

# \$66 Million from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Creates Jobs and Protects Clean Water in State

In 2009, our state received \$66 million in federal economic stimulus funding for clean water projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). The Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program is managing the funding through its nationally recognized grant and loan program.

Ecology successfully offered shares of this funding to 17 projects. All projects will either build or enhance clean water infrastructure. Local project managers predict the projects will provide 1,300 jobs. Of these, 1,280 will be new construction jobs and 21 will be new retained jobs to Washington.

Federal requirements set a high bar to allow the projects to help our nation's economy and call for all projects to have their contracts bid and finalized by Feb. 17, 2010

### **Economic Recovery Act at a glance**

On June 11, the federal Environmental Protection Agency approved the list of prioritized infrastructure projects slated to receive approximately \$66 million in financial assistance in the form of federal stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

Projects eligible for the Recovery Act funds are publicly owned water pollution control facilities and associated activities that are ready to proceed to construction. The funds will arrive in the form of low-interest loans and additional subsidies through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Ecology will administer the funding.

The funding will help local governments pay for water pollution control infrastructure including the upgrade and expansion of wastewater, reclaimed water and stormwater facilities, and green infrastructure projects that improve water or energy efficiency, or other environmentally innovative activities.

### MORE INFORMATION

Website for additional information about American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding in Washington:



[www.recovery.wa.gov/](http://www.recovery.wa.gov/)

Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Grants and Loans website:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/funding.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/funding.html)

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### **Special accommodations:**

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## Project summaries

Final funding amounts listed here are subject to change, based on final, accepted contract bids. The funding amounts listed here are accurate as of January 2010.

Airway Heights Water Reclamation and Recharge Project in **Spokane County** gets **\$23 million** to finish and improve the city of Airway Heights' system to collect and transport wastewater to new treatment facilities. It will include construction of infrastructure to re-use highly treated wastewater for local customers. It will also help the stressed West Plains underground water supply (aquifer) by returning the cleaned water to the aquifer.

**Bremerton's** Gorst septic system replacement project gets **\$1.3 million** to construct low-pressure sewers, grinder pumps, and sanitary sewer lateral lines on private property in conjunction with eliminating residential septic systems. Of the total funding, \$110,000 is a low-interest loan, and the remaining a forgivable principal loan, or money that does not need to be repaid.

**Bremerton's** Gorst sewerage project gets **\$4.1 million**. The project will install trunk sewers, pump stations, and equipment to develop a sewer collection system for the Gorst urban growth area. Of the total funding, \$110,000 is a low-interest loan, and the remaining amount or remainder does not have to be repaid.

The **LOTT Alliance**, a sewer utility for Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Thurston County, gets nearly **\$2.8 million** to construct a water pipeline to carry reclaimed water from the Budd Inlet wastewater treatment plant to Tumwater. Diverting reclaimed water, or reusing highly treated wastewater, benefits municipal water uses and reduces pollution levels in Budd Inlet. Half of this funding amount is low-interest loan; the other half does not have to be repaid.

**Richland** gets **\$2.5 million** to improve an aeration basin at its wastewater treatment plant. This project protects water quality in the Columbia River while reducing energy costs. The project will remove inefficient turbine aerators and install high efficiency aerators. Aeration is essential for effective wastewater treatment. Half of this funding is low-interest loan, and the other half does not have to be repaid.

**Kittitas** gets **\$742,000** to improve the city's existing wastewater treatment facility that serves 1,130 residents. The improvements will improve reliability and performance of the facility and protect water quality in Cooke Creek. Of the total amount of funding, \$482,000 is a low-interest loan and the remainder doesn't have to be repaid.

**Spokane** gets **\$382,000** for its West Broadway SURGE (Spokane Urban Runoff Greenway Experiment) Project. The funding will help the city construct 37 planters between the curb and sidewalk to intercept stormwater runoff on both sides of Broadway Street. The project protects the city's underground aquifer, the primary source of its drinking water, and reduces nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from stormwater runoff that gets into the Spokane River. Half of the \$382,000 is a low-interest 20-year loan and half is forgivable principal loan, or money that does not need to be repaid.

**Olympia** gets **\$3.67 million** for enhanced treatment of stormwater runoff at Yauger Park. The project will help manage water that flows from the park's stormwater retention site into Percival Creek and eventually into Budd Inlet in South Puget Sound. Half of the \$3.67 million is a low-interest 20-year loan and half is forgivable principal loan, or money that does not need to be repaid.

**Seattle Public Utilities'** Ballard Green Streets project gets **\$1.54 million**. The utility will install 10 blocks of swales to naturally detain and infiltrate stormwater. This "Green Streets" project will control runoff from 2.6 acres of hard surfaces, reducing sewer/storm overflows. The swales will help reduce stormwater pollution in the Lake Washington Ship Canal, which serves as a key migration corridor for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead, Coho salmon, and regionally significant sockeye salmon. The swales will also free up capacity in the combined sewer/storm system, reducing pollution overflows. Half of the \$1.54 million is a low-interest 20-year loan and half is forgivable principal loan, or money that does not need to be repaid.

**Clark County's** Upper Whipple Creek Habitat Protection and Runoff Control Project gets **\$850,000** to protect five acres of critical wetland habitat. The project will reduce flooding and protect downstream reaches of the creek from runoff erosion. Of the total amount of funding, half is low-interest loan and half is forgivable interest loan, meaning it does not have to be paid back.

**Cowlitz County's** failing sewer system in Ryderwood gets **\$2.9 million** to replace defective sewer mainlines and pipes. The project will rehabilitate or replace 28 sewer manholes. During wet weather conditions, the system, which was installed in the early 1970s, experiences significant overloading, resulting in raw sewage overflows at manholes and discharge of partially treated wastewater from the treatment plant. Of the total, \$2.2 million is forgivable principal loan, or money that does not need to be repaid. Ecology expects the remainder to be a low-interest loan.

Rock Island in **Douglas County** gets **\$3.4 million** for its initial phase to construct a new wastewater collection system that will transport wastewater to the new treatment facility. The subsidy is a forgivable principal loan, meaning it does not need to be repaid. The city is also in the running for additional low-interest loan funding for this project from the Clean Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.

The city of **Tacoma's** Stormwater Treatment Retrofit Project gets **\$1.85 million** to install an underground vault at East 15th Street to capture runoff from 74 industrial acres and reduce contaminated sediment discharged from the tributary area. A series of filters will clean the stormwater runoff before it is discharged into the Thea-Foss drainage basin of Puget Sound's Commencement Bay. The federal government designated the Thea-Foss waterway a Superfund site in 1985 due to sediment contamination. Since then, the waterway and watershed have been the focus of Tacoma's efforts to monitor water quality and control stormwater runoff and illicit discharges.

**Raymond** and **South Bend** share **\$2.5 million** to help build the shared jurisdiction wastewater treatment plant in Raymond to be called Willapa Regional Wastewater Facilities. The project includes the construction of pipes to transport wastewater to the new plant and a river crossing.

This work will improve water quality in Willapa River and estuary. All of the funding is forgivable principle interest, or money that does not have to be paid back.

The **Uniontown** wastewater treatment plant upgrade gets **\$2.3 million** to line wastewater lagoons to protect underground water supplies and construct wetlands to help further clean treated wastewater. The funding is forgivable principal interest, or money that does not have to be paid back.

**Arlington** received **\$5.54 million** to upgrade and expand its wastewater treatment plant. The project will enhance water treatment to produce effluent of reclaimed water quality. This will enable the plant's discharge to meet the Stillaguamish River water cleanup requirements, improve Puget Sound water quality, support Port Susan's shellfish bed restoration, and expand water management opportunities in the Stillaguamish basin.

**Mason County** gets **\$5.9 million** for the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities project. This project includes construction of a wastewater collection/treatment system for Belfair urban growth area (UGA). The system is designed to eliminate septic tanks within the UGA to address water quality issues associated with Hood Canal. Wastewater will be treated to Class A reclaimed water standards and irrigated onto forestland. \$4.3 million of this funding does not have to be paid back.