Application Process for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan

Background
DEQ’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program provides approximately $50 million annually to fund water quality improvement projects for wastewater and stormwater facilities, nonpoint source control and estuary management projects. The program strives to promote financial, operational, and environmental sustainability. Loan recipients can realize significant project benefits, including protection of public health and local watersheds.

How to apply for a loan
Step 1: Contact your regional project officer or regional technical assistance engineer (listed on page 2).

Throughout the loan application process an applicant must provide accurate and complete information and documentation to DEQ. Your regional project officer or technical assistance engineer can discuss this process with you and guide you through the application requirements.

Step 2: Determine if your project is eligible for funding and what type of DEQ application you need to complete for your project.

Point Source - Funding for design and construction of publicly owned wastewater facilities; building or rehabilitation of sewer collection systems; urban wet weather flow control activities, including stormwater; sanitary and combined sewer control measures. This application also includes the opportunity of using the Sponsorship Option, which allows a public agency to fund both a traditional wastewater project with a nonpoint source or estuary management activity as a combined project.

Nonpoint Source - Funding for projects that include animal waste management; agricultural conservation; protection or restoration of riparian (streamside) habitat; establishing conservation easements; acquiring riparian lands or wetlands, estuary management projects and other nonpoint source activities.

Planning - Funding of data collection and measurement, evaluation, analysis, security evaluations, report preparation, environmental review and any other activity leading to a written document.

Local Community - Encourages public agencies (often rural counties, soil and water conservation districts or irrigation districts) to use CWSRF financing to establish their own local loan program that addresses a local water quality issue occurring within their jurisdiction.

Step 3: Determine if your project includes sustainable or green components.

DEQ provides a certain amount of program funds for financing green infrastructure, water efficiency improvements, energy efficiency improvements or environmentally innovative activities. Depending on the project type, a business case may be required to determine if the project qualifies.

Step 4: Consider other funding options for your project.

DEQ coordinates with other state and federal agencies that may be able to also provide funding opportunities. A “one-stop” meeting can be arranged through your regional project officer so you can best determine how to approach funding opportunities.

Step 5: Submit your application and other required documents.

Your application and other required documents must be submitted to your regional project officer and received in the appropriate DEQ office by the deadlines listed on the CWSRF website. DEQ considers an application to be complete when an applicant has submitted all required documents as described in checklists provided on the Applications page of the CWSRF website.

Step 6: Environmental Review Process
DEQ determines the level of environmental review your project will undergo based on a review of compliance with applicable state and
federal laws. Full details on the process are in the Applicant Guide to the State Environmental Review Process on the CWSRF website.

What does DEQ do with an application?
DEQ’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund program staff reviews an application to determine if a proposed project meets general eligibility requirements listed in OAR 340-054-0015. Program staff then evaluate eligible applications based on project ranking criteria outlined in OAR 340-054-0026 or 0027 and assign a numeric score to each application. This score determines how a project ranks with other eligible projects.

After scoring and ranking, DEQ lists projects in an Intended Use Plan according to rank. DEQ provides an opportunity for public notice on the Intended Use Plan.

An applicant must complete any remaining requirements for an application to be considered complete. DEQ will include all applications that are considered complete on the “Applicants Ready to Proceed” list in the Intended Use Plan. Projects must be listed in the plan as “ready to proceed” to receive funding.

For more information
For specific information on applying for a loan, discerning types of loans available, understanding allocation procedures or knowing how to get on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund mailing list, please contact the appropriate DEQ regional office:

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NORTHWEST REGION:

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Alternative formats
Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ’s Office of Communications and Outreach, Portland, at 503-229-5696, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.