STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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January 14, 2021

Dear State Fiscal Year 2022 Water Quality Funding Applicant:

Re: ***State Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Water Quality Funding Offer List and Intended Use Plan***

Thank you for your time and effort in applying to Ecology for funding for your water quality project in the State Fiscal Year 2022 (SFY22) Funding Cycle. Your application is eligible to compete for funding and has been rated and ranked through the evaluation process.

On January 14, 2021, Ecology published the SFY22 Draft Water Quality Funding Offer List and Intended Use Plan (Draft List). The Draft List describes the projects and estimated funding for the SFY22 Funding Cycle from the Centennial Clean Water Program (Centennial), the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Fund (Section 319), the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP), and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

Ecology evaluated 127 applications from local governments, tribes, conservation districts, other public entities, and qualified not-for-profit organizations. New funding requests totaled approximately $568 million. To ensure that funds are committed to the highest priority projects, Ecology water quality specialists evaluate and score all eligible project proposals. Scores are compiled, and a statewide priority list is developed. Projects proposed for funding are based upon the priority list, the type of project, and the funding source.

A record of scores and evaluator comments are provided in the Evaluation Scorecard Report available through Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) system. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the report, as it will help applicants understand the strengths and weaknesses of their application. In addition, reviewing the report will help applicants become aware of any concerns about unclear costs or tasks and/or possible ineligible components; unclear costs or tasks and/or ineligible components may significantly delay the development of a funding agreement. To obtain the Evaluation Scorecard Report, follow these steps.

- Go into your application in EAGL.
- While in the Application Menu, click "View Forms" in the "View, Edit and Complete Forms" section.
- Scroll down the list of forms to near the bottom.
- Click on "Evaluation Scorecard (External)" in the "Screening/Evaluation/Offer" section.
- Follow the prompts for opening or saving a PDF copy of the report.

At the time of publication, the Washington State Legislature had not passed the 2021-2023 Biennial Budget. In addition, the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21) federal grants for CWSRF and Section 319 had not been awarded. Ecology based the estimated funding levels on the Governor's proposed budget released in December 2020 and the FFY20 grant awards for CWSRF and Section 319. Thus, the funding levels are estimates that may change when the final 2021-2023 Biennial Budget passes and the FFY21 federal grants are awarded. If the final funding for any of the programs is greater than the amounts estimated, Ecology will offer the additional funds to eligible projects in ranked priority order. If the final funding for any of the programs is less than the amounts estimated, Ecology will reduce the funding offers in reverse ranked priority order. In addition, public comments and changes in projects may affect the amounts and projects proposed for funding.

Ecology will incorporate any changes in funding when it publishes the SFY22 Final Water Quality Funding Offer List and Intended Use Plan (Final List). Ecology anticipates publishing the Final List by July 1, 2021.

Important Notice. If your project is a wastewater or stormwater facility project, and your facility is in a jurisdiction that is required or chooses to plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA), your jurisdiction must be in compliance with the GMA as determined by the Washington State Department of Commerce before Ecology can sign a funding agreement for your project. Be sure to discuss this with your planning office so they are aware any funding is contingent on GMA compliance. If you have any questions, contact Shelly McMurry at shelly.mcmurry@ecy.wa.gov, (564) 999-1649, or (360) 407-7132.

There is a 30-day public comment period for the Draft List. Comments will be accepted through February 14, 2021. Comments must be submitted via eComments. If you have questions but do not wish to submit comments, please contact Daniel Thompson at daniel.thompson@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6510 or attend the public meeting Ecology is holding at 1:00pm on February 3 via WebEx. Ecology will respond to all comments received during the comment period when we publish the Final List. All commenters will be notified by email when the Final List is published.

Sincerely,

Vincent McGowan, P.E.
Water Quality Program Manager