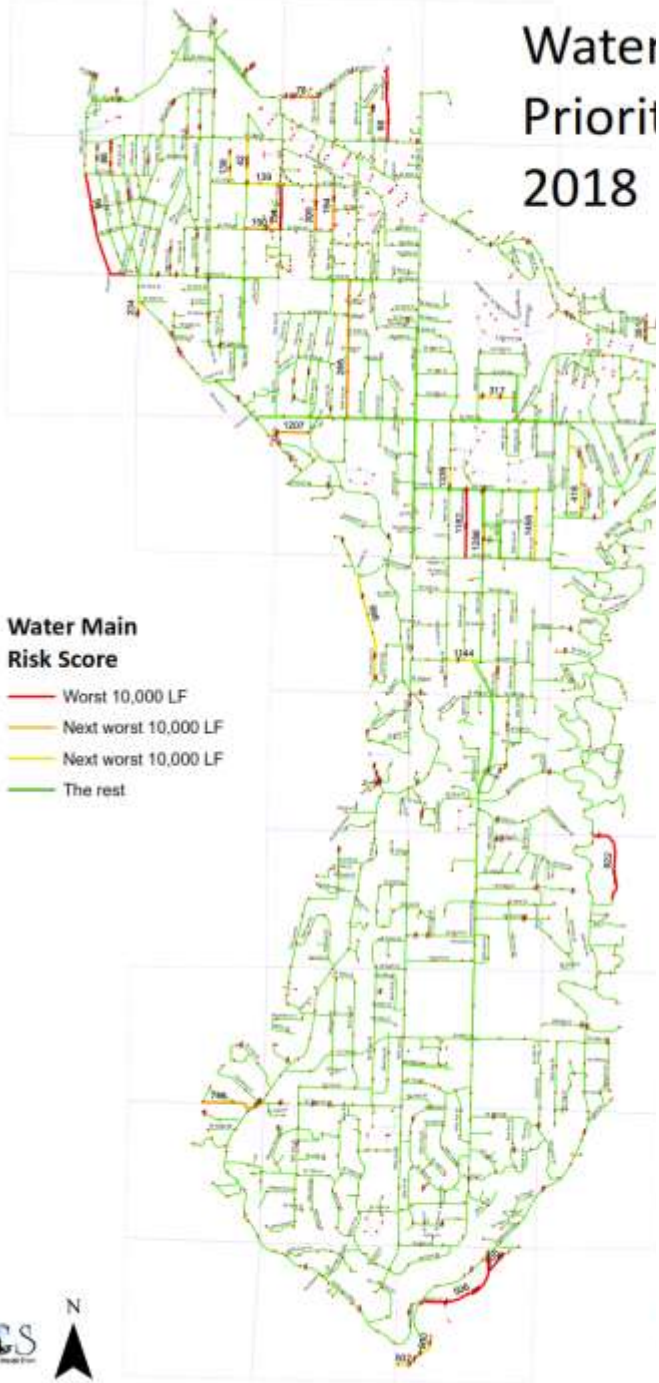
- Chlorine Residual
- R2A HPC Bacteria
- Total Iron
- Customer Complaints

FACILITYID	Material	Diameter	TOTAL_SCORE
154	Cast Iron	6	34.05
1182	Cast Iron	6	32.84
42	Cast Iron	6	32.14
387	Asbestos Concrete	4	31.86
1288	Cast Iron	6	30.30
922	Cast Iron	4	30.21
1144	Cast Iron	6	30.13
205	Cast Iron	6	29.57
505	Cast Iron	4	29.34
500	Cast Iron	4	28.53
1022	Cast Iron	4	28.26
150	Cast Iron	6	28.22
139	Cast Iron	8	28.18

FACILITYID	Material	Diameter	WQ Condition	TOTAL_SCORE
154	Cast Iron	6	Moderate	34.05
1182	Cast Iron	6	Poor	32.84
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139	Cast Iron	8	Good	28.18



# 4 Results & Next Steps



## Project Results

- Qualitative & Quantitative CIP Evaluation Process
- Concept To Evolve Over Time / Further Development
- Applied to City's pipelines, allowing ability to interpret appropriate response (O&M or CIP)
- Mains Cleaning Response for Selected Poor Water Quality Areas





## Next Steps

- Incorporate hydraulic model results / change from geometric interpolation
- Observe impacts of unidirectional flushing on changing water quality
- Continue to expand/refine water quality monitoring to improve system understanding
- This was a very simplified start: Look toward adjusting statistics and qualitative 'risk' calculations as program and water quality monitoring evolves



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# THANK YOU



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