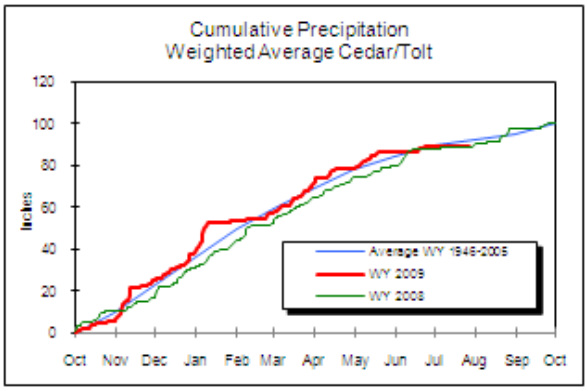
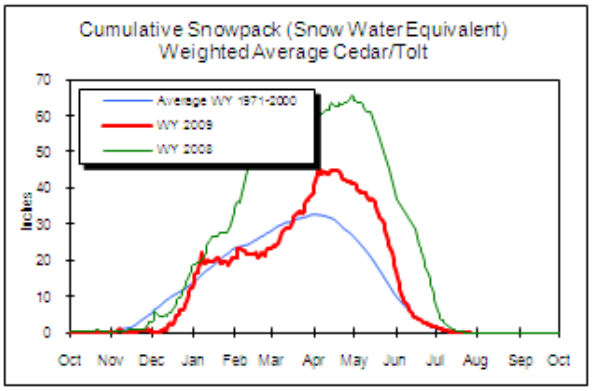
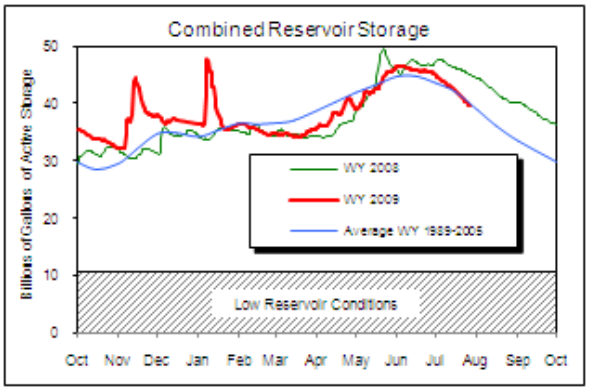
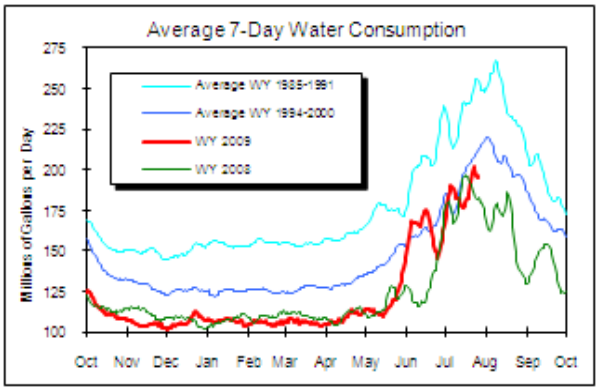
Attachment 4

Seattle Public Utilities Water System Synopsis as of July 27, 2009









Our overall water supply situation and outlook are good.

Last week, .0 inches and .02 inches of precipitation were recorded in our Cedar and South Fork Tolt River watersheds, respectively.

Chester Morse Lake at the Overflow Dike is at elevation 1555.4 feet, about 1.7 feet lower than last week, and about .1 feet below its long-term average (based on the years 1989 to 2005). Masonry Pool Reservoir at Masonry Dam is at elevation 1555.4 feet, about 1.7 feet lower than last week, and about equal to its long term average. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir at the South Fork Tolt Dam is at elevation 1755.9 feet, about 2.2 feet lower than last week, and about .2 feet above its long-term average. Water releases from reservoir storage are actively being managed to balance water supply and fish habitat management objectives for both the Cedar and South Fork Tolt Rivers.

Water consumption for the previous seven days averaged approximately 196 mgd. That is more than the 183 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 213 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

Climate Outlook (From the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in Washington D.C.)

30-Day Climate Outlook (Issued 16 July 2009)

The Puget Sound Region climate probability forecast for the month of August 2009 calls for a shift towards above normal temperature (as averaged over the 1-month period) and with equal chances for above, below and near-normal total monthly precipitation accumulations.

90-Day Climate Outlook (Issued 16 July 2009)

The Puget Sound Region climate probability forecast for the 3-month August-September-October 2009 period calls for equal chances for above, below and near-normal temperature (as averaged over the 3-month period) and for a shift towards below normal total 3-month precipitation accumulations.

Cedar River Instream Resources

Adult sockeye continue to migrate through the Ballard Locks. Counts of adult sockeye are very low this year. Muckleshoot Tribal biologists report an estimated total of only 21,374 fish passing upstream through the facilities as of July 26. Returning adult sockeye typically enter Lake Washington in substantial numbers from mid-June through mid-August. After passing through the Lake Washington Ship Canal, the sockeye move into deep, cold water below the lake's thermocline where they undergo final maturation during the summer months. Significant numbers of sockeye typically start to enter the Cedar River and other Lake Washington tributaries to spawn in mid-September. Most of these fish spawn from mid-September through mid-December.

Substantial numbers of adult Chinook salmon are also passing upstream through the locks. As of July 26, an estimated 971 Chinook had passed through the locks facilities. Adult Chinook migration at the locks increases during August, with peak counts usually recorded during the second half of the month. Chinook begin to move into the Cedar River in significant numbers by mid-September. Chinook spawning usually peaks in early to mid-October and continues through mid-November

South Fork Tolt Instream Resources

Adult summer-run steelhead continue hold in the Tolt system. Most of these fish enter the system during the summer and fall, then hold in the upper reaches of the South Fork Tolt River where they will spawn next winter and spring.

The emigration of young Chinook from the lower 1.5 miles of the South Fork Tolt River should be complete. Steelhead fry emergence should be nearly complete. Steelhead typically emerge from late May through late July. Young steelhead rear in freshwater for up to two years before migrating to sea. Young-of-the year coho continue to rear in the river and tributaries. Coho typically rear for 1 year in streams prior to migrating to sea. Newly emerged fry are especially vulnerable to standing during flow downramping events.