



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **City of Everett among agencies honored by Harvard “Bright Idea” award Given to Central Puget Sound Water Supply Forum**

EVERETT – The Central Puget Sound Water Supply Forum has been named as one of the 2017 Bright Ideas in Government initiative in government policies, initiatives and best practices by The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. The Forum includes Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Cascade Water Alliance, the East King County Regional Water Association, Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County and King County.

The award commends the Forum’s work for its unprecedented voluntary regional approach to resiliency and preparedness, and its plan for working together to keep the Puget Sound’s thriving region functioning following potential crises.

Jim Miller, Everett’s engineering superintendent and Chair of the Puget Sound Water Supply Forum, said, “The Central Puget Sound Region’s water suppliers have been working together to plan for what might occur in our water supply systems during and after earthquakes, major water quality problems, drought and changes in climate,” said Jim Miller, Everett’s engineering superintendent and Chair of the Puget Sound Water Supply Forum.. “This is a strong, collaborative effort which will benefit all residents and businesses throughout the King, Snohomish and Pierce County areas.”

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“The sign of a prepared community is how it handles its emergencies, and that is the goal of the work that was recognized by this prestigious award. ,” said Miller. “While Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Cascade Water Alliance and several other smaller water supply organizations workedBecause of our collective work to identify and plan for diligently to identify the potential challenges, each utility -- separately and together -- will be better able to respond to needs as they arise as a result of our joint resiliency project. And that makes us a well- prepared community,” Miller added.”

The group was selected for its regional work in identifying potential challenges to the region's water supply and determining impacts and potential mitigation strategies with a goal of ensuring safe, reliable quality water to the region's 2.3 million residents and businesses.

Its work over the last two years brought staff together from throughout the region to review, identify and determine the impact of critical threats to water, such as earthquakes, water quality, drought and climate change.

The Forum's extensive, detailed, scientific work can be found at [watersupplyforum.org](http://watersupplyforum.org). More information about the City of Everett's water system can be found on theirthe City's [website](#).

**Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation – John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, education, international programs, and government innovations awards, the Center fosters creative and effective government problem solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens.

“These programs demonstrate that there are no prerequisites for doing the good work of governing,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center. “Small towns and massive cities, huge federal agencies and local school districts, large budgets or no budgets at all — what makes government work best is the drive to do better, and this group proves that drive can be found anywhere.”

More information about the City of Everett's water system can be found on their [website](#).

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