



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Water Board opens applications for new Aging Water Infrastructure statewide grant program; applications due by Aug. 5

BOISE - (June 15, 2022) – The Idaho Water Resource Board has opened the application period for a new Idaho Aging Water Infrastructure statewide competitive grant program.

Applications are due by Aug. 5 for the first round of projects. The Board will select the first projects to be funded in late fall, officials said.

The Board has set aside \$12.5 million for the first round of grant applications. There is no limit on the maximum amount per application, but the Board grants are limited to one-third of the total project costs.

In April, the Board opened a 30-day public comment period to provide feedback on proposed draft criteria for evaluating grant applications under the new Aging Water Infrastructure statewide grant program. Board staff also received input during the Idaho Water Users Association meeting in Sun Valley in early June.

Following public feedback, the Board adopted detailed criteria that will guide the evaluation of grant applications in a special meeting on June 7.

Details on how to apply for an Aging water Infrastructure grant can be found here:

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/financial/aging-infrastructure-grant/>

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fund important water projects statewide,” said Water Board member and Finance Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen of Lewiston. “Our purpose is to evaluate worthy water projects throughout the state. The goal of our draft criteria is to stretch our grant money as far as we can to address as many projects as we can.”

The Aging Infrastructure program “is a new program to support projects that address aging water infrastructure needs as an investment in the Idaho economy and to ensure long-term water sustainability,” Board officials said.

Eligible projects include “any project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation,” officials said.

Eligible entities that can apply for grants include irrigation districts, irrigation boards of control, canal companies, drainage districts, groundwater districts, ditch companies, lateral ditch user associations, reservoir districts, municipal irrigation districts, municipalities, counties and water districts.

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