



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Applications due in December for ground water conservation grants**

BOISE - (Nov. 10, 2015) - The Idaho Water Resource Board invites cities, school districts and smaller agricultural water users to apply for a Ground Water Conservation Grant by Dec. 15, 2015 to help reduce ground water consumption in local areas. The grants are available statewide.

The new Ground Water Conservation Grant program was approved by the Water Board at its September meeting. A total of \$200,000 is available for the grants this year. Individual grant applications can range from \$5,000 to \$20,000; there is a 2-to-1 match required.

"The Water Board sees these grants as a great way for a small organizations and cities to help with water conservation," said Roger Chase, chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board. "They could plan a conservation project, and with additional matching funds from the Board, perhaps grow it into a larger project."

Potential projects might include things like low-flow shower heads or low-flow toilets, drip irrigation projects for a small farm, xeriscaping, water metering, leak-detection systems, ground water-to-surface water conversion projects, and more.

A number of ground water aquifers in Idaho are tapped by many water users with competing demands, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Mountain Home Aquifer, Big Wood River Aquifer, Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and the Palouse Aquifer. The Board is hoping to receive applications from a variety of locations in Idaho to help reduce the demand for ground water statewide.

To ensure a broad distribution of funds from the grant program, the Water Board stipulated that no more than 50 percent of the grant funds will be used in a single Board district, and no more than half of the funds available in a Board district will be awarded to agricultural ground water conservation projects.

The Board districts are divided into four parts of Idaho:

- District No. 1 - Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho counties.

- District No. 2 - Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore and Owyhee counties.
- District No. 3 - Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer and Butte counties.
- District Nov. 4 - Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin and Bear Lake counties.

The Water Board reserves the right to waive some of those program requirements if it does not receive enough applications from other regions, officials said.

For more information about the Ground Water Conservation Grant program, see the [Financial](#) section of the Water Board [web site](#), or contact Neeley Miller, [Neeley.Miller@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Neeley.Miller@idwr.idaho.gov) or call 208-287-4800.

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