Water System Name	County	Project Title	Amount of ARRA Funds
City of Camas	Clark	Well #14 construction	$1,200,000
City of Rock Island	Douglas	Arsenic compliance project	460,000
City of Bridgeport	Douglas	36" chlorine contact chamber project	173,000
City of Republic	Ferry	Pine Grove system consolidation project	2,400,000
North Slope Estates Property Association	Franklin	Arsenic remediation	191,000
Kepps Acres Water Association	Franklin	Kepps acres water association	267,000
City of Ocean Shores	Grays Harbor	Shallow aquifer water treatment plant	6,000,000
Patton's Retreat Water Assoc.	Island	Arsenic treatment/emergency generator install	26,450
Seattle Public Utilities	King	Maple Leaf reservoir burial project	6,000,000
City of Bremerton	Kitsap	UV treatment and chlorination disinfection upgrades	6,000,000
Kittitas County Water District #5	Kittitas	Arsenic treatment facility	310,000
Skate Creek Terrace Community Club Inc.	Lewis	Copper corrosion control treatment	710,000
The Oak Park Water Company, Inc.	Mason	Failing reservoir replacement	400,000
PUD No 1 of Mason County	Mason	Madrona Beach reservoir replacement	181,700
Dexter Development Company, Inc.	Pacific	Dexter by the sea water storage tank	773,057
Town of Metaline	Pend Oreille	Water tank and water treatment plant improvements	654,550
Tacoma Water	Pierce	McMillin Reservoir reconstruction project	6,000,000
Town of Wilkeson	Pierce	Water source rehabilitation	59,000
Startup Water District	Snohomish	Water main replacement	5,145,843
Hunters Water District	Stevens	Water supply improvements project	1,182,000
Wallula Water District 1	Walla Walla	Arsenic remediation project	328,400
		TOTAL:	**$38,462,000**

For more information, please call:
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Water Funds Stimulate Washington Communities

Washington State Department of Health

February 2010

Aging water systems are creating a staggering public health problem in the United States. Here in Washington State, water infrastructure needs will total $9.7 billion over the next 20 years, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Fortunately, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is helping to resolve significant public health threats for 21 drinking water systems in Washington, while creating and saving jobs to stimulate the economy and put people back to work.

Washington State awarded $38.5 million in low-interest infrastructure loans to these water systems. The loans, ranging in size from $26,450 to $6 million, will pay for equipment to remove harmful contaminants such as naturally occurring arsenic, replace aging pipes and other infrastructure, treat vulnerable surface water sources, and improve drinking water quality.

How many jobs?

Each of the drinking water infrastructure projects will create or save jobs in our communities. The fourth-quarter report for 2009 showed construction had started on five projects, creating or saving about 23 jobs.

Job numbers are calculated by work hours billed on projects as increments of work are completed. The next jobs report, due in April, should be more substantial because all projects were required to meet the federal construction deadline.

Federal requirements

Congress required the following for all projects funded by the stimulus bill:

- At least half of the funds must be used for subsidized loans for low-income communities.
- At least 20 percent must include “green” or environmentally beneficial projects.
- Projects must use American-made materials.
- Loan recipients must abide by federal prevailing wage requirements.
- Recipients must be able to begin work or have construction contracts signed within 12 months of the Recovery Act being signed into law (February 17, 2010).

Agencies prepared for Act

In anticipation of the Recovery Act being approved, the Department of Health solicited applications from water systems statewide. Although the application window was very short, the agency received nearly 350 applications for projects totaling $415.7 million, more than 10 times the amount of stimulus funds available.

Office of Drinking Water staff scored each of the applications according to Recovery Act requirements and the agency’s own rigorous public health criteria for the State Revolving Fund Program. Just a few weeks after the Recovery Act was signed into law, we posted a draft list of 24 loan recipients on our Web site.

The state Public Works Board approved the funding list in late April and began negotiating loan agreements with each of the recipients. By winter, three of the original projects and an alternate project were dropped because they weren’t ready to proceed. The agencies reallocated those funds, increasing the loan size for some of the 21 remaining recipients.

In November, all of the loan agreements were finalized, freeing the recipients to enter into construction contracts. Once federally required environmental and cultural reviews were complete, they could put shovels in the ground. As of February 8, 2010, all recipients had begun construction or had construction contracts for their projects.

A Tale of Five Cities

Economic recovery funds make a big difference for communities

Federal economic recovery funds are creating jobs in Washington communities while solving problems from undrinkable water that threatens tourism to crumbling pipes that endanger people's health.

Here's how five of the 21 water systems that received low-interest stimulus loans will benefit (for a list of all the recipients and their projects, see the back page):

Town of Metaline Mayor Trent Hansen (left), Secretary of Health Mary Selecky, and Pend Oreille County Commissioner John Hankey celebrate the completion of Metaline's new water treatment plant and reservoir with a ribbon-cutting event.

Photo by Cathi Read
Department of Commerce

Better water for Ocean Shores

Ocean Shores, one of Washington's most popular Pacific coast destinations, attracts 4 million visitors a year. They go to enjoy broad beaches, kite flying, arcades, recreation, and fine dining, but the water—it's unpleasant enough to drive people away.

The water tastes and smells bad because of high concentrations of iron, manganese, and nitrogen compounds (mostly ammonia) in the city's deep aquifer. These minerals make it difficult for the city to meet water quality and treatment standards. What's more, the available water is dwindling. The city's wells are producing at less than 50 percent of original capacity.

Thanks to a $6 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act loan, the city will soon break ground on a shallow-aquifer water treatment plant that will deliver safe and reliable drinking water that smells and tastes good.

The project is expected to sustain 35 to 40 jobs for at least a year. That's welcome news. Ocean Shores recently reported unemployment at 13.3 percent. The city's goal is to have 100 percent of the work on the new plant performed by local labor.

A new water plant for Metaline

In northeastern Washington, the town of Metaline's economy has struggled off and on for decades. Largely dependent on mining and the timber industry, the town of 175 residents has seen its share of boom and busts. The most recent bust was the closure in March of its major employer, the Pend Oreille Mine.

The community received a $600,000 loan to replace a water-filtering system that's more than 50 years old. The stimulus loan, which does not have to be repaid, is paying for designing and building a new water treatment plant and reservoir.

The project will replace the current inadequate treatment system, which used pipe salvaged long ago from Portland, and will ensure the community has long-term protection from waterborne disease.

The money is being paired with a $980,000 federal Community Development Block Grant to pay for a new 319,800-gallon water storage tank, a new filtration plant, and new water service meters.

Metaline was the first water system in the state to break ground, and the first to complete its project.

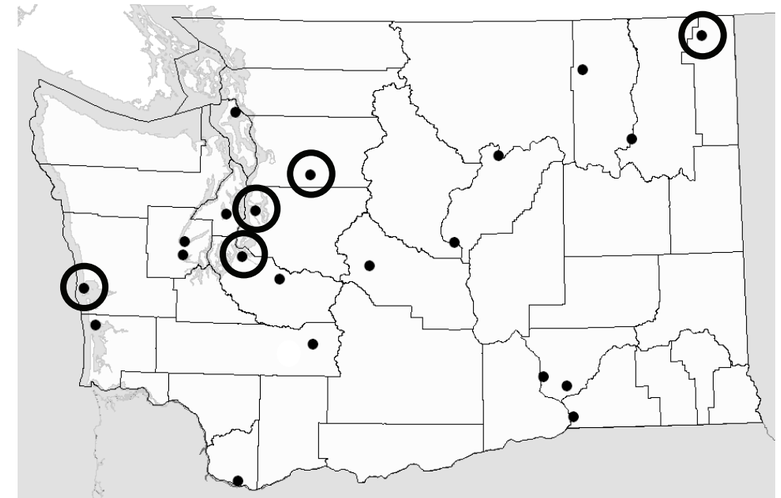
Covered reservoirs for Seattle and Tacoma

The cities of Seattle and Tacoma each received $6 million stimulus loans to help pay for new covered water storage facilities.

The existing uncovered reservoirs are vulnerable to natural or intentional contamination from algae, dust, animals, and vandalism/terrorism. Replacing them with new reservoirs will ensure a safer water supply for both cities, and will significantly reduce water loss from leakage.

Treading lightly on history

Drinking water infrastructure projects often involve excavation work that could destroy or harm artifacts or places of cultural significance. The National Historic Preservation Act requires that all federally funded projects undergo extensive reviews in order to protect historically and culturally significant sites. Each of the 21 stimulus projects has undergone a cultural review.



We used federal economic recovery funds to finance 21 drinking water projects throughout the state, each represented by a dot on the map above. Circled projects are, from left, a new shallow-aquifer water treatment plant for Ocean Shores, covered reservoirs for Tacoma and Seattle, new water mains for Startup, and a new water treatment plant and reservoir for Metaline.

The City of Seattle will replace the existing Maple Leaf Reservoir with two new enclosed, underground, reinforced concrete reservoirs. The area above Seattle's underground facility will be a city park. Tacoma will replace its existing open-topped McMillin Reservoir with two new enclosed reservoirs.

Safe and reliable water for Startup

Startup's brittle water lines have so many large leaks they're almost impossible to repair, and this poses a threat to public health. The Snohomish County community east of Monroe has endured a series of water outages and boil-water advisories caused by water-line breaks.

Startup Water District Commissioner Karen Eaton likened the town's aging pipes to "wet cardboard."

The district received a $5.1 million stimulus loan to replace water mains. The loan does not have to be repaid. The money was paired with other grants to give the water system a significant makeover that will provide the community with safe and more reliable water.

Jan. 30, 2009	Feb. 13, 2009	Feb. 16, 2009	March 23, 2009	April 28, 2009	June 30, 2009	July 21, 2009	July 31, 2009	Oct. 1, 2009	Oct. 10, 2009	Nov. 12, 2009	Dec. 1, 2009	Feb. 1, 2010	Feb. 17, 2010
Office of Drinking Water solicits applications for potential funding	DWSRF Economic Recovery Program application deadline	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law	Draft ranked list of applicants made public	Public Works Board approves final list of applicants and alternates	Governor certifies 18 of the drinking water projects	Town of Metaline is first to sign loan agreement	Public Works Board approves revised list of applicants	DOH files first quarterly transparency report to EPA	2,909 jobs created/saved with state's share of stimulus funds	Final drinking water loan agreement executed	Public Works Board re-distributes funds	14,500 jobs created/saved with state's share of stimulus funds	Deadline for construction contracts to be in place