

May 14, 2020

**Caption: ISSUE ANALYSIS**

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FINAL DRAFT FY 2021 STATE WASTEWATER GRANT PRIORITY LIST**

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**Issue:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared the **FINAL DRAFT FY 2021 STATE WASTEWATER GRANT PRIORITY LIST**.

The question before the Board is the following: **Should the Final Draft FY 2021 State Wastewater Grant Priority List be approved as presented?**

**Issue**

**Discussion:**

A wastewater facilities grant program was started by the Department in the early 1980s under authority granted in Title 39, Chapter 36, Idaho Code. DEQ for many years has administered this program. In the early years of the program grants were available for all three steps of a construction project: planning, design and construction. In recent years, however, grant monies have been available for facility planning work only.

Projects placed on the list were identified through a **Letter of Interest Form** submitted to the DEQ by the project entities on the list.

**Relevant**

**Statutes:**

Title 39, Chapter 36, Idaho Code, provides for adoption of “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants,” IDAPA 58.01.04.

**Public**

**Notification:**

The public was notified of the availability of the list and related information through notices in six (6) Idaho regional newspapers published once per week for three consecutive weeks. Additionally, email notices were sent to numerous stakeholders. Notification of the availability of the list and the related Intended Use Plan were also placed on the DEQ website for four weeks. The website was set up to facilitate public comment. In the newspaper notices and on our website the public was invited to review copies of the list and related information at the website and in the DEQ Regional Offices.

**Public**

**Hearing:**

DEQ elected not to have a public hearing this year unless requested to do so by the public. No requests for a hearing were received.

**Consistency  
With Federal  
Requirements:**

Not applicable.

**Temporary Rule**

**Justification:** Not applicable.

**Cost Impact:** Approval of the list by the Board has a direct impact upon Idaho citizens in communities listed on the final list. Approval will help assure that a pool of eligible entities is available to receive state financial assistance.

- Alternatives:**
1. Reject the list for wastewater planning grants. Under this alternative, DEQ will be unable to issue new wastewater planning grants during FY 2021. Idaho communities will have to self-fund facility planning studies and fewer cities and districts will be eligible for Clean Water SRF loans.
  2. Adopt the list for wastewater planning grants. Under this alternative, DEQ will be able to continue offering construction wastewater planning grants to Idaho communities for correction of sewage-related public health and water pollution problems.

**Recommendation:** DEQ recommends **Alternative 2**, since it will result in continuing efforts to correct public health and water problems in Idaho.

**Comments Concerning the List:**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Result</b>
	<b>No comments received.</b>	

**SUMMARY - WASTEWATER PLANNING GRANT LIST**

All 20 projects on the list have received thorough review by DEQ’s Regional Offices and have been peer reviewed by DEQ State Office staff. Ratings have been compiled under the criteria outlined in the Rules **for Administration for Wastewater Treatment Facilities Grants, IDAPA 58.01.04.**