

## FY 19-21 Stormwater Capacity Grants and Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance

**Issues:**

- The Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permits will reissue in July, 2019, which is the anticipated release date of the Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS) grant guidelines for the FY2019-21 funding cycle. While some Permittees may be already thinking about GROSS grant project ideas based on draft permit language, some may not, and the timing may not be ideal. Providing Permittees additional time to digest the 2019 permit requirements would likely lead to better proposals.
- Hardship Communities, (defined as communities where the median household income, MHI, is less than 80% of state MHI) continue to struggle with building capacity for permit implementation.

Permittee	Phase	Location
Aberdeen, City of	2	Western Washington
Asotin, County of	2	Eastern Washington
Bellingham, City of	2	Western Washington
Bremerton, City of	2	Western Washington
Centralia, City of	2	Western Washington
Clarkston, City of	2	Eastern Washington
East Wenatchee, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Ellensburg, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Kelso, City of	2	Western Washington
Lakewood, City of	2	Western Washington
Longview, City of	2	Western Washington
Moses Lake, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Mount Vernon, City of	2	Western Washington
Oak Harbor, City of	2	Western Washington
Pullman, City of	2	Eastern Washington
SeaTac, City of	2	Western Washington
Sedro Woolley, City of	2	Western Washington
Selah, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Spokane Valley, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Spokane, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Spokane, County	2	Eastern Washington
Sunnyside, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Tukwila, City of	2	Western Washington
Union Gap, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Walla Walla, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Walla Walla, County	2	Eastern Washington
Wenatchee, City of	2	Eastern Washington
Yakima County	2	Eastern Washington
Yakima, City of	2	Eastern Washington
College Place, City of	proposed	Eastern Washington
Shelton, City of	proposed	Western Washington
Callam County	proposed	Western Washington

TABLE 1: List of permitted communities that meet hardship criteria.

**Background:**

For the past four biennia, Ecology has provided funding to Phase I and II Municipal Permittees to assist them in building capacity to implement permit requirements. The Municipal Capacity Grant Program provides funding on a non-competitive basis to each permittee to implement a Stormwater Management Program, examples of eligible expenses include training, equipment, and staff time. In the 2017-19 biennium, each permittee received \$50,000.

GROSS program is a competitive program that funds projects that address a statewide or regional stormwater need. These grants do not have a match requirement and have a maximum award of \$300,000. Recently funded projects include a statewide stormwater conference, and a school stormwater festival in Burien.

Funding for these programs comes through a line item in Ecology’s Operating Budget that has traditionally been used to fund these programs and support other permit-supporting projects including the Washington Stormwater Center. Ecology anticipates that there will be \$8,630,000 available to fund these programs in FY2019-21.

**Changes under Consideration for the FY2019-21 Biennium:**

Ecology is considering an alternative disbursement of funds for the 2019-21 funding cycle to help Municipal Stormwater Permittees best prepare for 2019 permit implementation and continuing to provide directed grants to implement high-priority projects.

Specifically, we recommend suspending the GROSS grants for one biennia and providing an additional \$50,000 per permittee to hardship communities through the Capacity grants.

For future biennia, additional funding to economic hardship communities may be provided by phasing out Capacity grants to Phase I Permittees.

19-21 Operating Grants				
<b>Available funds</b>		<b>\$8,630,000</b>		
<b>Directed Grants</b>		\$500,000	WSU & MuniCon	
		\$240,103	TAPE	
		\$250,000	Structural SW Stakeholder Group	
<b>Remaining</b>		<b>\$7,639,897.00</b>		
	Permittees	Funds per permittee	<b>Total Capacity Grant Cost</b>	<b>Remaining funds (Muni Outreach Funds)</b>
Base Funding	120	50,000	<b>6,000,000</b>	39,897
Additional Hardship	32	50,000	<b>1,600,000</b>	
Total			<b>7,600,000</b>	

TABLE 2: Proposed distribution of FY2019-21 Operating Budget local government stormwater funding.