



## THE AQUIFER

### Providing accurate information

***“Because of the changes in the recharge dynamic in the mine area, small impacts to the Principal Aquifer and to springs will occur in parts of the study area.”*** Maury Island Gravel Mine Hydrogeologic Impact Assessment, May 2000. (*Emphasis added.*)

***“Flows in the Dockton Park and the Ferguson Springs are expected to decrease slightly – by up to 0.5 gpm (gallons per minute) – by the end of reclamation. Seasonal flow variations are expected to increase by less than 2 percent of their current flow.”*** Maury Island Gravel Mine Hydrogeologic Impact Assessment, May 2000.

Despite continuing claims to the contrary, extensive studies indicate the groundwater aquifer beneath the site, and especially Maury Island’s water supply, is protected. Project opponents requested that the Legislature authorize and fund the Maury Island Hydrologic Impact Assessment. Taxpayers paid for the study. It was supervised by the state Department of Ecology and completed in 2000. Yet opponents continue to misstate the facts about the project’s effects on the island’s drinking water supply.

- These studies include King County’s Environmental Impact Statement; the Maury Island Mine Hydrologic Impact Assessment approved by the state legislature, paid for by taxpayers and prepared under the supervision of the Washington State Department of Ecology; and groundwater information that has been collected monthly and reported to regulatory officials since 1999.
- These studies indicate that, much like the way the Cascade or Olympic Mountains determine the flow of surface waters in our state, there is a divide that runs north and south on Maury Island that determines in which direction the groundwater flows beneath the island’s surface.
- The entire Glacier Northwest site lies to the east of this groundwater divide, so all the water beneath the site flows toward the island’s eastern shore. Maury Island’s water supply at Dockton Springs is fed by water that flows to the west from the top of this divide.
- In addition, a buffer that will be a minimum of 15 feet will be maintained at all times between the mining area and the groundwater beneath the site.
  - ***“This is more than currently exists naturally in most King County valley areas and along the Maury Island coast, is greater than is required for mine sites in King County and is greater than is currently provided at most mine sites.”*** Legislative testimony of Lori Herman, state licensed hydrogeologist and engineering geologist and nationally certified groundwater professional, March 21, 2007