Department of Ecology
Emergency Drought Funding

Jeff Marti
Washington Department of Ecology
Forecasted 2019 April – September Runoff compared to previous years, in descending rank Order


Map of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Washington)

Thursday, June 20, 2019

USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low <10 10-24 25-75 76-90 >90

High

Normal

Abnormally Low

Abnormally High

No Data
WAC 173-167
Emergency Drought Funding

• A total of $2 Million is available to public entities to implement projects and measures that alleviate undue hardship caused by drought conditions negatively affecting:
  – The delivery of safe and reliable drinking water supplies.
  – The survival of fish and wildlife.
  – The viability of agricultural activities and livestock operations.

Who is eligible to apply?

• State, county, or city governmental agencies.
• Federally-recognized tribes.
• Public utility districts, formed under chapter 54.04 RCW.
• Water and sewer districts, formed under chapter 57.02 RCW.
• Conservation districts, formed under chapter 89.08 RCW.
• Irrigation districts, formed under chapter 87.03 RCW.
• Port districts, formed under chapter 53.04 RCW.
• Watershed management partnerships, formed under chapter 39.34.200 RCW.
Eligibility

• To be eligible for funding, one or more of the following must be partially or completely within the area of a drought declaration order by Ecology:
  • The public water system’s service area.
  • The geographic area where irrigated agriculture or livestock are located.
  • The source of water, or the water body, that supplies water to the entity applying for funding.

Eligibility, cont.

• The reduction in water supply caused by drought must cause, or will cause, undue hardship.
• The proposed project or measure must be for an established beneficial use of water and not used for irrigation of new acreage or another new or expanded use.
• The proposed project or measure must be cost-effective and alleviate undue hardship caused by water shortage during the declared drought emergency.
• The applicant must provide must complete the project or measure on or before the expiration of the declared drought emergency.
• Water derived from the project or measure must be put to beneficial use and address the current water shortage during the drought declaration.
What kind of projects are eligible? (WAC 173-167-100)

Including but not limited to...

• Water use efficiency projects
• Water conservation programs that directly reduce water use
• Emergency sources
• Leasing and acquiring water rights
• Emergency water hauling
• Addressing fish migration barriers
• Cost of mitigating impairment caused by use of emergency source
• Personnel costs to implement the above

Drinking water projects

• The applicant must obtain Washington department of health approval of the proposed project.
• Applicants must include water conservation actions in the proposal or demonstrate that the applicant has already made reasonable efforts to address their water supply shortage through conservation measures.
• The water system must have developed and be implementing a water shortage response plan, or must develop a water shortage response plan in consultation with department of health concurrently with the implementation of a project funded under this chapter.
**Funding Cycle**

- Non-competitive
- **Amount of funding available:** $2 million
- **Grant award limit:** $350,000
- **Amount of matching funds required:** 50% of the total cost of the project
- **If a Low Income Community:**
  - There is no cost share.
  - The award cap is raised to $700,000
- **Our goal:** a three-week turnaround on funding decisions
- **Rule expires October 2, 2019**

*Low income = a population of less than twenty-five thousand individuals with a mean household income of eighty percent or less of the state average.*

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**Application Process**

- Instructions for applying available at [https://ecology.wa.gov/drought](https://ecology.wa.gov/drought)
- Applications must be submitted using EAGL

*The EAGL User Manual is located here.*
Where can I find more information?

Department of Ecology
https://ecology.wa.gov/drought search for “drought grants”

Jeff Marti
Water Resources Program
Department of Ecology
jeff.marti@ecy.wa.gov
360 407 6627