

Overview

Among the ways the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) works to protect public health is by helping public wastewater systems construct, update, and maintain their wastewater treatment facilities.

This brochure provides information on two wastewater programs administered by DEQ—the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund and the Idaho Planning Grant Program for Wastewater Facilities. Both programs are designed to assist public wastewater systems finance the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with state and federal water quality standards and to protect public health.

Nonpoint source projects, which are designed to improve water quality, may be funded through the loan program. These types of projects might include well abandonments or brownfields with a water quality impact.

FY 2008 Recipients

Recipients of wastewater pollution control loans and wastewater planning grants during state fiscal year 2008 include the following:

- Cities of Murtaugh, Parma, and Soda Springs
- Groveland Water and Sewer District in Bingham County
- North Lake Recreational Sewer and Water District (Westside Collection System) in Valley County



For More Information

Contact DEQ:

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Regional Offices:

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Idaho Falls Regional Office 900 N. Skyline, Suite B Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 528-2650 toll-free: (800) 232-4635	Twin Falls Regional Office 1363 Fillmore Street Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208) 736-2190 toll-free: (800) 270-1663
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Log on to DEQ's Web site:

Wastewater Construction Loans:

www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pwws/construction_loans.cfm

Wastewater Planning Grants:

www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pwws/planning_grants.cfm



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Water in Idaho

Idaho's Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund and Planning Grant Program



Wastewater treatment facility, Moore, Idaho.



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund

The Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund provides loans at below-market interest rates to help build new or repair existing water pollution control facilities. Eligible facilities include treatment plants, interceptor sewers, and collector sewers.

Loans of up to 100% of project costs may be awarded for facility planning, project design, and/or construction. Loans also may be awarded for upgrading or replacing septic tanks, restoring wetlands, treating and controlling storm water, and addressing nonpoint source pollution such as agricultural runoff.

Eligibility

Counties, cities, special service districts, nonprofit corporations, or other governmental entities with authority to address nonpoint source issues and collect, treat, or dispose of sewage or industrial wastewater are eligible to participate in the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program.

Interest Rate

The interest rate is established annually as 75% of the index of 20-year obligation bonds. Interest rates are adjusted annually. Once the rate is set and a loan is issued, the rate is fixed. The interest rate for most loans to be issued during state fiscal year (FY) 2009 is 3.25%. Loans must be fully repaid within 20 years of project completion.

Sources of Revenue

Funding is derived from several sources. Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which then allots those funds to the states based on set formulas. Each state is required to provide a 20% match. Loan repayments and interest earnings provide additional funding. The state provides matching funds for the Planning Grant Program as well.

FY 2009 Allocation

A total of \$40 million is available for FY 2009 water pollution control loans. Nine water pollution projects are slated to receive funding in FY 2009.

How to Apply

DEQ asks owners of wastewater collection and treatment systems and potential nonpoint source applicants regularly for information on projects for which loan funds could be used. Potential projects must first be listed on the state's annual priority list, which is developed through a rating and ranking process based on public health and water quality concerns. Fundable projects on the priority list are then placed on the Intended Use Plan.

Once funding is secured from EPA and the state match is provided, applicants with projects on the Intended Use Plan are invited to submit applications. After an application has been reviewed and all environmental and legal requirements have been met, a loan may be offered.

Idaho Planning Grant Program

DEQ awards grants to help prepare engineering facility plans for the repair or construction of wastewater systems. Grants may cover up to 50% of eligible planning costs, with grant recipients providing the other half.

Eligibility

Wastewater planning grants are available for counties, cities, special service districts, nonprofit corporations, and other governmental entities with authority to collect, treat, or dispose of sewage or industrial wastewater.

FY 2009 Allocation

Approximately \$250,000 is available for FY 2009 wastewater grants. Ten wastewater projects are slated to receive funding in FY 2009.

How to Apply

In the fourth quarter of each calendar year, DEQ invites communities to submit a letter of interest explaining their grant request. Responses are evaluated, rated, and ranked by DEQ for inclusion on the next annual priority list. The highest-rated projects for which funding exists are invited to submit grant applications.



Wastewater construction project.