## **City of Bellingham Water Conservation Information**

The City of Bellingham strongly supports water conservation and has a robust and successful Water Use Efficiency program that could serve as a model for other jurisdictions and water purveyors. Between 2013 and 2017, the City experienced a 5% increase in population, meanwhile the daily water production only increased by 2% (see figure). During this same time period, the City converted approximately 15,000 single-family residential water customers from flat rate to metered water rates, resulting in fully metered water service for over 25,000 service accounts. Now, a uniform rate structure is employed for all water accounts, based on account type, with customers paying a base rate for their service and a volumetric fee for each 100-cubic-feet (ccf) of water used. Current utility rates can be found on the City's website.

The transition to fully metered water services was one part of the City's water conservation efforts. Other major actions the City continues to engage in to increase water conservation in our community include:

- Offering water assessments and rebates for replacing appliances and fixtures with low-flow devices
- Community outreach, demonstrations and school programs dedicated to educating residents about water conservation practices for indoor and outdoor activities
- Improved internal City practices such as installing the Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) process at the water treatment plant, resulting in a significant decrease in water used for filter backwashing.

For more information on the City of Bellingham's Water Use Efficiency program, visit www.cob.org/conserve

