



**For Immediate Release**

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**Cascade Water Alliance appoints Ed Oberg CEO**

(January 24, 2008) The Board of Cascade Water Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of Ed Oberg as CEO, effective immediately. "Good organizations continually assess their management needs, especially in times when the work program changes in a significant way," says Grant Degginger, Mayor of Bellevue and Chair of the Cascade Board of Directors. In 2008 Cascade will become owners and operators of Lake Tapps and begin construction on the region's first new regional water supply pipeline in decades. "We will quickly become a different organization than the one that successfully brought us to this point," adds Degginger.

Oberg is familiar to King County governments having served the City of Bellevue from 1982 through 2005 in a variety of capacities, retiring as deputy city manager. He has 32 years experience in auditing, budgeting, capital financing, financial planning, management and public policy issues.

Michael Gagliardo who served Cascade as general manager since it was formed in 1999 assumes the title of Director of Planning in the new structure. "It's been an honor to be with Cascade from the beginning," says Gagliardo. "Cascade's work program is becoming much broader and I look forward to focusing on the implementation of our long range infrastructure projects."

The agreement with Puget Sound Energy to purchase Lake Tapps will be finalized in the coming weeks, ensuring Lake Tapps remains a community resource while improving fish habitats and providing water supply to meet the needs of a growing region. Water from Lake Tapps is expected to begin supplying Cascade Members by the mid-2020's.

Additionally, in 2008 Cascade will begin construction on the Tacoma/Cascade Regional Pipeline that will connect the Tacoma supply system to the Issaquah/Bellevue pipeline. The new system is scheduled to be complete by 2010.

"I am delighted to serve Cascade in this capacity. It's an exciting time for the organization and for the region," says Oberg. "Ensuring a clean, safe, reliable water supply is vital to our growing region and economy. Cascade has stepped up to that challenge and 2008 marks the year when we begin to see the results of years of planning with our regional partners."

In September of last year Cascade's board initiated an Organizational Strategic Plan, with assistance from Moss Adams LLP, to strengthen the organization as it moves from a focus on planning to implementation.

Cascade Water Alliance is an association of eight cities and water districts in King County including the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond and Tukwila, the Covington Water District, Sammamish Water and Sewer District, and Skyline Water District.

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