

Proposed Legislation

The problem

Since the 2009-11 biennium, the adopted State Operating budgets have included a \$2.0 million reduction in Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) funding. Ecology proposes to continue this reduction through the 2015-17 and 2017-19 biennia. RCW 86.26.007 stipulates that \$4.0 million dollars be transferred each biennium from the general fund to FCAAP. Thus, for the past three biennia, it has been necessary to include a specific provision in the adopted Operating Budget bill to reduce the FCAAP funding level to \$2 million.

The solution

This bill would reduce the statutory funding level for FCAAP to \$2.0 million for the FY 2015-17 and FY 2017-19 biennia, to match the budgets adopted since the 2009-11 biennium. The funding level would match the level experienced by Ecology and our local government floodplain management partners for the past six years.

How it will work

RCW 86.26.007 would be amended to reduce the statutory funding level for FCAAP from \$4.0 million to \$2.0 million for the coming two biennia.

Prior to the 2009-11 biennium, funding at the \$4.0 million level supported competitive grants to local governments for flood hazard management planning, as well as staff at Ecology to provide technical support. The funds also supported grants to drainage districts, counties and others to implement priority projects identified in the adopted flood hazard management plans.

Relationship to the state's capital budget

In the 2013-15 biennium, the Legislature provided \$50.0 million in capital funds to Ecology for a new "Floodplains by Design" grant program. Per the authorizing budget language, none of

MORE INFORMATION

This bill would make permanent the Flood Control Assistance Account Program cuts included in the State Operating Budget since the 2009-11 biennium.

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Focus on Reducing Flood Control Assistance Account Program Funding

Shorelands & Environmental Assistance

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those funds may be used for writing comprehensive flood hazard reduction plans.

Ecology is submitting a \$50 million capital request for the 2015-17 biennium, modeled after the 2013-15 biennium's capital project funding. We are proposing funding in the 2015-17 biennium for design and other pre-construction activities, but are not proposing broad funding for comprehensive flood hazard reduction plan updates.

How it will benefit Washington

The proposal would make cuts to FCAAP for the next two biennia that have been taken in each of the last three biennial budgets. This would contribute to helping address the significant challenges to meeting State funding obligations with constrained revenue to the General Fund. The period of this fiscal action matches the four-year period for the balanced budget review.

More information

Ecology's website for the Washington Legislature: www.ecy.wa.gov/legislature.html