

Capacity Charge Affordability and Low Income Customer Assistance

Presentation: MWPAAC Meeting March 1, 2018

Alison Saperstein, WTD Project Manager, Alison.Saperstein@kingcounty.gov

Karen Raucher, Corona Environmental Consulting, kraucher@coronaenv.com

Annie Kilburg, Kearns and West, Akilburg@kearnswest.com

KC Code* Provides Limited Customer Assistance

*King County Code 28.84.050

Current Single Family account charge = \$62.60 month

- **50% discount – Multi-family housing only**
 - In *authorized* low-income housing
 - With very small units -- less than 400 square feet

This project is a response to:

King County's Equity and Social Justice
policy agenda and
concerns about affordable housing
are drivers behind an effort
to improve affordability and
examine opportunities to provide
assistance to low-income customers

Low Income Customer Assistance Project Objectives

- *To identify a range of approaches*
- *To analyze the potential impacts and implications*

Low Income Customer Assistance Project Approach

1. Identify program objectives, boundaries and opportunities
Priority to gather MWPAAC and sewer agency input
2. Characterize customer income challenges
3. Identify a range of assistance program options
4. Identify and apply program evaluation metrics
5. Iterate -- Share, gather feedback, additional analysis
6. Inform decision makers

Project Engagement Plan

Organization	Engagement Objective	Schedule
WTD Internal Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop common understanding • Gather information • Guide analytic work • Identify & review program evaluation criteria choices • Provide input on additional analytic needs and next steps 	January - June
MWPAAC Sewer Agencies DNRP King County Affordable Housing Public Health Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop common understanding • Gather information • Identify & review program evaluation criteria choices • Provide input on additional analytic needs and next steps 	March-June

Seeking Input from MWPAAC & Sewer Agencies

Identify:

What factors should be considered in developing a capacity charge affordability program?

- Partnerships
- Alignment with other agencies/programs
- Concerns

WTD Has Identified Three Draft Objectives

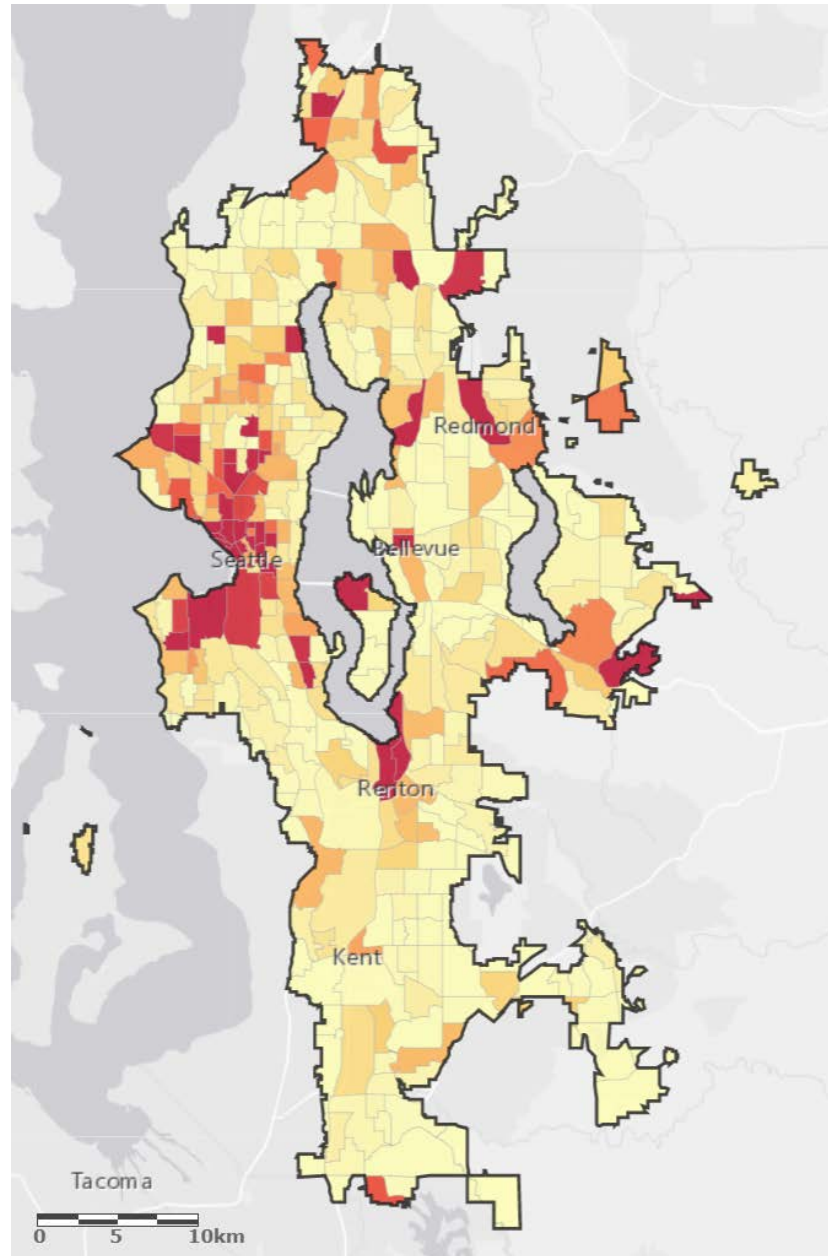
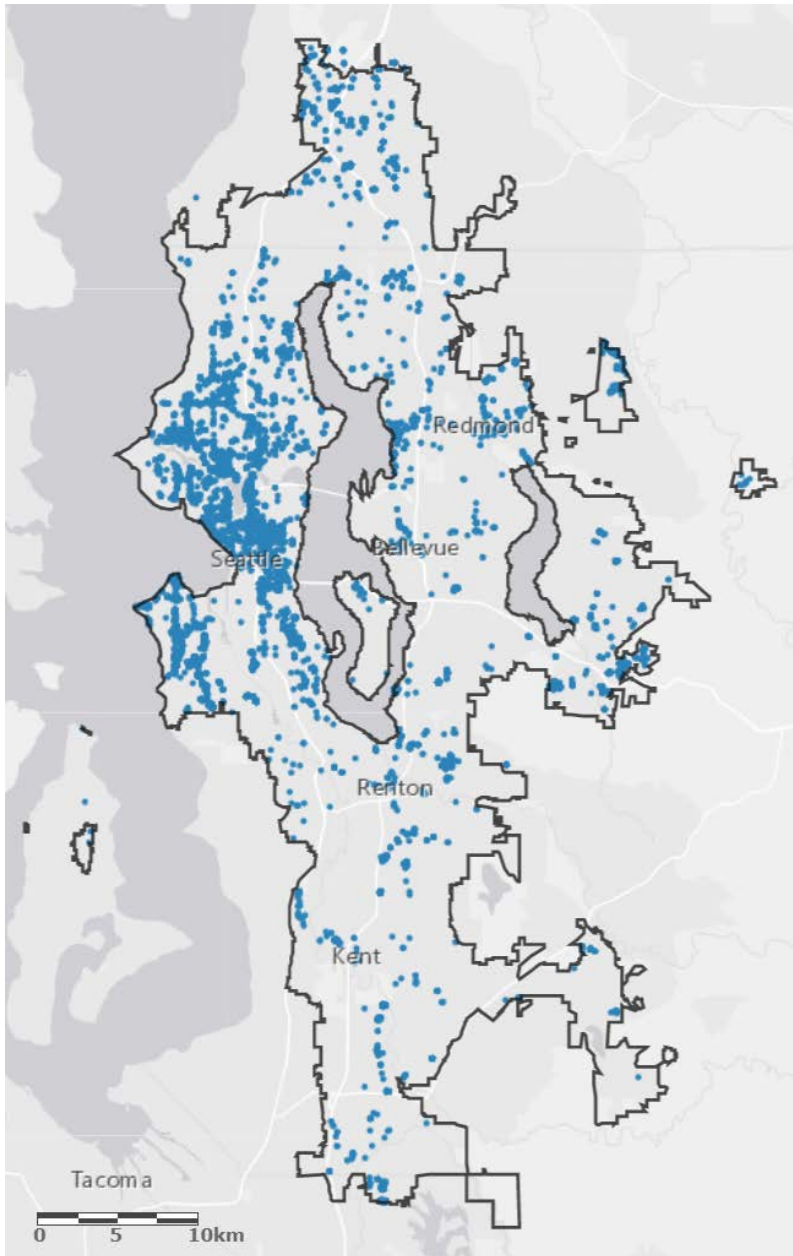
1. Assist low-income customers most in need
2. Increase flexibility for customers with temporary hardship
3. Align with County's intent to encourage affordable housing development

Initial Demographic Insights

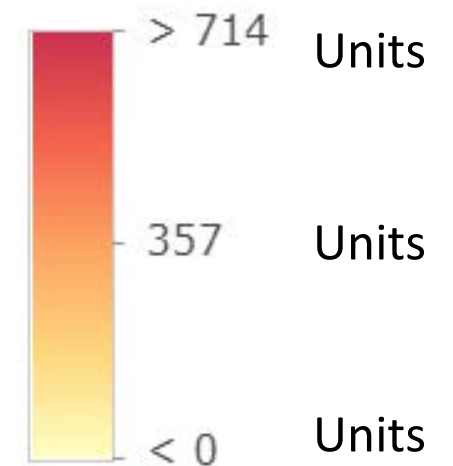
Demographic serves two purposes:

1. Characterize capacity charge customers
2. Evaluate impacts of possible approaches

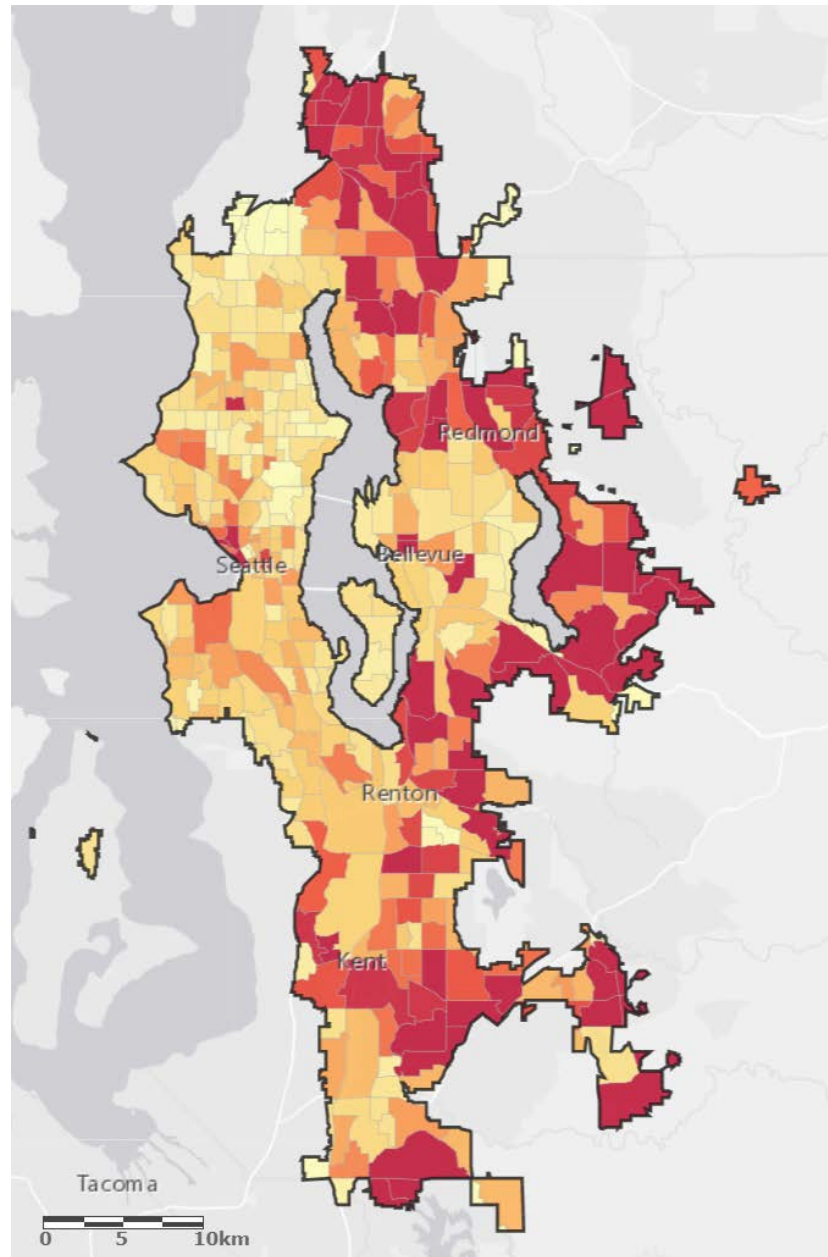
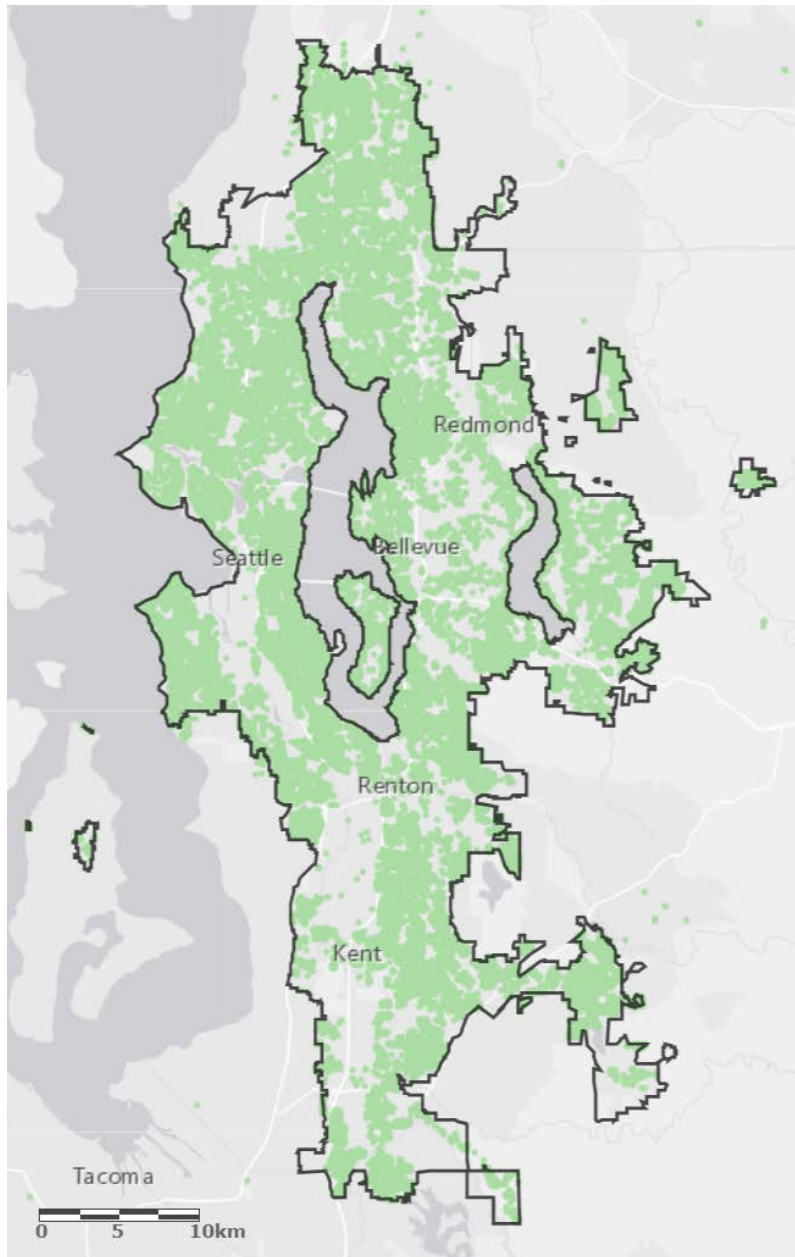
Capacity Charge Customer Housing Units Multifamily



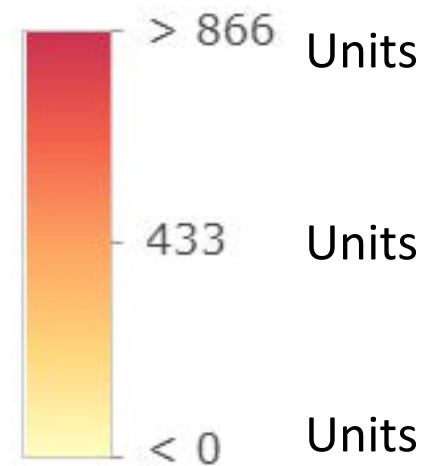
Household Units



Capacity Charge Customer Housing Units Single Family



Household Units

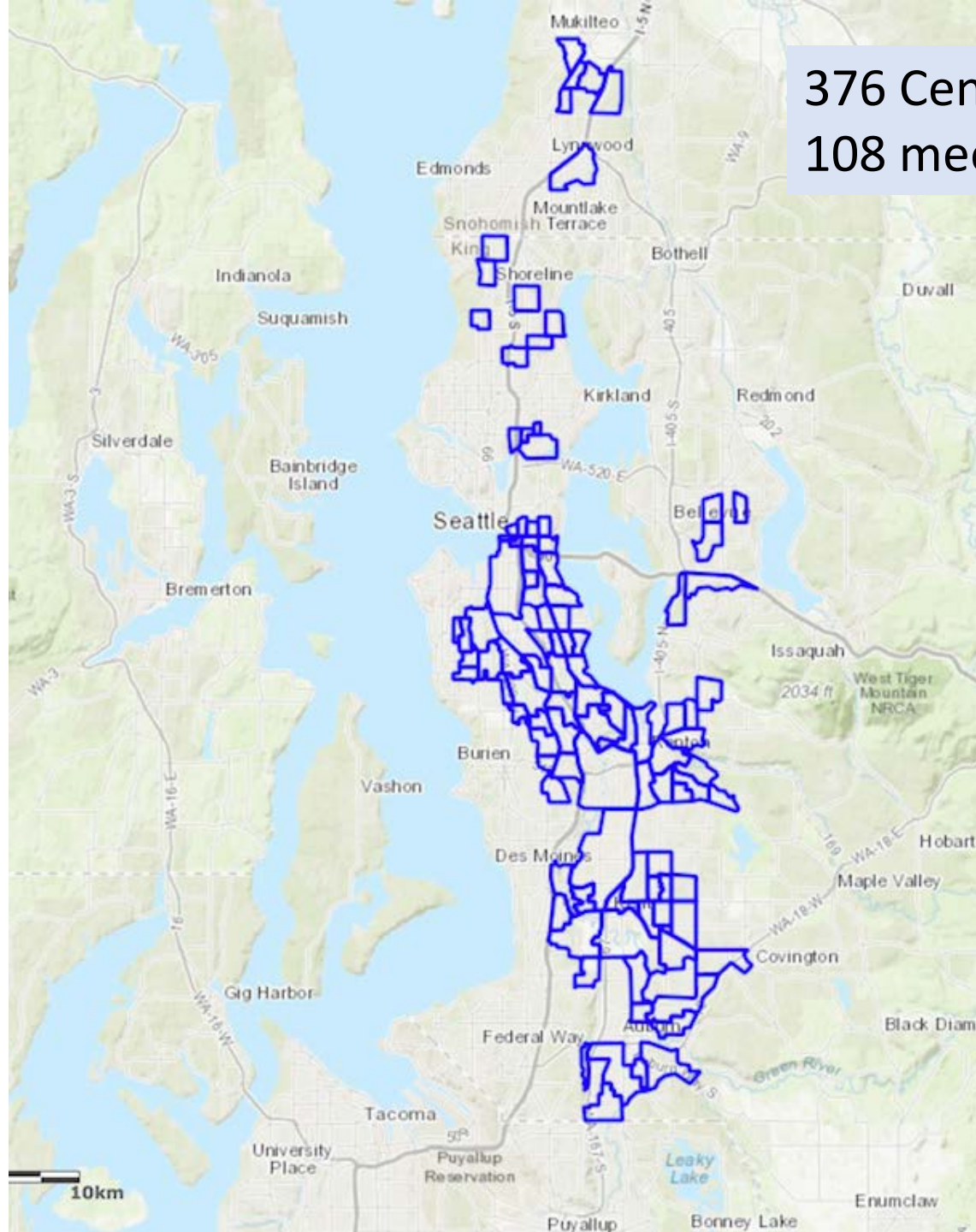


WTD Equity and Social Justice(ESJ)Criteria for Census Tract Comparisons

Demographic categories	Persons with incomes at or below 200% of poverty level	Households with persons of color or Hispanic origin	Persons with limited English proficiency
Threshold to exceed King County Average	> 23.1%	> 38.8%	> 10.5%

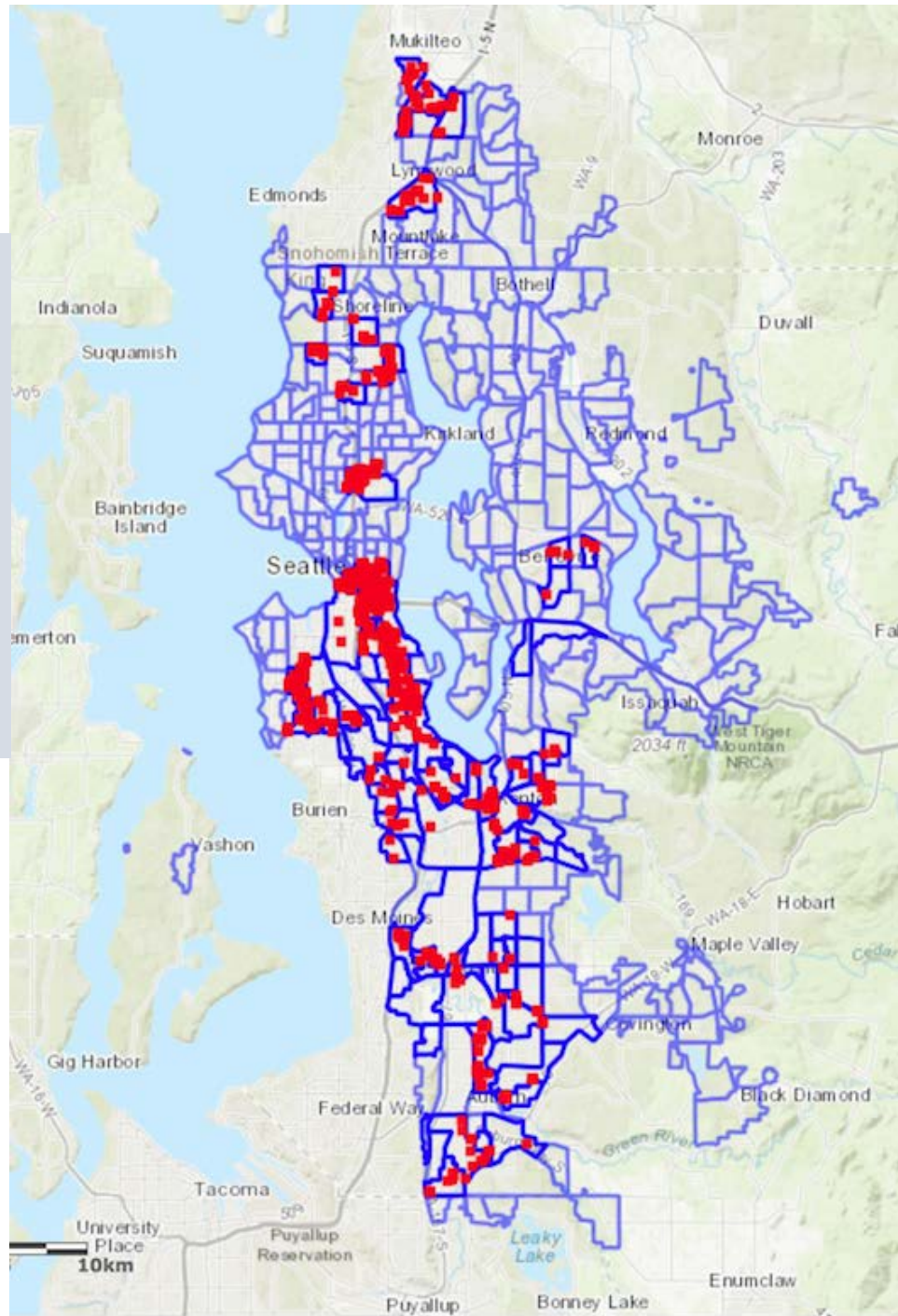
Census tracts in which all 3 criteria exceed the average for King County are highlighted.

- 200% poverty
- % persons of color
- % limited English proficiency



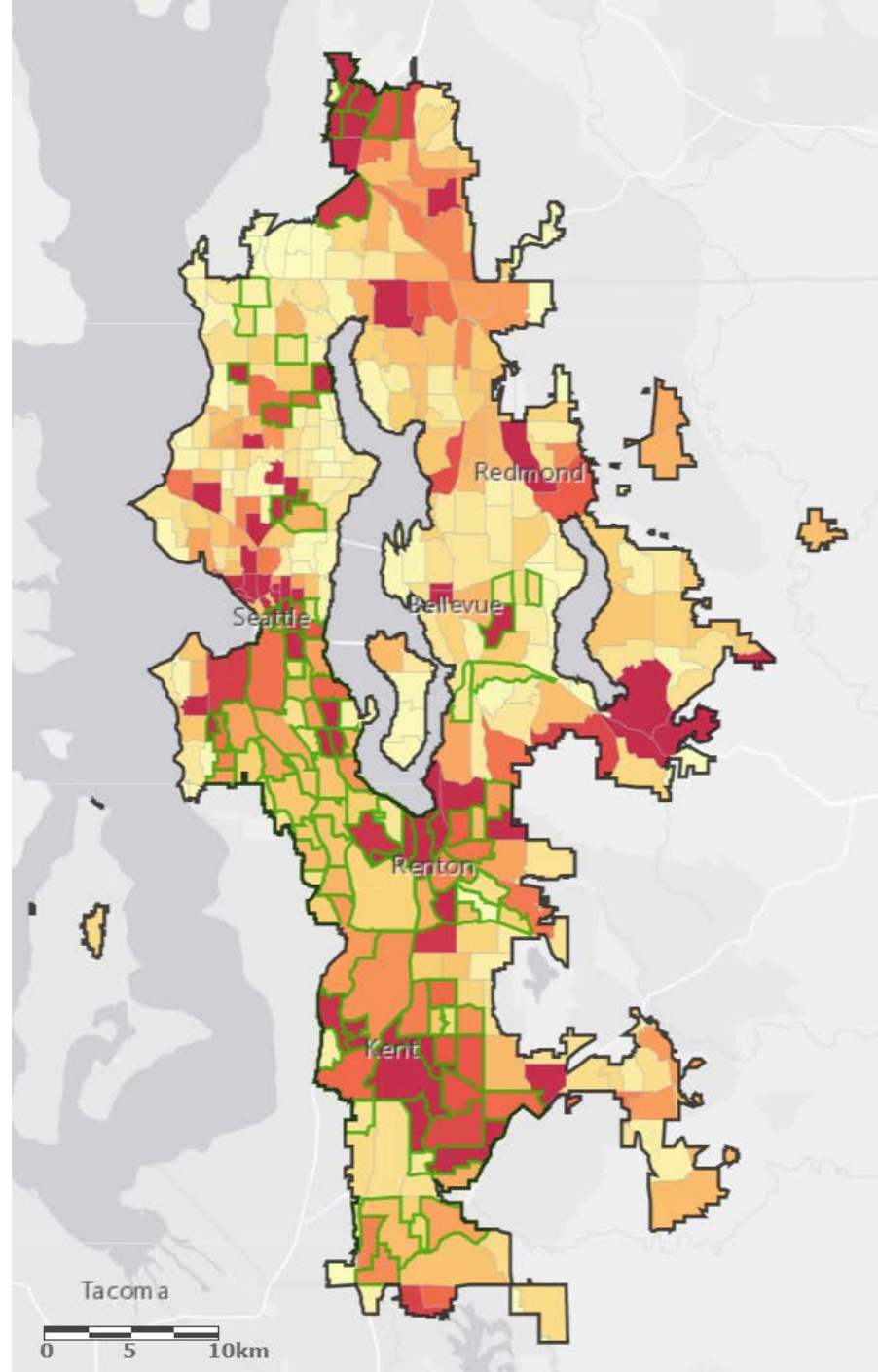
376 Census Tracts with WTD customers
108 meet all three ESJ criterion

Number of
multi-family
WTD units in
census tracts
with all three
ESJ criteria

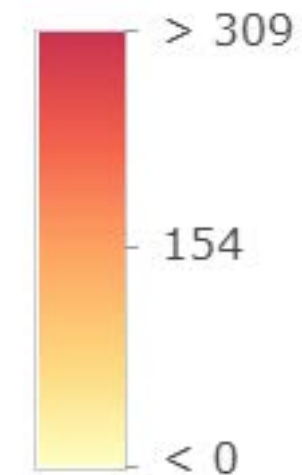


93 of the 108 ESJ census tracts
MF Units
42 of the ESJ census tracts have
100 MF units or more

**Estimated #
WTD Capacity
Charge
Customers
Below 200 %
Poverty Level**



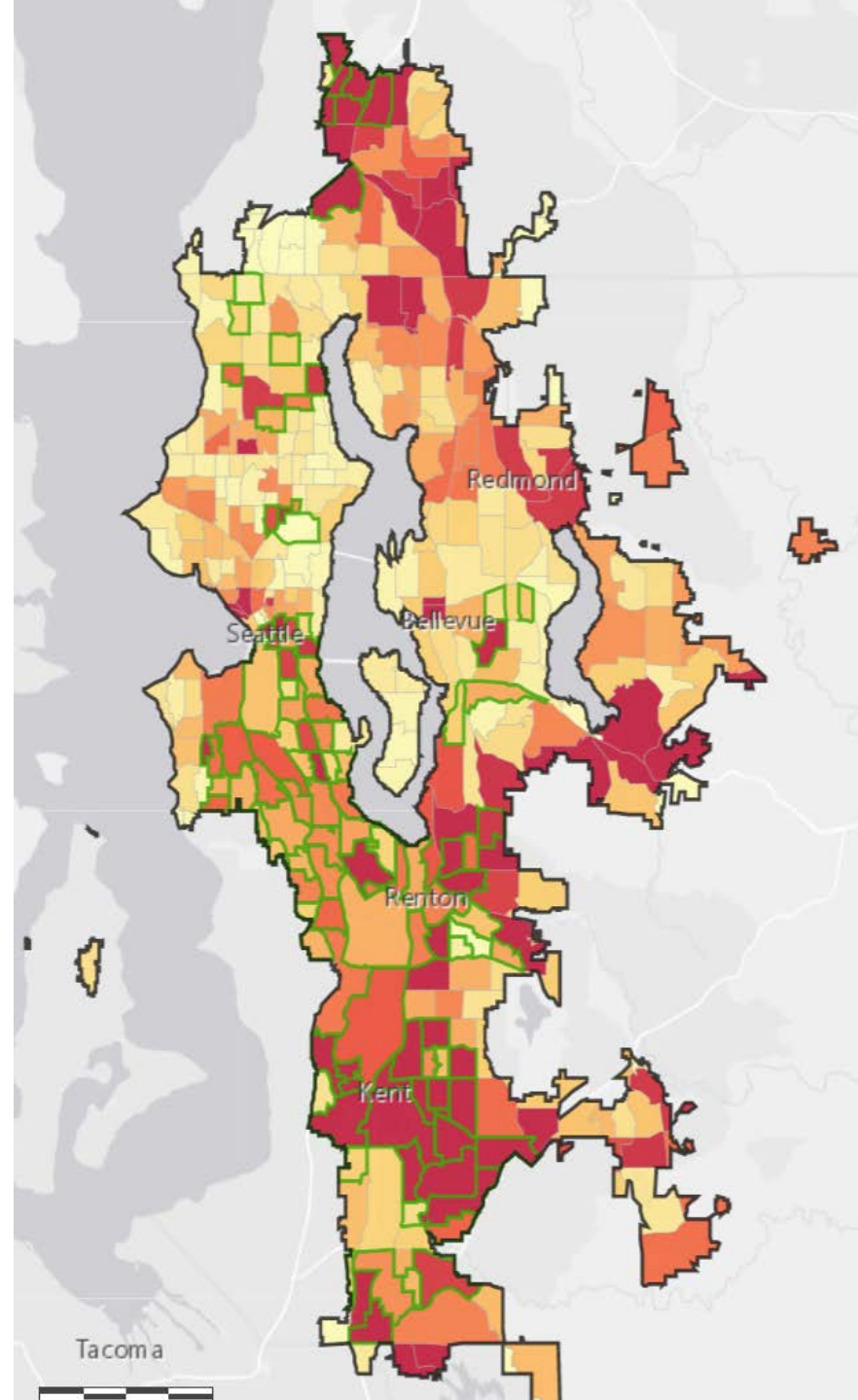
Customers



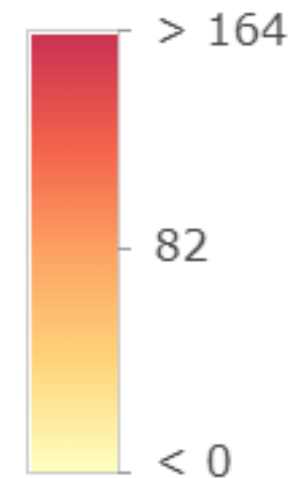
**Census Tracts
Meeting 3 ESJ
Criteria**



**Estimated #
Single Family
WTD Capacity
Charge
Customers
Below 200 %
Poverty Level**



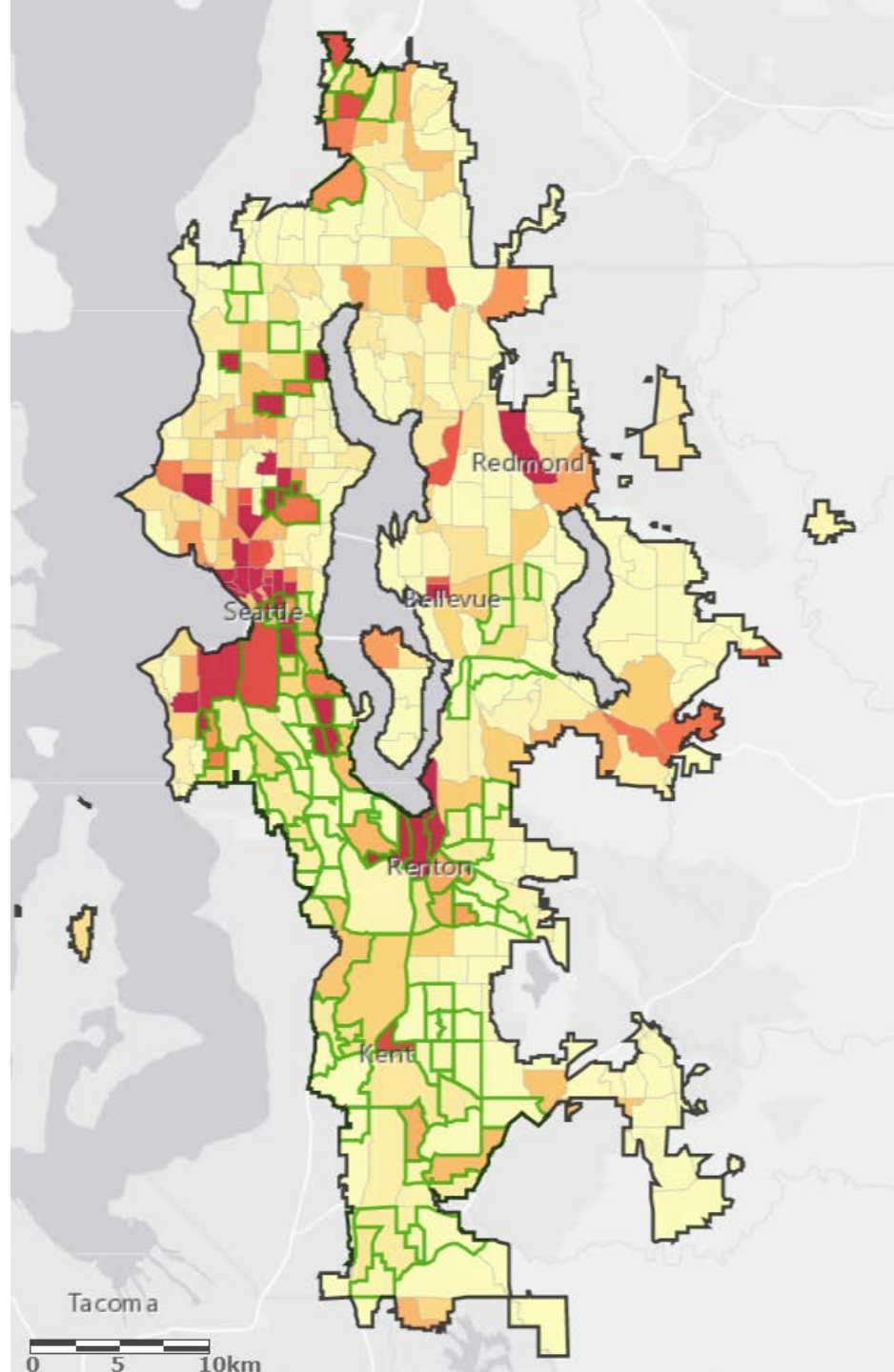
Customers



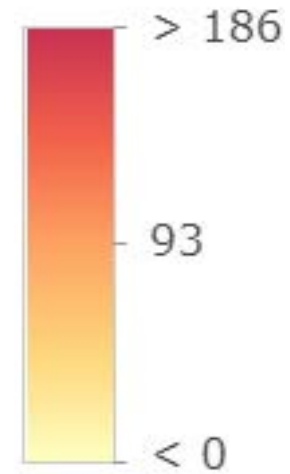
**Census Tracts
Meeting 3 ESJ
Criteria**



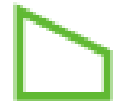
**Estimated #
Multi-Family
WTD Capacity
Charge
Customers
Below 200 %
Poverty Level**

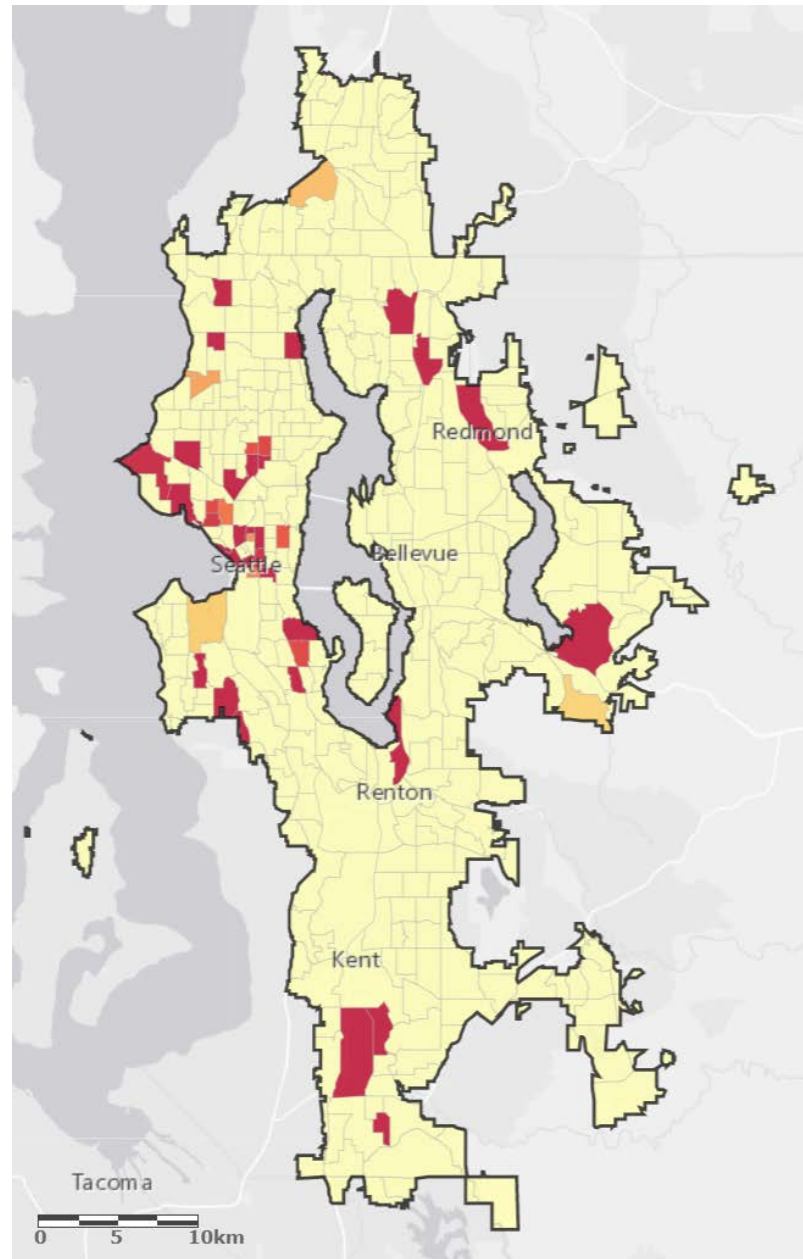
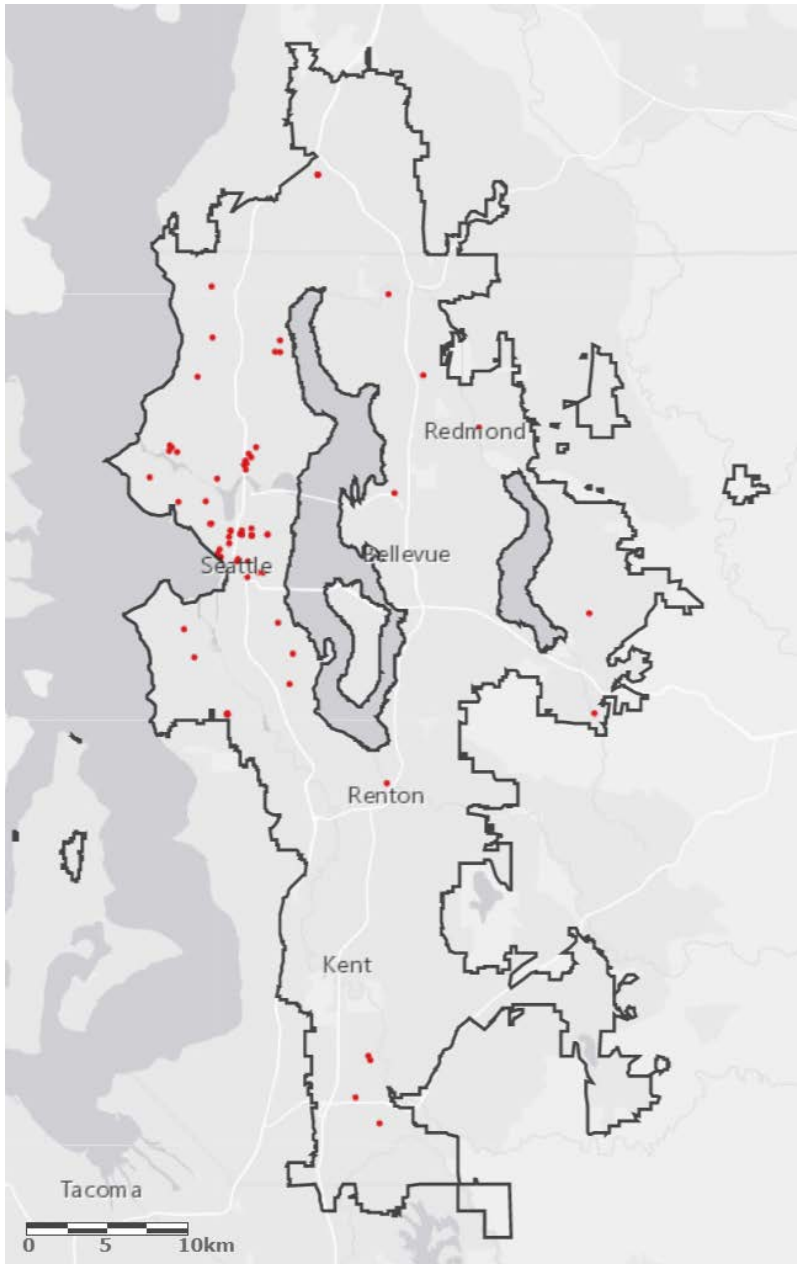


Customers



**Census Tracts
Meeting 3 ESJ
Criteria**

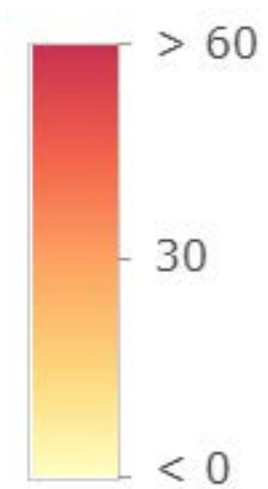




Current Discount Program

Customers and # Housing Units

Household Units



Next Project Steps

- Continue
 - Customer characterization analysis – maps and tables
 - Identification of program objectives, boundaries and opportunities
- Identify range of program options
- Identify program evaluation metrics
- Share, gather feedback, iterate

Next Steps with MWPAAC & Sewer Agencies

- Identify how to:
 - Meet your needs
 - Gather additional information
 - Work together to leverage opportunities

Thank you for your time!

The Project Team

WTD Team:

- Alison Saperstein—Rate-setting, affordability, policy development
- Devin Barnes—WTD account data
- Dan Dicks—Customer service
- Sharman Herrin—MWPAAC, government relations
- Tom Lienesch—Rate-setting, economics
- Shaun O’Neil—Geospatial data
- Erika Peterson—Community relations
- Eunice Verstegen—Accounts, program history, sewer agencies

Consulting Team:

- Karen Raucher and team, Corona Environmental—Data analysis, program development, engagement
- Annie Kilburg and team, Kearns & West—Engagement