State Fiscal Years 2024 & 2025 Funding Guidelines
National Estuary Program – Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead

Clean Water Act Section 320 Program

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website.
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Contact Information

ADA Accessibility

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How to Use This Document

This guidance document includes valuable information that will help National Estuary Program (NEP) Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead (Stormwater SIL) applicants and grant recipients to understand the background of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Puget Sound funding model, the funding leads, how proposed projects are selected and the management of the funding agreements. We recommend applicants review the advertised request for proposals (RFP) and this guidance carefully prior to preparing an application and to retain a copy to help manage a funded agreement. This guidance will be updated as needed and agreements are managed according to the guidance that was published the year the project was awarded funding.

Background

A new EPA Puget Sound funding model initiated in 2021 aligns investments with the Puget Sound Strategic Initiatives and Implementation Strategies. This funding model is designed to remove key barriers to recovery throughout Puget Sound, and further improves upon the Strategic Initiative model used to administer EPA Puget Sound Geographic Funds since 2015 authorized under section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

This funding guidance applies to implementation of the Strategic Initiative funding model. Strategic Leads (SILs) and partners of the funding model were selected through a competition and now adhere to a cooperative agreement with EPA.

The three Puget Sound Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) are:

- Stormwater: Washington State Department of Ecology, Department of Commerce, and the Washington State University Stormwater Center
- Shellfish: Washington State Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Ecology.
- Habitat: Washington State Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources.

Each of the SIL teams listed convened local technical experts into Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIAT) to advise on the strategic ways to operationalize and implement each of the Implementation Strategies for each SIL team. A key task of the SIAT is to provide input to the SIL team to inform Puget Sound Geographic Funds funding decisions. The SILs makes final decisions based primarily upon these recommendations.

Development of the Investment Plan

The following describes the approach for developing annual investment plans to guide SIL team investments and their grant recipients to fund with Puget Sound Geographic Funds. For the 2022-2026 Action Agenda, it is important to note that the list of Near-Term Actions (NTAs) included in previous Action Agendas are not included in this version of the Action Agenda. The shift away from listing specific actions in the Action Agenda instead emphasizes the key opportunities in Puget Sound.

The new investment process relies on the SIAT to develop an Investment Plan that identifies specific actions to operationalize and implement key areas in each Implementation Strategy. Each SIL team will host competitive grant solicitations or RFPs for specific activities using the information in the Investment Plan. Proposals will be selected from each solicitation following the EPA guidance and SIAT Investment Plan. Updated information on the process, Investment Plan, and competitive grant solicitation materials and schedule will be included on the Puget Sound Estuary website[1] and generally listed below.

1. The SIL teams assemble their SIATs and develop an annual Investment Plan. The SIATs and SILs identify the activities and their sequence that can contribute most strategically over the next two years to achieving the Puget Sound recovery goals published in the Action Agenda and Implementation Strategies.
2. The SIL teams share the Investment Plan, including information on the target investment level, funding award duration, next steps, and target timing of the competitive grant solicitations, with the Leadership Council, Science Panel, Ecosystem Coordination Board, Local Integrating Organization, and the Tribal Management Conference.
3. The SIL teams recruit a group of experts in the specific topic areas identified in the Investment Plan to serve on the solicitation and evaluation team that will refine the information from the Investment Plan into a competitive grant solicitation and tailor evaluation criteria for each.
4. Competitive solicitations will be posted on the Puget Sound Estuary website[2], and shared with Puget Sound recovery partners. Applicants can sign up to receive specific information about each solicitation through the website.

Program Schedule

For additional detail on the annual Investment Plan, funding schedules and more please visit Puget Sound Estuary website.

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[1] https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/rfp/
[2] https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/rfp/

Completing the Application

Applicants must check [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov/content/home)[3] to verify the applicant/entity is not suspended or debarred from contracting by the federal government. Any suspended or debarred parties are not eligible to receive a funding award.

The following steps are to assist applicants in completing an application of SILs RFPs.

1. Competitive grant solicitations (RFPs) will be posted on the [Puget Sound Estuary website](#)[3].
2. Application materials are available through the Stormwater SIL funding page on the Puget Sound Estuary website.
3. Carefully review the materials, eligibility criteria, and timelines for each competitive grant solicitation and provide the completed materials prior to the deadline.
4. Follow the instructions on the solicitation to submit the application.

Cross-Cutting Considerations

The [EPA Funding Guidance to the SILs](#) identifies investment priorities that are incorporated into the RFP criteria for all proposals. Applicants are asked to describe how their proposals will consider and address climate change, Tribal Treaty Rights, and environmental justice.

Some examples of how projects may align with these considerations include:

- Climate change adaptation: Consider how the proposal supports taking action to prepare for and adjust to current and projected impacts of climate change.
- Tribal Treaty Rights: Consider how the project incorporates traditional ecological knowledge and enhances shellfish, salmon, and other harvest opportunities through habitat recovery. For more information, refer to the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission's Tribal Habitat Strategy](#). If you are not a tribal nation, consider contacting your local Tribe(s) for additional information and to discuss including them in your proposal development as a partner.
- Environmental Justice: Consider the impacts of environmental justice, environmental health, and disproportional impacts and opportunities for influence and participation. Refer to the [Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#), [EPA's EJ Screen tool](#) for geographically specific information, or other tools and research that may emerge.

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[3] https://sam.gov/content/home

Application Evaluation Process

1. Once application materials are submitted to the SIL, applicants will receive an automated confirmation email that the materials have been received within 48 hours.
2. The SIL team will review received application for completeness and eligibility. Applications that are not fully completed, or ineligible, will not move forward in the evaluation process.
3. The SIL and solicitation team will evaluate the applications submitted in response for each of the competitive grant solicitations.
4. The SILs and solicitation team will evaluate the applications based on the evaluation criteria listed in the solicitation materials.
5. Applicants will be notified regarding the status of the proposal via email using the contact information listed in the proposal. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to discuss any changes in the application with the solicitation coordinator and the project manager prior to accepting the funds. Unsuccessful applicants may request a debriefing with the solicitation coordinator regarding the evaluation and scoring of the applicant's proposal, critique of the proposal based on the evaluation, and review of the final score. Confidential information regarding comparisons with other applications will not be discussed.
6. Successful applicants will work with the project and financial managers to develop a final Statement of Work and associated budget for the funding agreement.
7. The funding decision for each competitive grant solicitation will be shared on the Stormwater SIL funding page within three months of the closure of the funding round.

Grant Management

The grant management for most of the Stormwater SIL investments are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECOLOGY), Water Quality Program, Financial Management Section (FMS). The following are important federal and state administrative requirements that play a role in the day-to-day decisions made on grant projects. A complete listing of the administrative requirements for all grants and loans administered by Ecology is contained in the [Administration Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans Managed in EAGL (Yellow Book).](#)

Statement of Work Negotiation

Grant awardees (recipients) and their proposed project activities selected for funding through the competitive solicitation process will work with the Ecology Project and Financial Managers to complete their and Budget. When the Statement of Work is finalized, it will be entered into the Ecology Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) system to become a funded agreement. All administration of the agreement will be completed in EAGL system including, but not limited to, quarterly progress reports and payment requests, deliverable submission, and agreement amendments.

New users of Ecology's EAGL system must register for a [Secure Access Washington (SAW)](#) account prior to beginning the application process. New user account approval may take up to two weeks.

Recipients may request up to 15 percent of the total eligible project cost for Task 2 Project Administration and Management in the project application. This task will include the cost of preparing quarterly and final reports and payment requests, maintaining project documentation and managing the project. Project administration is payable only to the lead recipient.

Indirect Rate

Recipients may include an indirect charge of up to 30 percent of salaries and benefits for recipient employees for time spent specifically on the project. A recipient may also either use a federally approved indirect rate or some other form of documentation stating that they can do so. The documentation should be provided to Ecology during Statement of Work negotiation for verification.

Agreement Development Process

The information provided in the competitive grant application is the basis for Statement of Work and will be used to develop the final funding agreement. Through the agreement negotiation process, Ecology and the funding recipient will work together to develop a final Statement of Work, Budget and Deliverables that uphold the expectations of the competitive grant solicitation.

The funding agreement is the formal written contractual arrangement signed by authorized representatives of the recipient and Ecology. The agreement, at a minimum will include an approved Statement of Work, total project costs, a Budget by task, performance schedule (normally 2 years), Deliverables, and Ecology General Terms and Conditions. Ecology assigns a project management team to each funded project.

The team consists of:

A **project manager**, the primary contact for technical assistance and day-to-day questions. The project manager works with the financial manager to resolve payment or eligibility issues if they arise. When in doubt, call any member of the project management team for information.

A **financial manager**, reviews and approves payment requests and assists the project manager in the negotiation of agreements. The financial manager also administers the project, determines eligibility, and maintains project files.

A **project engineer or technical advisor** from Ecology headquarters or the regional office, or designated, as needed.

It will take less time to develop a Statement of Work and funding agreement if the application has a clearly defined project proposal that includes measurable objectives, deliverables, and an accurate budget. Ecology may withdraw or reduce project funding if a task is determined to be ineligible during the agreement negotiation process.

Payment Requests and Project Progress Reporting

All grant payments are made on a reimbursement basis. Recipients must provide a progress report with each payment request and at least quarterly. Failure to provide adequate progress reports will result in denied payment requests and may result in project termination or other actions.

If a recipient fails to submit two or more consecutive quarterly reports via the EAGL grant management system, Ecology may consider this failure to provide progress reports as non-performance and initiate actions to amend or terminate this agreement.

These conditions are necessary to ensure 1) Ecology has sufficient funding available to reimburse grant expenses, and 2) Ecology water quality dollars are maximized over the biennia and do not remain obligated to projects that will not be requesting reimbursements for the full value of the grant award.

For more information on the use of EAGL for grant management refer to the online User Guide within EAGL.

Project Completion Dates and Extensions

Recipients may incur project costs on and after the effective date and that are eligible within the final Statement of Work, but Ecology cannot reimburse expenditures until the agreement has been fully signed and activated in EAGL. While applicants can incur eligible costs before the agreement is signed, they do so at their own risk of non-reimbursement.

Projects must be completed by the agreement expiration date. Ecology may approve extensions for extenuating circumstances by formal amendment. Ecology will not authorize extensions for projects that have not diligently pursued project completion or have not provided adequate and timely progress reports. Extensions will not be approved beyond **December 31, 2027.**

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring before and during implementation and after project completion is critical for tracking environmental and project results. Typically, a recipient undertakes monitoring to characterize the existing conditions of ground waters and surface waters, to identify or quantify pollutant sources or loads, or to establish the effectiveness of BMPs. Soil monitoring for water quality related purposes may be eligible with Ecology approval. Monitoring may be the entire project or a component of a larger project.

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

Prior to initiating water quality or soil monitoring activities, the recipient must prepare a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The QAPP must follow Ecology's Guidelines and Specifications for Preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans for Environmental Studies. QAPP Standard Operating Procedures for field sampling and testing activities associated with monitoring QAPP development are also available. The QAPP template is also available by request from the Fund Coordinator, or regional Ecology Project Manager. Recipients may also reference Ecology's Technical Guidance for Assessing the Quality of Aquatic Environments in developing the QAPP.

The QAPP must:

- Describe in detail the monitoring and data quality objectives, procedures, and methodologies that will be used to ensure that all environmental data generated will meet the QAPP requirements.
- Describe in detail the water quality monitoring approach and laboratory protocols, including types of data and samples to be collected, sample location, sampling frequency, sampling procedures, analytical methods, quality control procedures, data handling protocols.
- Describe data assessment procedures.
- Explain how the project will yield sufficient information to achieve the purpose and
- intent of monitoring.
- Discuss data accuracy and statistical requirements.

The recipient must submit the QAPP to Ecology's Project Manager and Quality Assurance Coordinator for review, comment, and approval before starting the environmental monitoring activities. Any monitoring activity conducted before the QAPP receives final approval is not eligible for reimbursement.

Use of an Ecology Accredited Laboratory

The recipient must use an environmental laboratory accredited by Ecology to analyze water samples for all parameters that require bench testing. Information on currently accredited laboratories and the accreditation process are provided on Ecology's Lab Search webpage. The recipient should manage all monitoring data collected or acquired under the agreement to be available to secondary users and meet the "10-year rule." The 10-year rule means that data documentation is sufficient to allow an individual not directly familiar with the specific monitoring effort to understand the purpose of the data set, methods used, results obtained, and quality assurance measures taken 10 years after data are collected.

Monitoring Data Management and Submittal

Recipients that collect environmental monitoring data must submit all data to Ecology using the Environmental Information Management System (EIM). Data must be loaded into EIM following instructions on Ecology's EIM webpage and be approved by Ecology's Project Manager. Final payment requests will be withheld until data has been approved in EIM. EPA's requirement is that the Water Quality data be input to their WQX data system. In August 2024, Ecology may have a link from EIM to WQX, but for now the requirement is to enter data into WQX.

The data submittal portion of the EIM webpage provides information and help on formats and requirements for submitting tabular data. Specific questions about data submittal may be directed to the EIM Data Coordinator.

Recipients must follow Ecology data standards when Geographic Information System (GIS) data are collected and processed as documented on Ecology's GIS Standards webpage45. Recipients must submit copies of all final GIS data layers, imagery, related tables, raw data collection files, map products, metadata, and project documentation to Ecology.

Historic and Cultural Resources Requirements

Ecology will work with grant recipients to follow the appropriate steps to assess for possible cultural resources requirements under Section 106 to determine if a site has the potential of disturbing or significantly impacting an archaeological or historic archaeological site, historic building/structure and cultural or sacred place. Assessment of a site to determine the potential risk of encountering historic properties is grant eligible. Site disturbance (i.e., geotechnical investigations, plantings, water quality monitoring, and or construction) that occurs prior to such assessment, are not eligible for reimbursement. Environmental and cultural resources review information and forms are available on Ecology Environmental and cultural resources review website.

Initial Data Reporting and Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)

Recipients who receive funding from EPA must complete a FFATA form. The form will be available for completion during the agreement negotiation process. Ecology cannot sign a funding agreement until the form is completed.

Eligible Project Categories

Eligible projects will be based on the individual SIL team competitive grants solicited on the Puget Sound Estuary website. Each solicitation will include additional details on eligibility. In general, the Stormwater Strategic Initiative funds are targeted at focused priorities identified from Implementation Strategies and actions outline in the Action Agenda.

The intent of the Stormwater SIL grant opportunities are to fund stormwater related projects that are mostly ineligible through other federal and state funding sources, not a requirement of a NPDES permit and are directed at Puget Sound recovery. Please refer to the individual solicitation (RFP) for specific project eligible categories.

Examples of Past Funding:

- Research on contaminants of emerging concern
- Chemical Action Plans (CAP)
- Water quality improvement stormwater (retrofit) projects.
- Prioritization, planning and feasibility for stormwater management.
- Identifying best management practices
- Public education and outreach around stormwater impacts

Other Eligible Projects

Below are project types that have been previously funded by NEP and the Stormwater SIL. Please see individual solicitation for eligibility requirements.

Stormwater Facility Projects

Stormwater facility projects provide water quality benefits by treating and/or providing flow control for water generated from impervious surfaces such as roads and buildings prior to discharge to receiving waters. Grant funding may become available for planning and design. Projects may be submitted as planning and design only; planning, design, and construction; or construction only. **The Stormwater SIL typically does not fund capital construction projects of stormwater facilities.**

Stormwater facility projects may include:

- Treatment or flow control best management practices.
- Low impact development techniques that treat stormwater and/or provide infiltration.
- Decant facilities that separate liquid waste from solid waste generated by stormwater maintenance activities.
- Street sweeping and maintenance.

Planning and Design

Costs of stormwater facility feasibility, planning and design are eligible for NEP and Stormwater SIL grant funding. These costs include preparing planning documents, cultural resource determinations, geotechnical work, engineering design reports, environmental review, value engineering studies, and rate studies.

Construction

NEP grant funds for construction of some stormwater facility projects may be eligible but the Stormwater SIL is prohibited from funding capital construction projects.

If construction projects are eligible, applicants must comply with Ecology-approved design standards as listed in [Western and Eastern Washington Stormwater Management Manuals](#)[4] or an equivalent Ecology-approved manual of the Phase I Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit in order to be eligible for financial assistance from Ecology.

Stormwater Activities Project

A project may be eligible for Stormwater SIL funds depending on the activity type and the jurisdiction where the activity takes place. Some RFPs may fund experimental BMP's but will require testing and Ecology engineering acceptance.

Some examples of these types of projects include:

- Land use/stormwater management planning
- Review of existing local stormwater regulations
- New or non-approved BMP development, assessment, and installations through the Ecology TAPE program
- Conducting and prioritizing inventories and mapping of stormwater sources and infrastructure
- Public education and outreach

Table 1 below provides examples of stormwater activities that are eligible for NEP funds and may or may not be eligible under the Stormwater SIL solicitations. The list below is not intended to be comprehensive; eligibility is ultimately up to the Stormwater SIL decision and at the discretion of Washington Department of Ecology and EPA.

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[4] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Stormwater-permittee-guidance-resources/Stormwater-manuals

Table 1: Stormwater Activity Projects and Components Eligibility Description

Activity	NEP Eligible	Stormwater SIL Eligible
Activities required by a NPDES municipal stormwater permit *	No	No
Basin modeling for BMP prioritization not required by a permit	Yes	Yes
Cost and effectiveness analysis to meet federal requirements	Yes	Yes
Equipment and/or tools pre-approved for a funded project	Yes	Yes
Establishment of stormwater utilities not required by permit	Yes	Yes
Establishment of stormwater utilities required by permit*	No	No
Implementation of educational activities not required by permit	Yes	Yes
Inspection programs for private parcel stormwater BMPs not required by permit	Yes	Yes
Land acquisition for: wetland habitat preservation and protection; riparian area and watershed preservation; drinking water source protection	Yes	No
Landscaping for erosion control directly related to a project	Yes	Yes
Light refreshments for meetings if pre-approved	Yes	Yes
Outreach and education projects not required by stormwater permits	Yes	Yes
Outreach and education projects required by stormwater permits*	No	No
Pet waste signs	Yes	Yes
Project Management Consultant	Yes	Yes
Purchase, rental, or use fees for high-efficiency vacuum sweepers	Yes	Yes
Stormwater infrastructure inventories not required by a permit	Yes	Yes
Stormwater infrastructure inventories required by a permit*	No	No
Stormwater related land use planning not required by permit	Yes	Yes
Stormwater related land use planning required by permit*	No	No
Water quality monitoring not required by stormwater permits	Yes	Yes

Activity	NEP Eligible	Stormwater SIL Eligible
Water quality monitoring required by stormwater permits*	No	No

Projects that propose novel, voluntary, innovative approaches to implementing permit requirements may be eligible. See RFP solicitation for specific information.

Nonpoint Source Activity Projects

Nonpoint source water pollution control activities include a wide variety of projects that do not involve constructing or preparing to construct a traditional water pollution control facility. These types of projects involve activities such as implementing best management practices (BMPs) and using outreach and education to help improve water quality by addressing nonpoint source pollution derived from stormwater runoff. Ecology may require specific review and approval for certain BMPs.

Best Management Practices Implementation Projects

Water quality best management practices (BMPs) are defined as structural or non-structural methods recommended through a planning process that have a demonstrated success for addressing or preventing water quality degradation. Implementation of BMPs refers to the use of established approaches or practices to address water quality problems. BMPs are physical, structural, and managerial practices that prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution.

All Nonpoint BMPs must meet the conditions of these funding guidelines and be reviewed by Ecology prior to installation. Ecology will require recipients to submit a BMP Approval form that describes the implementation plan for all BMPs with any supporting documents such as maps, designs, and maintenance plans, etc. to the Ecology Project Manager. A BMP Approval Form template[5] is available online. Ecology's Project Manager or Project Engineer will review the proposed project and provide written notice to proceed with implementation. If the recipient installs un-approved BMPs, the recipient assumes the risk that Ecology may delay or deny part or all of the reimbursement for that activity.

Public Outreach and Education Projects

Projects with public outreach and education components are eligible for grant funding. Public outreach and education use effective methods and programs, guided by a detailed outreach strategy, to engage the public's interest in improving water quality. Applicants should consider that the public has different levels of background knowledge of both water quality management and its role in reducing water pollution. Therefore, applicants should consider a

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[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans/Nonpoint-source-activity-projects/Nonpoint-source-project-resources

multi-pronged approach to outreach. Also see Cross-Cutting Considerations. Public outreach efforts should include:

- Generating basic awareness of water pollution.
- Educating at a more sophisticated level using more comprehensive content.
- Building on existing recognition of the issue to prompt behavior changes that reduce pollution or opportunities for pollution.

The strategy should also specifically address combining public outreach with the implementation of other water quality management measures. This aspect of outreach could involve more in-depth education, short training courses, live presentations and slideshows, handbooks, posters with educational content and captioned illustrations, and web-based training modules, or websites with photos of good and bad practices.

Technical Assistance

Ecology may reimburse the costs associated with project-specific planning and technical assistance for planning, design, and implementation of grant and loan eligible water quality BMPs or riparian restoration. Site-specific planning for resource and land management is an eligible activity if the resulting plan includes eligible water quality BMPs consistent with the criteria required under these guidelines.

Watershed Planning and Implementation

Watershed planning projects are eligible for NEP Stormwater SIL grants. If the project is located in the 12 counties that border Puget Sound, it must comply with planning criteria contained in Title 400 WAC, *Puget Sound Partnership*[6].

Riparian Buffer Requirements on Agricultural Lands

EPA requires that NEP funded riparian buffer protection and restoration projects in agricultural areas be consistent with riparian buffer recommendations. These recommendations were created by Ecology's Watershed Management Section (see Appendix J – page 179 of the 2025 Water Quality Combined Funding Program[1]). To assist in determining likely minimum buffer width requirements for a given stream reach a web map[2] has been developed by Ecology.

In this context agricultural areas include lands that meet the definition of agricultural lands and activities in the Washington Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58.065). Properties that are zoned as rural residential that include hobby farms or nonrevenue producing farms will also be considered as agricultural land for the purpose of implementing this term and condition.

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[6] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=400

[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2210016.pdf

[2] https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d5478a4aaf704d81bac63ffc934e1549&extent=-123.0388%2C47.109%2C-122.5317%2C47.2963

Exemptions

Where implementing the buffer widths is prevented by physical constraints, such as transportation corridors or structures, the buffer implemented could be narrower at the location occupied by the transportation corridor or structure but must otherwise meet the requirements of the buffer table. <u>The recipient of funds for buffer implementation that request an exception based on physical constraints must fill out a form and receive approval from Ecology's Project Manager and EPA prior to implementing smaller than required buffer widths.</u>

In addition, exceptions from the required buffers are obtained through a request to Ecology and EPA and with a scientific rationale-demonstrating adequacy of buffers for supporting water quality and salmon recovery. The scientific rationale could be developed from sources such as site-specific assessment data, salmon recovery plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and the state nonpoint plan. Exception requests will at a minimum be expected to address:

Project Site Background:

- Existing salmonid presence or use, habitat, and water quality conditions.
- Previous and anticipated habitat/water quality protection/improvement efforts in the watershed.
- Site conditions.
- Infrastructure issues.
- Project Design, Function, and Maintenance.
- Project design considerations.
- Functions provided by proposed buffer.
- Long-term maintenance plan.

Further guidance on how to gain exceptions to the buffer width requirements and the scientific rationale process will be considered on a case-by-case basis. <u>The recipient will work with Ecology's Project Manager and the EPA to determine next steps for all exception requests.</u>

Ineligible Project Categories

In general, projects or project components unrelated to the identified Investment Plan and competitive grant solicitation are not eligible for funding. The table below contains a list of some projects and project components that are ineligible for all funding sources. Questions about eligible expenses should be directed to the Ecology Project Manager. Any expense not previously approved by the Ecology Project Manager may be ineligible.

Table 2. Ineligible Projects or Project Components of Funding Source

Description
Acquisition/installation of side/cross fencing
Annual permit fees
Application preparation (grant or loan)

Aquatic plant control for aesthetic reasons, navigational improvements, or other purposes unrelated to water quality
BMP implementation on most federal and state-owned property
BMP implementation that affects upland areas
BMP implementation for private gain
Bond costs for debt issuance
Bonus or acceleration payments to contractors to meet contractual completion dates for construction
Buildings unless they are required to protect water quality or they are needed to implement permit requirements such as a laboratory at a wastewater treatment facility
Cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost contracts (also known as multiplier contracts), time and materials contracts, and percent-of-construction contracts; this does not apply to General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) contracts procured in accordance with Chapter 39.10 RCW
Fees for failure to pay invoices on time, check overdrafts, etc.
Fines and penalties due to violations of or failures to comply with federal, state, or local laws
Land acquisition for right of way using eminent domain
Landscaping for aesthetic reasons
Lighting or other project elements that do not provide a water quality benefit
Lobbying or expenses associated with lobbying
Operating expenses of local government, such as the salaries and expenses of a mayor, city council member, city attorney, etc.
Overtime differential paid to employees of local government to complete administrative or force account work
Projects or project objectives previously funded by Ecology
Projects solely for flood control
Reclamation of abandoned mines
Removal of existing structures or demolition of structures that are not interfering with proposed construction
Solid and hazardous waste cleanup
State and federal agency facilities and other duties and responsibilities
Vehicle purchase, except where Ecology has determined that a specialized vehicle is essential to directly satisfy the project Statement of Work and to achieve the project water quality goals and outcomes
Water supply and conveyance