



# AGENDA

## IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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**Finance Committee Meeting No. 3-25**

**Monday, April 14, 2025**

**9:00 a.m. (MT) / 8:00 a.m. (PT)**

**Brad Little**  
*Governor*

**Jeff Raybould**  
*Chairman*  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
*Vice Chair*  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
*Secretary*  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

Water Center  
Conference Room 648A  
322 E. Front St.  
BOISE

**Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrp>**

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1. Introductions and Attendance
2. House Bill 445
3. Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects Update \*
4. Water Management Account Priorities \*
5. Grant Programs and Contract Management Update \*
6. Other Items
7. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Jeff Raybould, Marc Gibbs, Dale Van Stone, and Dean Stevenson.

\* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item. **Americans with Disabilities:** The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email [jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov) or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO  
Sixty-eighth Legislature First Regular Session - 2025

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 445

BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES; APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEYS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS; APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FROM THE REVOLVING DEVELOPMENT FUND TO THE AQUIFER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE WATER MANAGEMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE ARPA STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND; DIRECTING THAT MONEYS APPROPRIATED FOR GENERAL STREAM ADJUDICATIONS COUNT TOWARD FILING FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; DIRECTING THE USE OF FUNDS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT FUND PROJECTS; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. In addition to any other appropriation provided by law, there is hereby appropriated to the Department of Water Resources the following amounts to be expended according to the designated programs and expense classes from the General Fund for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026:

	FOR PERSONNEL COSTS	FOR OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY	TOTAL
Management and Support Services			\$432,400	\$432,400
Planning and Technical Services		\$30,058,700		30,058,700
Water Management	<u>\$456,100</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>60,500</u>	<u>606,600</u>
TOTAL	\$456,100	\$30,148,700	\$492,900	\$31,097,700

SECTION 2. FTP AUTHORIZATION. In addition to any other authorization provided by law, the full-time equivalent position authorization provided to the Department of Water Resources is hereby increased by four (4.00) for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

SECTION 3. CASH TRANSFER FOR AQUIFER MONITORING. There is hereby appropriated to the Department of Water Resources and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer \$716,000 from the Revolving Development Fund to the Aquifer Planning and Management Fund on July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practicable for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, to be used for aquifer monitoring, measurement, and modeling.

1       SECTION 4. CASH TRANSFER FOR WATER PROJECTS. There is hereby appropri-  
2       ated to the Department of Water Resources and the Office of the State Con-  
3       troller shall transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Water Man-  
4       agement Fund on July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practicable for the pe-  
5       riod July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, to be used for water projects.

6       SECTION 5. REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE ARPA STATE FISCAL RE-  
7       COVERY FUND. There is hereby reappropriated to the Department of Water  
8       Resources any unexpended and unencumbered balances appropriated or reappro-  
9       priated to the Department of Water Resources in the Planning and Technical  
10      Services Program from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund to be used for non-  
11      recurring expenditures related to water infrastructure projects for fiscal  
12      year 2025 for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The Office  
13      of the State Controller shall confirm the reappropriation amount, by fund,  
14      expense class, and program, with the Legislative Services Office prior to  
15      processing the reappropriation authorized herein.

16      SECTION 6. FILING FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. Notwithstanding the  
17      provisions of Section 42-1414(1)(c), Idaho Code, it is the intent of the  
18      Legislature that moneys appropriated to the Department of Water Resources  
19      for Idaho's general stream adjudications from the General Fund count toward  
20      the filing fees required under Section 42-1414(1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code,  
21      for water right claims filed in Idaho's general stream adjudications by the  
22      Idaho Water Resource Board and the Governor based on instream flow, public  
23      lake level maintenance, or recreation. If the General Fund appropriation  
24      exceeds the amount required for the Idaho Water Resource Board's and the Gov-  
25      ernor's filing fees in the current fiscal year, the excess shall be counted  
26      toward future filing fees required for those same purposes. If the General  
27      Fund appropriation does not meet or exceed the fee required for claims of the  
28      Idaho Water Resource Board or the Governor, the Director of the Department of  
29      Water Resources shall grant an extension of time to the Idaho Water Resource  
30      Board or the Governor to file the claim, and the General Fund appropriation  
31      for the following fiscal year shall be counted toward the balance of the  
32      filing fee.

33      SECTION 7. WATER MANAGEMENT FUND PROJECTS. Of the amount appropriated  
34      in Section 1 of this act, \$30,000,000 shall be used for water projects pur-  
35      suant to the following criteria:

36      (1) The Water Resource Board shall use the funds for planning, con-  
37      struction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and improvement of water infra-  
38      structure throughout the state. Projects shall prioritize:

39      (a) Aquifer recharge, ground water management, and other projects  
40      aimed at sustaining aquifer health and long-term water availability;

41      (b) Development and rehabilitation of water storage and conveyance  
42      systems, including reservoirs, diversion structures, pipelines, and  
43      canals;

44      (c) Water supply and delivery improvements that enhance efficiency and  
45      conservation; and

46      (d) Emergency water infrastructure repairs and upgrades to ensure the  
47      resilience of vital water systems.

1           (2) Of the moneys appropriated in a single year, no more than fifty per-  
2 cent (50%) of the funds appropriated in this section may be used within a sin-  
3 gle board district, as defined in section 42-1732, Idaho Code, unless there  
4 are no competing funding applications for water infrastructure projects in  
5 other districts for the current fiscal year. For fiscal year 2026, fifty  
6 percent (50%) of the appropriation for water projects shall be allocated for  
7 use in board district 3 and fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated for use in  
8 board district 4 for the purpose of supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitiga-  
9 tion Plan entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake  
10 Plain.

11           (3) The Department of Water Resources shall provide a report to the  
12 Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, to the relevant germane legisla-  
13 tive committees, and to the Budget and Policy Analysis Division of the  
14 Legislative Services Office no later than December 5, 2025. This report  
15 shall include information required in Section 42-1760(3), Idaho Code, in a  
16 format determined in consultation with the Budget and Policy Analysis Divi-  
17 sion of the Legislative Services Office.

18           SECTION 8. CONDITIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS. Appropriations  
19 made pursuant to this act are subject to the conditions, limitations, and re-  
20 strictions specified in this act.

21           SECTION 9. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
22 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
23 July 1, 2025.

# 2025 Legislation

## HOUSE BILL 445

The status of each bill, resolution, proclamation, and memorial is updated when the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House publish the un-official daily journals and should not be deemed official. The official bill actions are located in the final journal, which are maintained by the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House. **The daily journals are published at the end of each legislative day.**

Full Bill Information

### Individual Links:

[Bill Text](#)

[Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Note](#)

H0445

by APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

APPROPRIATIONS – DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – Relates to the appropriation to the Department of Water Resources for fiscal year 2026.

03/25	Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing
	Reported Printed; Filed for Second Reading
03/26	Read second time; Filed for Third Reading

- 03/27 Read Third Time in Full – **PASSED - 56-13-1**  
**AYES** – Achilles, Andrus, Barbieri, Beiswenger, Berch, Boyle, Burgoyne, Cannon, Cheatum, Church, Clow, Cornilles, Crane(12), Dygert, Egbert, Ehardt, Ehlers, Erickson, Fuhriman, Furniss, Galaviz, Gannon, Garner, Green, Handy, Healey, Hill(Brown), Holtzclaw, Horman, Manwaring, Mathias, McCann, Mendive, Mickelsen, Miller, Mitchell, Monks, Nelsen, Palmer, Petzke, Pickett, Pohanka, Raybould, Raymond, Redman, Rubel, Sauter, Shepherd, Shirts, Skaug, Tanner(13), Tanner(14), Vander Woude, Weber, Wheeler, Mr. Speaker  
**NAYS** – Alfieri, Bruce, Cayler, Harris, Hawkins, Hostetler, Leavitt, Marmon, Price, Rasor, Scott, Thompson, Wisniewski  
**Absent** – Crane(13)  
**Floor Sponsor - Horman**  
 Title apvd - to Senate
- 03/28 Received from the House passed; filed for first reading  
 Introduced, read first time; referred to: Finance
- 03/31 Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
- 04/01 Read second time; filed for Third Reading  
 Rules Suspended (2/3 Vote - Read in full as required) – **PASSED - 23-12-0**  
**AYES** – Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Cook, Den Hartog, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Lakey, Lent, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woller(Rabe), Woodward  
**NAYS** – Bjerke, Carlson, Coho(Lenney), Foreman, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Toews, Zito, Zuiderveld  
**Absent and excused** – None  
**Floor Sponsor - Woodward**  
 Title apvd - to House
- 04/02 Returned from Senate Passed; to JRA for Enrolling  
 Reported Enrolled; Signed by Speaker; Transmitted to Senate  
 Received from the House enrolled/signed by Speaker  
 Signed by President; returned to House  
 Returned Signed by the President; Ordered Transmitted to Governor
- 04/03 Delivered to Governor at 8:14 a.m. on April 3, 2025

04/04      Reported Signed by Governor on April 3, 2025  
              Session Law Chapter  
              Effective:

# Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board  
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau  
Date: April 11, 2025  
Re: Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Update

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## **Action:**

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### **Background**

In July 2021 the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List to help guide the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB's) spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. The IWRB also, in January 2022, adopted a threshold criteria indicating that for a project to be included on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List it must "help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or state wide basis."

On October 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 the IWRB adopted criteria (attached) for the inclusion of projects on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. The criteria include a process for how projects can be added, types of information required to be submitted in requests, considerations for inclusion, and a process for removing projects from the list. There are two ways for a project to be included on the list: 1) Project Sponsors will submit a request to the IWRB for a project to be added to the List by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2) the IWRB can add projects to the List at its discretion.

The IWRB received 15 requests to be added to the list in year one. In year two, the IWRB received two requests, and this year the IWRB received one request to be added to the list. All additions to this Priority List in year two and three have been added at the direction of the IWRB.

Attached to this memo is the Updated Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. The IWRB has obligated \$213 million from their accounts towards proposed projects and has obligated \$271 million towards projects that are under development or already complete.

### **Project are added to the list in accordance with criteria adopted by the IWRB:**

- Project provides or contributes to resolution of long-standing water supply challenges or anticipated water use conflicts.
- Project provides sustainability benefits on a regional scale (basin-wide or statewide) based on geographic area or number of impacted individuals. Projects with multiple benefits may be prioritized.
- Project leads to stabilization and recovery of groundwater levels in basins where groundwater declines are occurring.
- Relative economic and public benefits including consideration of public benefits such as how the project:
  1. Protects existing water rights and uses identified in I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d), including



consideration of the value of existing hydropower to the state's economy. I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d) states: Any project selected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection must protect all existing water rights and consider the effects of such projects on other water uses, such as water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and hydropower, that provide economic value, stability, water sustainability, drought resiliency, and other benefits to the citizens of the state.

2. Provides water for future development; and

3. Addresses aging water storage and delivery infrastructure for projects that provide environmental, safety or recreational benefits

#### **Discussion Items**

1. Discuss updated Priority List
2. Discuss potential changes based on House Bill 445

#### **Attachment(s):**

Updated Regional Water Sustainability Priority List – 4/11/2025

Existing Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria



## **IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST**

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains a list of projects intended to help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The Regional Water Sustainability Priority List is used to help guide spending from IWRB allocated funding sources for large, regional water sustainability projects.

Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. Approved projects may receive IWRB support in several ways: 1) help securing Federal funding opportunities, 2) state funding consideration, and 3) support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations.

Projects are added to the list in accordance with [criteria](#) adopted by the IWRB and may be introduced by an eligible Sponsor or by the IWRB itself. The “Proposed Projects” table identifies projects that have been approved by the IWRB for inclusion on the list, but do not have a specific plan for development. The “Projects Under Development” table identifies projects in various phases of implementation.

*\*Projects are listed in alphabetical order.*

## IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List

### Proposed Projects \*

Project	Total Estimated Cost	Project Description	IWRB District
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Managed Recharge Annual Avg. Increase from 250 to 350 kaf **  <i>Project Sponsor: State of Idaho</i>	\$50M capital + \$2M per year in additional ongoing operational costs	Prioritize necessary buildout activities to increase the average annual managed recharge goal from 250,000 to 350,000 acre-feet. Expenses include infrastructure to increase recharge capacity and associated operating costs.	3,4
Bear Lake - Additional Storage <i>Project Sponsor: TBD</i>	\$15M	Various projects and easement acquisitions to increase Bear River channel capacity and increase storage in Bear Lake.	4
Cloud Seeding Infrastructure Build-Out in Additional Basins <i>Project Sponsor: TBD</i>	\$8M	Install cloud seeding ground generators and other equipment in basins without current program. Basins may include Bear River, Raft River, Goose Creek, Lemhi River, Lost River and others. Operations to be paid through Secondary Fund.	2,3
Dworshak-Clearwater Pipeline Project  <i>Project Sponsor: State of Idaho</i>	\$60M	New water supply pipeline from Dworshak Dam to optimize downstream hatchery production. Includes potential hydropower plant on pipeline to provide revenue to offset pipeline costs over time.	1
Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems <i>Project Sponsor: TBD</i>	\$20M	Infrastructure improvements to canal systems such adding automation, removal of constraints, or other enhancements in canal systems to increase efficiency.	1,2,3,4
Lemhi Basin Settlement Implementation <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB &amp; Parties to Settlement</i>	\$5M	Utilize funds to implement the Lemhi River Basin Comprehensive Settlement actions.	2
Minidoka Dam Raise Feasibility Study <i>Project Sponsor: TBD</i>	TBD	Feasibility study for raising Minidoka Dam utilizing Federal Funds.	3
Mountain Home Aquifer Water Supply <i>Project Sponsor: Elmore County</i>	\$50M	Offset use of declining Mountain Home Aquifer.	2
Upper Payette Water Storage Project <i>Project Sponsor: Upper Payette Storage Association</i>	\$5M	Acquisition of uncontracted storage water to help meet water supply needs in the Payette River Basin.	2
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$213,000,000</b>		

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development and/or Complete *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
American Falls Spillway Rehabilitation  <i>Project Sponsor: IPC, AFRD</i>	\$23.70M	\$12,486,758 <i>(ARPA Funding applied as non-Federal match)</i>	Repairs to American Falls Dam and Spillway. Activities will continue through 2029. Critical to the ongoing operations.	Project activities are ongoing.	4
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise  <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB/US Bureau of Reclamation</i>	\$125.8M	\$112.5M <i>(ARPA Funding applied as non-Federal match)</i>	Raise Anderson Ranch Dam reservoir by 6ft, resulting in 29KAF additional reservoir storage capacity. Reclamation 60% design cost estimates are \$125.8M. Under the contract between BOR and IWRB, BOR will pay 11.05% of the costs and retain 10% of the new storage space. IWRB will pay 88.95% of costs as the non-Federal Sponsor and will retain 90% of the new storage.	Updated project costs will be provided at 90% and 100% design. Construction is currently scheduled for 2027-2031. Federal funding is authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. Non-Federal cost-share is eligible for ARPA Funding.	2
City of Nampa - Copper River Storage Project, Reuse Pipeline, and System Improvements to Pioneer System  <i>Project Sponsor: City of Nampa</i>	\$19.52M	\$3M	Construct an irrigation storage pond along Roosevelt Ave., capturing water reserves from NMID system flows to provide recycled water for the Phyllis canal and canal system improvements to handle variation in flow.	Project is partially complete and activities are ongoing.	2
Gooding Flood Control Project  <i>Project Sponsor: City of Gooding</i>	\$12.5M	\$4M	Replace 5 bridges that are part of flood control structure; seeking \$100K for a scoping a design grant.	Partnership Agreement with USACE has been signed.	3

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development and/or Complete *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project  <i>Project Sponsor: LOID &amp; Nez Perce Tribe</i>	\$60.5	\$1.287M <i>(Water Management Account for 30% design.)</i>  \$28M <i>(ARPA Funding applied towards construction)</i>	Construct remaining infrastructure to fully enact water exchange between Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District and Nez Perce Tribe.	30% design is 81% complete and is scheduled to be completed by Dec 2025.	1
Lost Valley Res Enlargement <i>Project Sponsor: Lost Valley Res. Co.</i>	\$50M	\$560,000	Enlargement of Lost Valley Reservoir by 20,000 AF.	Pre-construction engineering and Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Update completed.  All items required by the USFS to initiate NEPA review have been submitted.	2
Mackay Dam Repair  <i>Project Sponsor: BLRID</i>	\$10M	IWRB approved \$2M Aging Infrastructure grant. Project awarded \$7,082,856 through FY24 Federal Appropriation.	Repairs to the outlet tower works and the spillway.	Engineer has been selected and currently in the contracting phase.	3
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Supply  <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB &amp; DAF</i>	\$61M	\$33M <i>(ARPA Funding applied as non-Federal match)</i>	Provide alternative long-term water supply for the MHAFB by replacing use of ground water from the declining Mountain Home Aquifer with surface water from the Snake River. State to build pump station and pipeline and DAF to build water treatment plant.	IWRB will retain Snake River water rights and gift the infrastructure to the Air Force.  Project is under construction with at January 2026 target date for completion.	2

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development and/or Complete *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
New York Canal Rehabilitation Project- Six-mile segment <i>Project Sponsor: Boise Project Board of Control</i>	\$81,509,241	\$50M <i>(ARPA Funding applied as non-Federal match)</i>	Line the New York canal through Boise for public safety and water conservation. BOR grant \$3,630,000; Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Loan \$12.3M; IWRB AIG \$2,418,900	Construction activities are ongoing. ¾ of one mile has been completed. Construction will resume early Oct 2025	2
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project <i>Project Sponsor: North Fremont Canal Co.</i>	\$19,769,000	\$7,811,056	Convert ditch to pipeline.	Construction activities are ongoing and work is 60% complete. Plan to be finished by summer 2025.	4
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply <i>Project Sponsor: PBAC</i>	\$73M	\$182,500	Construct new water supply and pipeline to bring water into the Moscow area from the Clearwater River and reduce use of declining Palouse Basin Aquifer.	Feasibility study launched in Spring 2025 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2026.	1
Priest Lake Water Management Project <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>	\$11M	\$11M	Thorofare and outlet dam improvements	Thorofare Completed in 2021; Outlet Dam completed in 2024	1
Raft River Pipeline <i>Project Sponsor: TBD</i>	\$49M	\$7M	Pipeline from Snake River to offset GW pumping in Raft River Basin.	IWRB has not yet approved contract Terms and Conditions. Currently on hold pending contract information from the GW District.	3
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project <i>Project Sponsor: WD63</i>	\$474,320	\$474,320	Assessment of tributary drains and shallow aquifer to address low flows near Middleton during the irrigation season.	Project activities are ongoing.	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$597,772,561</b>	<b>\$271,301,634</b>			

# IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List

The IWRB maintains the [Regional Water Sustainability Priority List](#) (List) to help guide spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. The IWRB will support implementation of water sustainability projects, including studies (collectively projects), that provide benefits on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale.

**Eligible Entities:** Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Flood Control Districts, Regional Water Supply Organizations, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Water Districts, cities, counties, and water-related stakeholders.

**Eligible Geographic Area:** Statewide.

**Eligible Projects:** The IWRB defines an eligible project as any new project that helps to achieve water sustainability on a regional basis. For purposes of this program, an eligible project does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.

**Expectations for inclusion on the list:** Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. For projects that are included on the List, the IWRB may 1) help advocate for Federal funding opportunities for these projects, 2) facilitate state funding consideration, and 3) help with letters of support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations.

To obtain funding from an existing grant, loan or other funding program, the Project Sponsor will be required to submit the requisite application(s), and the project will be considered for funding pursuant to the procedures and criteria of the program. Additionally, the IWRB may at its discretion assist the Project Sponsor in obtaining funding from other funding sources.

Each project on the List is unique and will have its own implementation timeline and milestones.

**Process for inclusion on the List:** There are two ways for a project to be included on the list: 1) Project Sponsors will submit a request to the IWRB for a project to be added to the List by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2) the IWRB can add projects to the List at its discretion.

The IWRB Finance Committee will consider these requests and make a recommendation to the IWRB. The List will be updated annually at the regularly scheduled January IWRB meeting.

**Project Sponsors will provide the following information:**

- Cover letter with project summary.
- Project background (infrastructure description, repair, rehabilitation, improvement needs/objectives/benefits).
- Project Sponsor description (organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations).

- Project description (narrative, map, conceptual plan and design, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues).
- Cost estimate and budget.
- Project funding sources.
- Project implementation schedule.

**Considerations for inclusion on the list:**

- Project provides or contributes to resolution of long-standing water supply challenges or anticipated water use conflicts.
- Project provides sustainability benefits on a regional scale (basin-wide or statewide) based on geographic area or number of impacted individuals. Projects with multiple benefits may be prioritized.
- Project leads to stabilization and recovery of groundwater levels in basins where groundwater declines are occurring.
- Relative economic and public benefits including consideration of public benefits such as how the project:
  1. Protects existing water rights and uses identified in I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d), including consideration of the value of existing hydropower to the state's economy. I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d) states: Any project selected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection must protect all existing water rights and consider the effects of such projects on other water uses, such as water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and hydropower, that provide economic value, stability, water sustainability, drought resiliency, and other benefits to the citizens of the state.
  2. Provides water for future development; and
  3. Addresses aging water storage and delivery infrastructure for projects that provide environmental, safety or recreational benefits

**How a project is removed from the List:**

- Project is fully funded and/or implemented.
- Sponsor of the project requests the project be removed.
- IWRB at its discretion removes project.

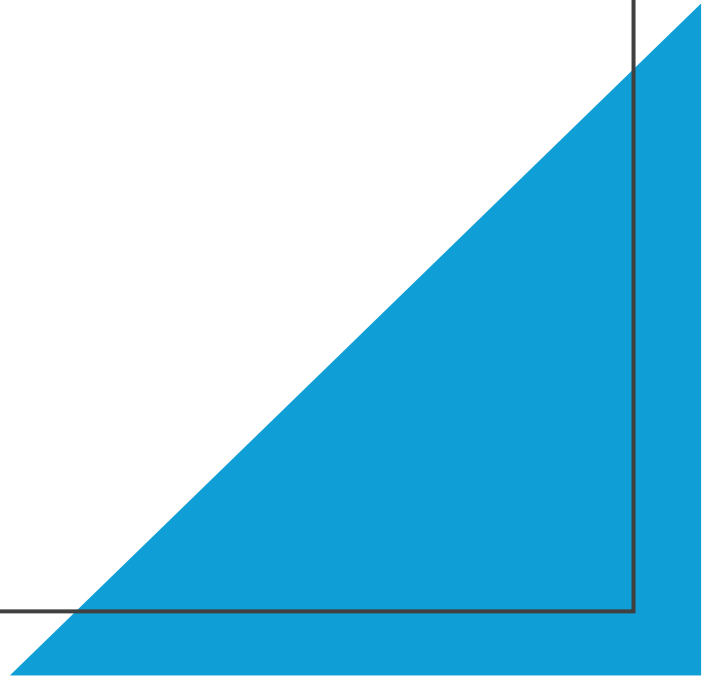


# Idaho Water Resource Board

## Finance Committee

April 14, 2025

Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects



# Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects



## **IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST**

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains a list of projects intended to help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The Regional Water Sustainability Priority List is used to help guide spending from IWRB allocated funding sources for large, regional water sustainability projects.

Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. Approved projects may receive IWRB support in several ways: 1) help securing Federal funding opportunities, 2) state funding consideration, and 3) support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations.

Projects are added to the list in accordance with [criteria](#) adopted by the IWRB and may be introduced by an eligible Sponsor or by the IWRB itself. The “Proposed Projects” table identifies projects that have been approved by the IWRB for inclusion on the list, but do not have a specific plan for development. The “Projects Under Development” table identifies projects in various phases of implementation.

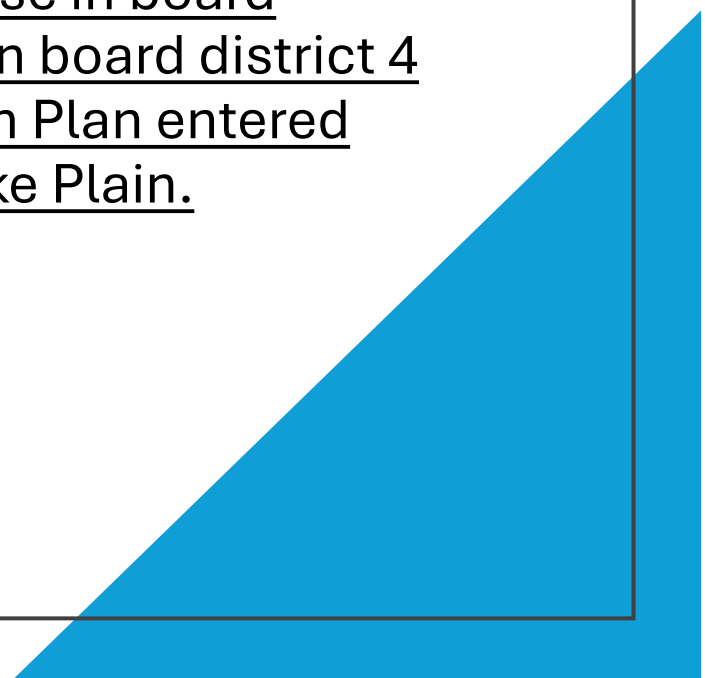
## House Bill 445 – Passed by 2025 Idaho Legislature

SECTION 7. WATER MANAGEMENT FUND PROJECTS. Of the amount appropriated in Section 1 of this act, \$30,000,000 shall be used for water projects pursuant to the following criteria:

- (1) The Water Resource Board shall use the funds for planning, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and improvement of water infrastructure throughout the state. Projects shall prioritize:
  - a. Aquifer recharge, ground water management, and other projects aimed at sustaining aquifer health and long-term water availability;
  - b. Development and rehabilitation of water storage and conveyance systems, including reservoirs, diversion structures, pipelines, and canals;
  - c. Water supply and delivery improvements that enhance efficiency and conservation; and
  - d. Emergency water infrastructure repairs and upgrades to ensure the resilience of vital water systems.

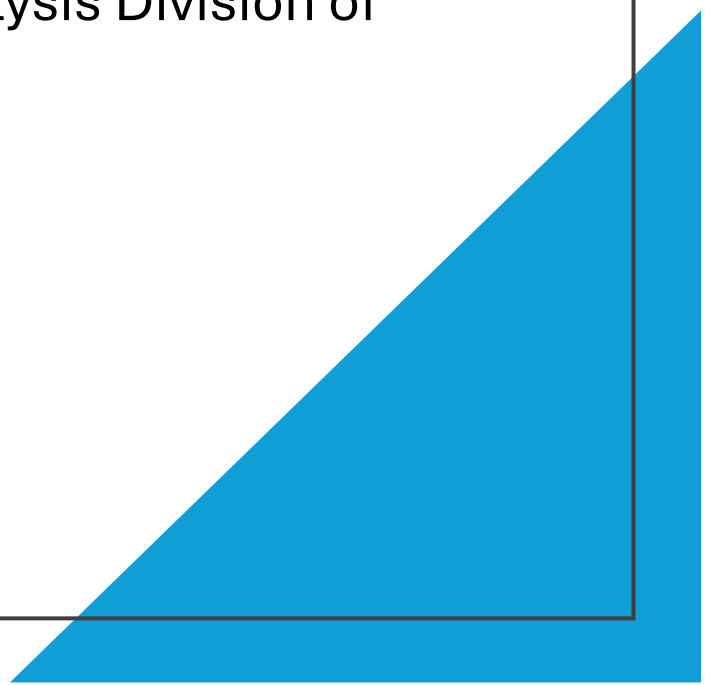
## House Bill 445 – Passed by 2025 Idaho Legislature

(2) Of the moneys appropriated in a single year, no more than fifty percent (50%) of the funds appropriated in this section may be used within a single board district, as defined in section 42-1732, Idaho Code, unless there are no competing funding applications for water infrastructure projects in other districts for the current fiscal year. For fiscal year 2026, fifty percent (50%) of the appropriation for water projects shall be allocated for use in board district 3 and fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated for use in board district 4 for the purpose of supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain.

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## House Bill 445 – Passed by 2025 Idaho Legislature

(3) The Department of Water Resources shall provide a report to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, to the relevant germane legislative committees, and to the Budget and Policy Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office no later than December 5, 2025. This report shall include information required in Section 42-1760(3), Idaho Code, in a format determined in consultation with the Budget and Policy Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office.

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# Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects – ESPA

## Finance Committee Discussion

- Consider creating a RWS project specifically for the ESPA
- Target and solicit projects to receive funding, particularly in FY 2026
- Potential categories of eligible projects/grant programs:
  - ESPA Telemetry and Monitoring
  - ESPA Recharge Infrastructure
  - Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects
  - Lower Valley (Surface Water Coalition) Operational Efficiencies
  - Others?
- Task staff to develop ranking and eligibility criteria, and timelines for implementation
- Consider incorporating ESPA projects already on priority list

# Memorandum

**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Finance Committee

**From:** Cynthia Bridge Clark

**Date:** April 11, 2025

**Re:** Water Manage Account Priorities



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**REQUIRED ACTION:** No action required at this time.

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## **Background:**

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) manages three accounts to fund programs and provide financial assistance for water development projects: the Revolving Development Account (RDA), Water Management Account (WMA), and the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund). In addition, the 2022 Idaho Legislature allocated approximately \$250 million of the State's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support IWRB-approved projects.

The RDA funds specific programs and projects, including loans for water development projects. The IWRB approves annual budgets and spending plans for the Secondary Fund and WMA to direct funding to regional water sustainability projects, grants, loans, and other IWRB-approved projects.

To help guide investment in projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale in accordance with legislative direction, the IWRB maintains a Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List. The IWRB also oversees grant programs focused on Aging Infrastructure, Flood Management, and Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant programs, utilizing appropriations and revolving development funds. The IWRB is also planning new grant programs targeting delivery system efficiency and capacity improvements, and monitoring and measurement activities.

## **Finance Committee:**

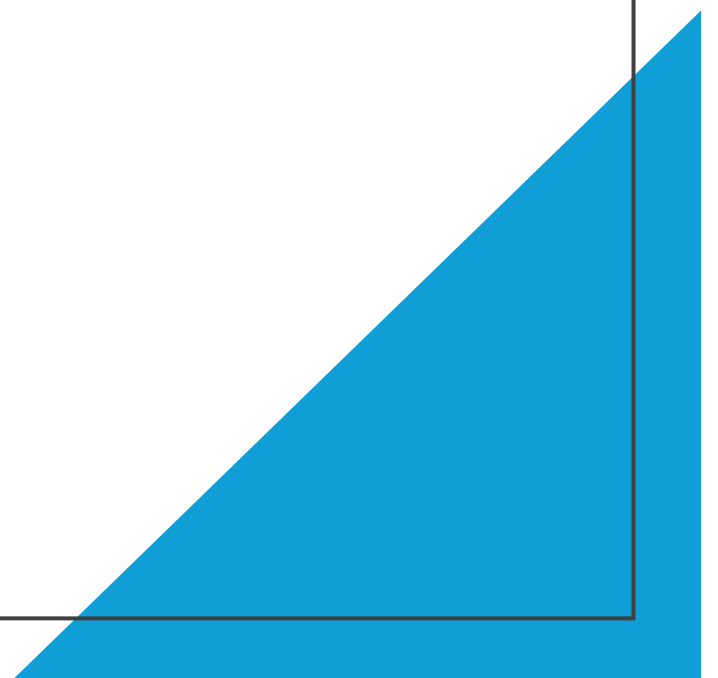
Staff will review priorities for the WMA and a potential spending plan for Fiscal Year 2026. The discussion will include consideration of the \$30M ongoing appropriation authorized under House Bill 445, passed during the 2025 legislative session.

# Idaho Water Resource Board

## Finance Committee

April 14, 2025

FY 2026 Water Management Account Priorities





# WMA Appropriations

## Appropriations for Regional Water Sustainability Projects, Loans, Aging Infrastructure & Other Grants

FY 2020 ( <i>HB 285, Sec 1, Leg 2019</i> )	\$20,000,000
FY 2022 ( <i>SB 1121, Sec 1, Leg 2021</i> )	\$50,000,000
FY 2023 ( <i>HB 769, Sec 6, Leg 2022 - 1/3 or \$25M to be used for AI Grants</i> )	\$75,000,000
FY 2024 ( <i>HB 361, Sec 1, Leg 2023 - 1/3 or \$50M to be used for AI Grants</i> )	\$150,000,000
FY 2025 ( <i>SB 1411, Sec 3</i> )	\$30,000,000
FY2026 ( <i>HB 445, Sec 4, Receive after July 1, 2025</i> )	\$30,000,000
Interest Earned ( <i>as of Jan 2025</i> )	\$24,139,463

**Total Appropriations: \$379,139,463**

# WMA FY 2026 Draft Spending Plan Discussion

Regional Water Sustainability Projects & Other Large Projects	Budgeted Amount
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise *	\$10,000,000
Bear Lake Additional Storage	\$2,000,000
City of Gooding - Little Wood River Channel Flood Control Project	\$4,000,000
City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse	\$3,000,000
Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline (Governor's Initiative)	\$60,000,000
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Improvement Projects	\$5,000,000
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant Program	\$20,000,000
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project *	\$1,287,000
Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement - Planning	\$560,000
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project *	\$10,000,000
Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects	\$5,000,000
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project	\$7,811,056
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply Planning	\$5,000,000
Priest Lake Water Management Project	\$5,420,000
Priest Lake Outlet Dam Litigation	\$2,748,000
Raft River Pipeline Project	\$7,000,000
Statewide Recharge Infrastructure *	\$40,000,000
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project	\$474,320
Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project	\$5,000,000
<i>Projects listed in alphabetical order. * Eligible for ARPA Funding.</i>	<b>Total: \$194,300,376</b>

Includes IWRB  
Approved Funding  
Commitments as of  
March 31, 2024

## WMA FY 2026 Draft Spending Plan Discussion

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Projects FY 2026 Earmark (\$30M Appropriation) **	Set Proposed Budget Amount
ESPA Telemetry and Monitoring	\$5,000,000
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$5,000,000
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant Program	\$15,000,000
Lower Valley (Surface Water Coalition) Operational Efficiencies	\$5,000,000
Other?	\$0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>

*\*\* IWRB Districts 3 & 4 must receive 50% of FY2026 funding each. Additional funding may be available from pre-FY2026 appropriations.*

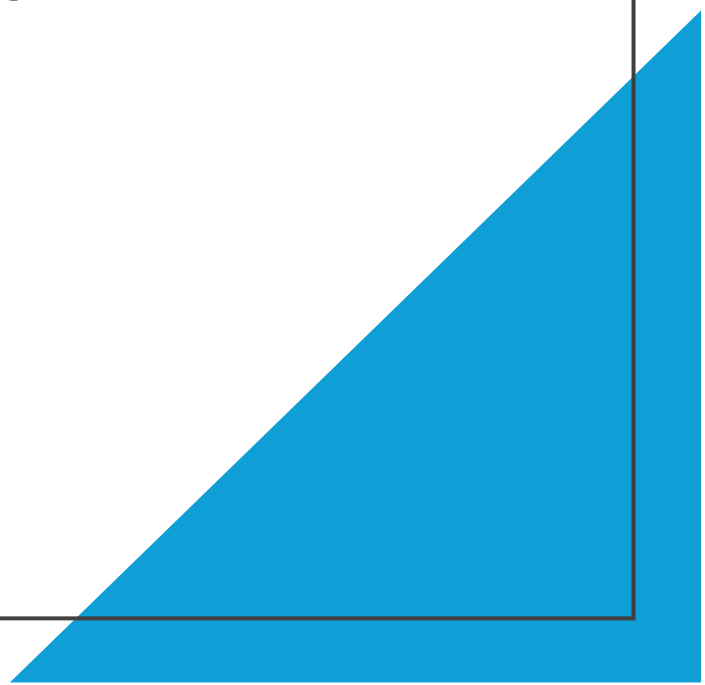
# WMA FY 2026 Spending Plan Discussion

<b>Aging Infrastructure Grants ***</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
Round 1	\$12,500,000
Round 2	\$12,500,000
Round 3	\$11,083,621
Round 4	\$7,678,350
Round 5 (FY 2025)	\$12,394,271
Round 6 (scheduled FY 2026)	\$20,000,000
Round 7 (scheduled FY 2027)	\$20,000,000
***Additional funding committed beyond initial \$75M appropriation for AIGs.	<b>\$96,156,242</b>

<b>Loans</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
Loans Committed <i>(Funds will be available for reallocation upon repayment)</i>	<b>\$20,996,333</b>

<b>Other Potential Needs</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems Grant	\$20,000,000
Statewide Monitoring and Measurement Grant Program	\$10,000,000
Other Regional Water Sustainability Projects, Loans, or Grants	\$7,686,512
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$37,686,512</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$379,139,463</b>

## Next Steps

- May 16, 2025: Finance Committee to review FY 2026 WMA Spending Plan and Secondary Fund Budget.
  - Incorporate plan to accommodate \$30M ESPA project earmark.
  - Finance Committee consider project categories and funding criteria.
- 
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# IWRB Grant Program Annual Report

Neeley Miller

April 2025



# Flood Management Grant

- Purpose: Support stream repair, flood mitigation, and flood risk reduction projects
- Eligible Area: State of Idaho
- Eligible Applicants: Flood control districts, drainage districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, municipalities, counties, and public entities
- Maximum Award: \$200,000 per project
- Cost Share Requirement: Minimum 50% non-state match
  - In-kind services: Up to 30% of total cost
  - Legal/admin in-kind services: Limited to 5%
- Evaluation Criteria: Project need, benefits, cost-effectiveness, and readiness to proceed




# Aging Infrastructure Grant



- Purpose: Support rehabilitation and improvement of aging irrigation infrastructure
- Eligible Area: State of Idaho
- Eligible Applicants: Irrigation districts, canal companies, drainage districts, municipalities, counties, and other public water delivery entities
- Maximum Award: \$2 million per project
- Cost Share Requirement: IWRB grant cannot exceed 33% of total cost
  - In-kind services: Up to 30% of total project cost
  - Legal/admin in-kind services: Limited to 5%
- Evaluation Criteria: Proposal clarity, public benefit, cost-effectiveness, and readiness to proceed





# Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant

- Purpose: Convert lands from groundwater irrigation to surface water use in designated management areas
- Eligible Area: Designated Groundwater Management Areas and Critical Groundwater Areas in Idaho
- Eligible Applicants: Groundwater districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, and irrigation boards of control
- Maximum Award: \$5 million per project
- Cost Share Requirement:
  - Soft conversions: IWRB grant  $\leq$  50% of total cost
  - Hard conversions: IWRB grant  $\leq$  75% of total cost
- Evaluation Criteria: Project benefits, clarity, and readiness to proceed



# ESPA Telemetry & Monitoring Grant



- ▶ Purpose: Support installation of telemetry and monitoring systems for surface and groundwater diversions
- ▶ Eligible Area: Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) region
- ▶ Eligible Applicants: Irrigation districts, canal companies, municipalities, water districts, and related entities
- ▶ Maximum Award: \$250,000 per project
- ▶ Cost Share Requirement:
  - ▶ IWRB grant  $\leq$  50% of total cost
  - ▶ In-kind installation costs reimbursable up to 50% of the grant
  - ▶ - Legal/admin in-kind services limited to 5%
- ▶ Evaluation Criteria: Equipment use, telemetry reliability, clarity, and impact



# Grant Distribution Overview

	Flood Management Grant				
FY Year	Grants	Applications	Awarded	Complete	Underdevelopment
2018	14	18	\$901,678	14	-
2019	10	12	\$624,251	10	-
2020	12	14	\$860,945	10	2
2021	10	12	\$980,936	6	4
2022	11	14	\$1,153,253	4	7
2023	10	13	\$921,088	1	9
2024	10	10	\$702,304	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>\$6,144,455</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>

# Grant Distribution Overview

	Aging Infrastructure Grant				
FY Year	Grants	Applications	Awarded	Complete	Underdevelopment
2023	30	67	\$25,000,000	11	19
2024	37	42	\$18,761,971	3	34
2025	23	23	\$12,394,271	0	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>\$56,156,242</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>76</b>

# Grant Distribution Overview

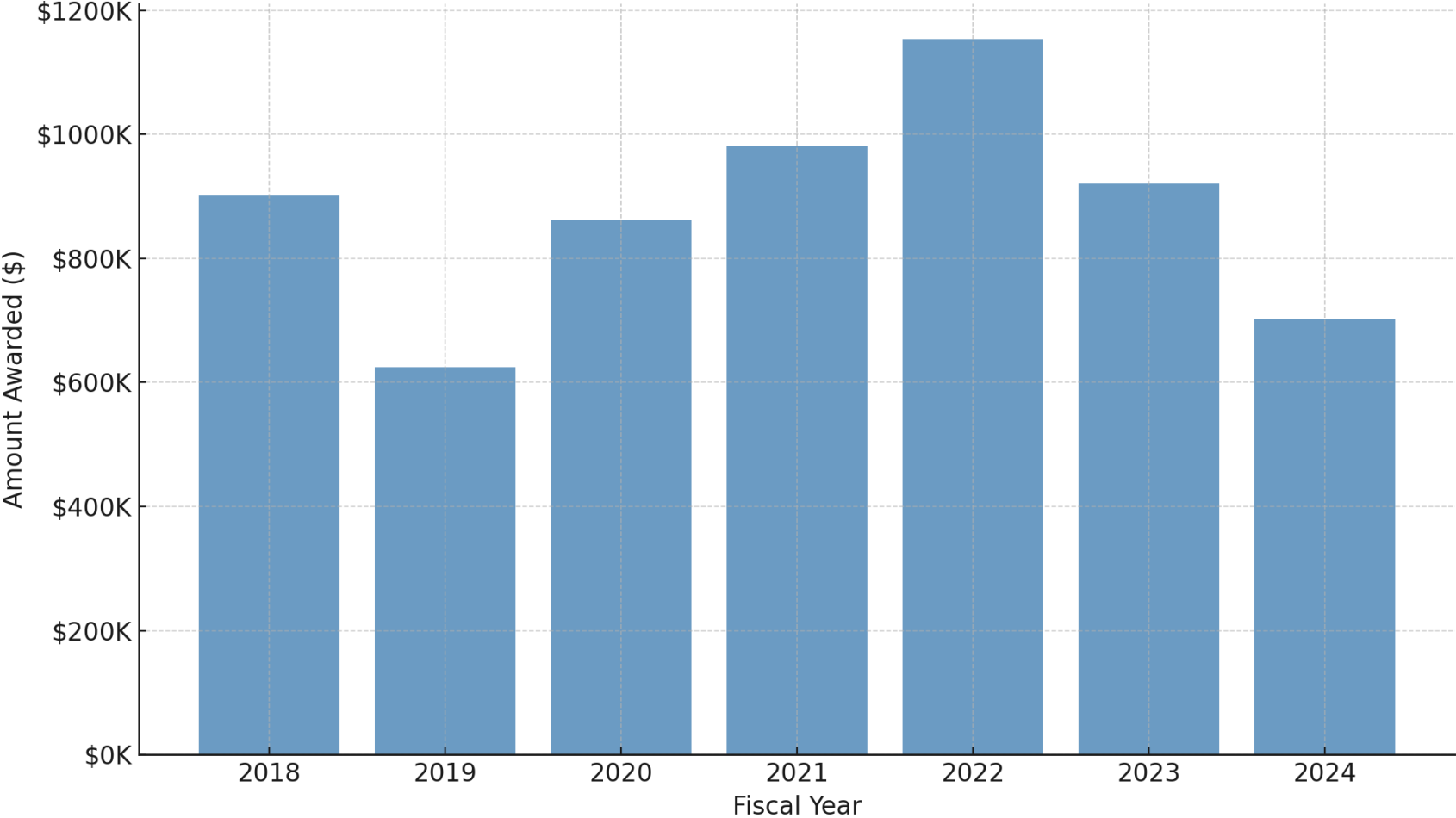
	GW to SW Conversion Grant				
FY Year	Grants	Applications	Awarded	Complete	Underdevelopment
2025	11	13	\$13,330,625	0	11
Total	11	13	\$13,330,625	0	11

	Telemetry Grant				
FY Year	Grants	Applications	Awarded	Complete	Underdevelopment
2025	0	11	\$566,000	0	0
Total	0	11	\$566,000	0	0

# Grant Distribution Overview

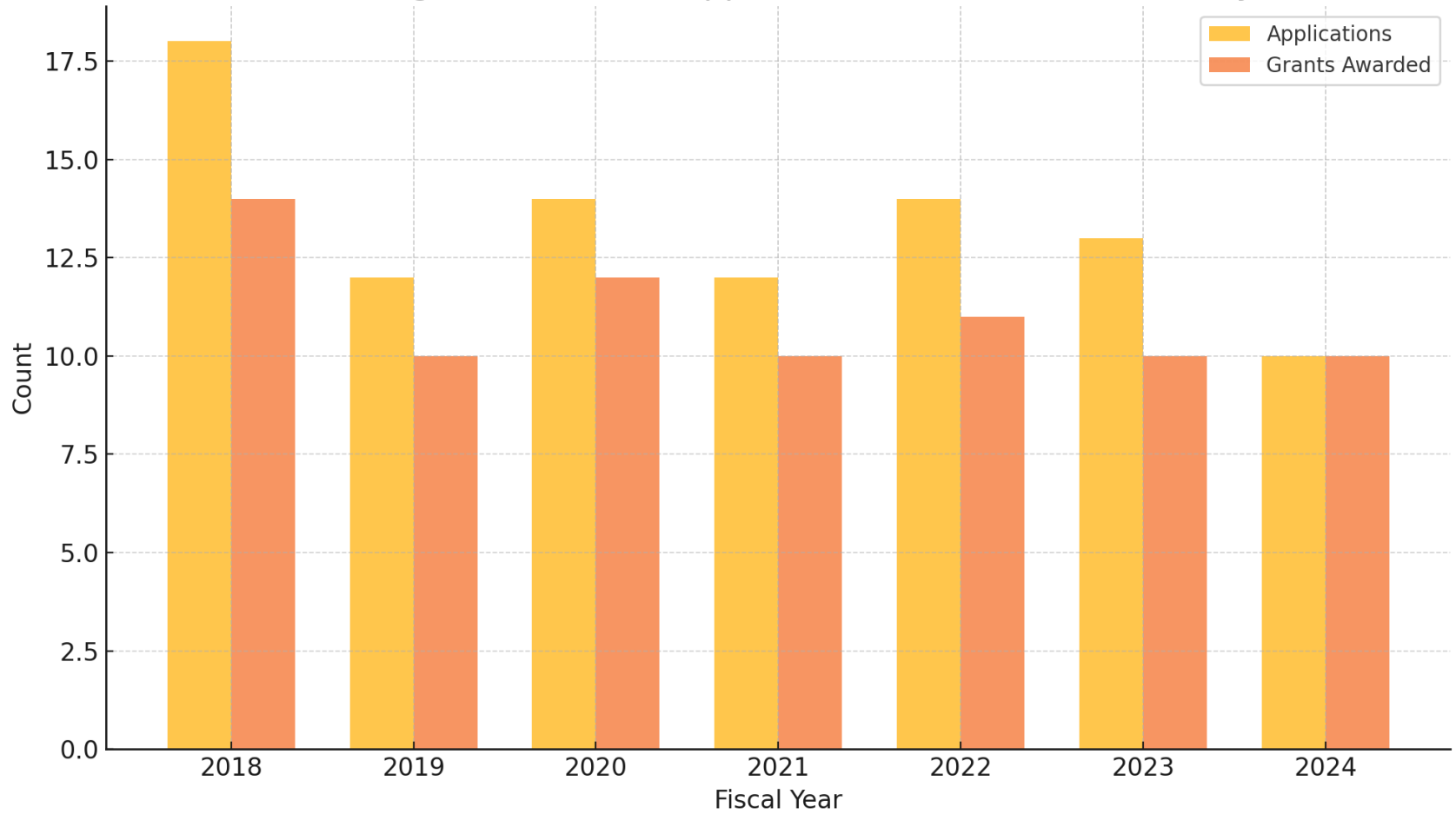
Grant Funds Awarded or Committed by IWRB Statewide District (2018-2025)*				
Program	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
Aging Infrastructure Grants	\$5,047,036	\$13,258,526	\$17,788,648	\$20,156,099
Flood Management Grants	\$2,808,023	\$2,645,506	\$3,160,713	\$661,129
Groundwater Conversion Grants	\$0	\$0	\$5,152,902	\$8,177,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,855,059</b>	<b>\$15,904,032</b>	<b>\$26,102,263</b>	<b>\$28,994,949</b>

Flood Management Grants: Dollar Amount Awarded by Year

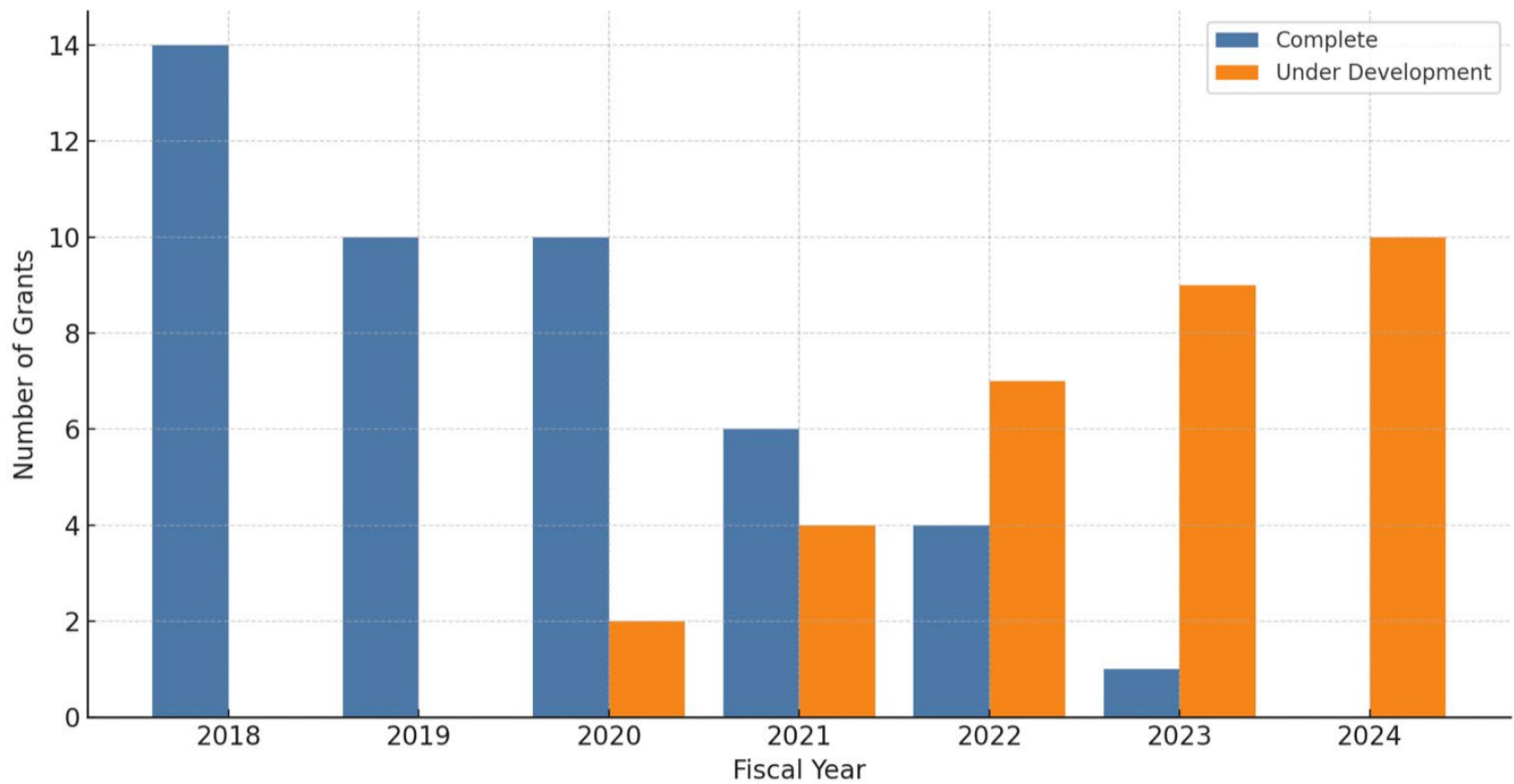




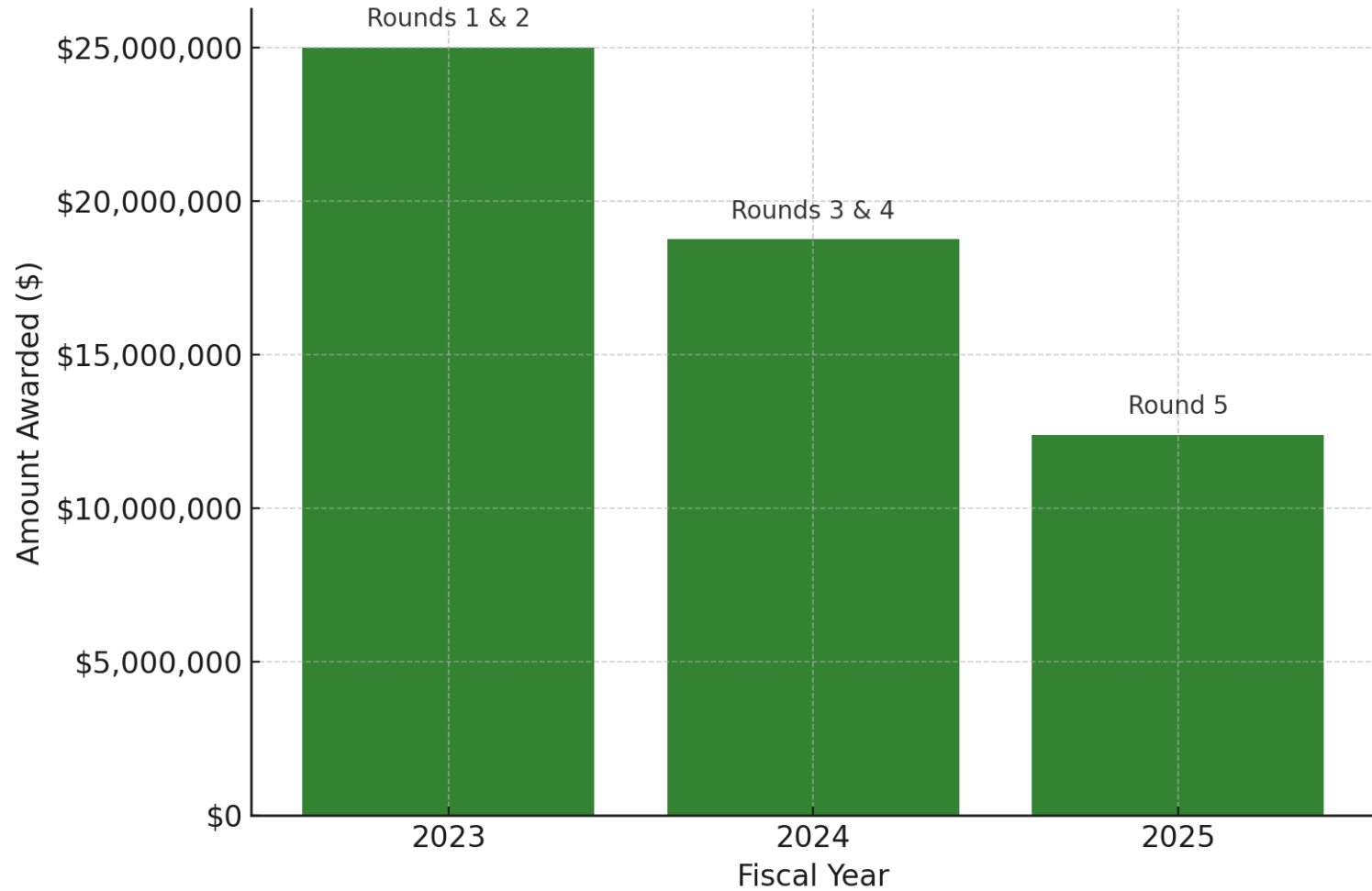
Flood Management Grants: Applications vs Grants Awarded by Year



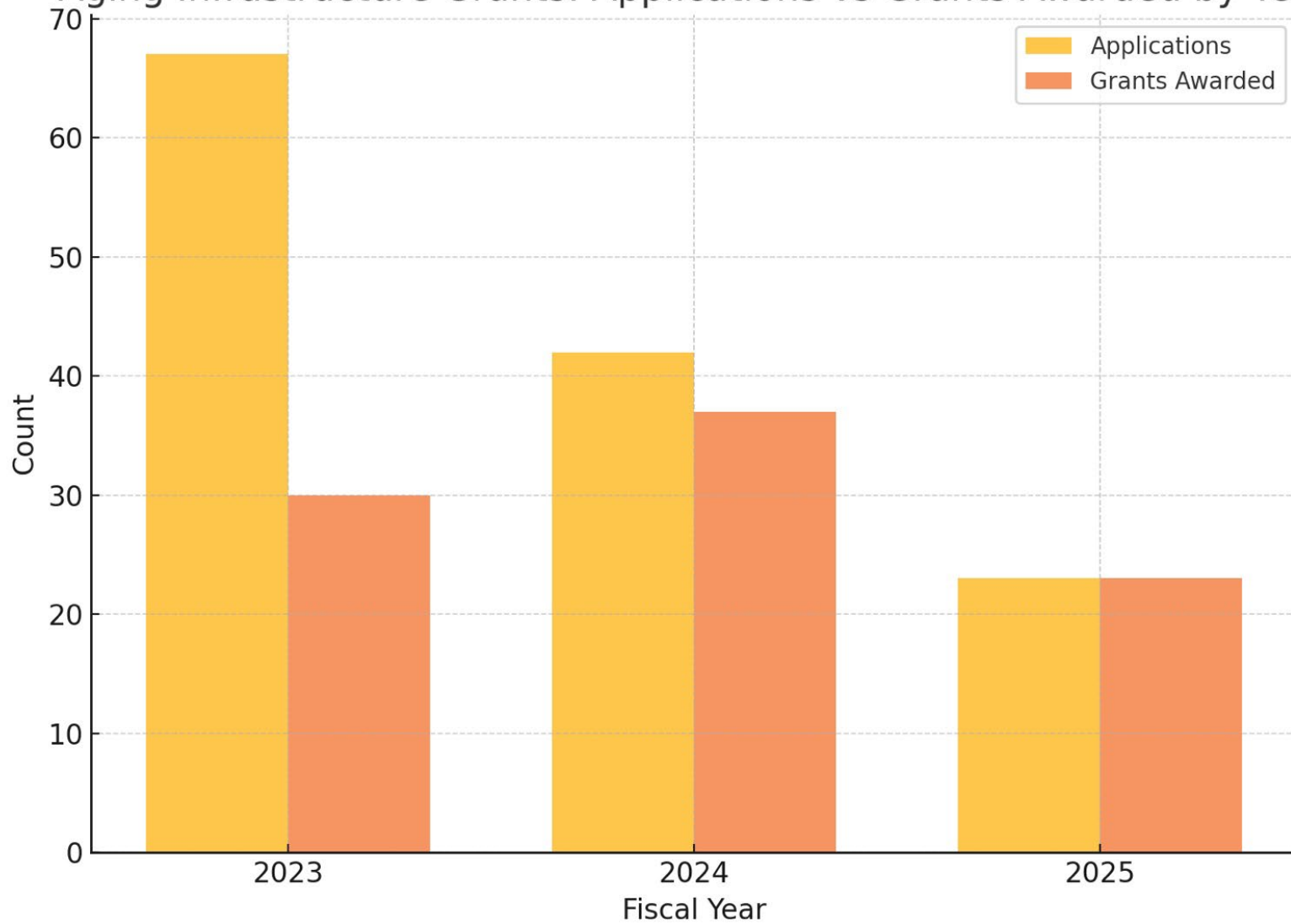
## Flood Management Grants: Complete vs Under Development by Year



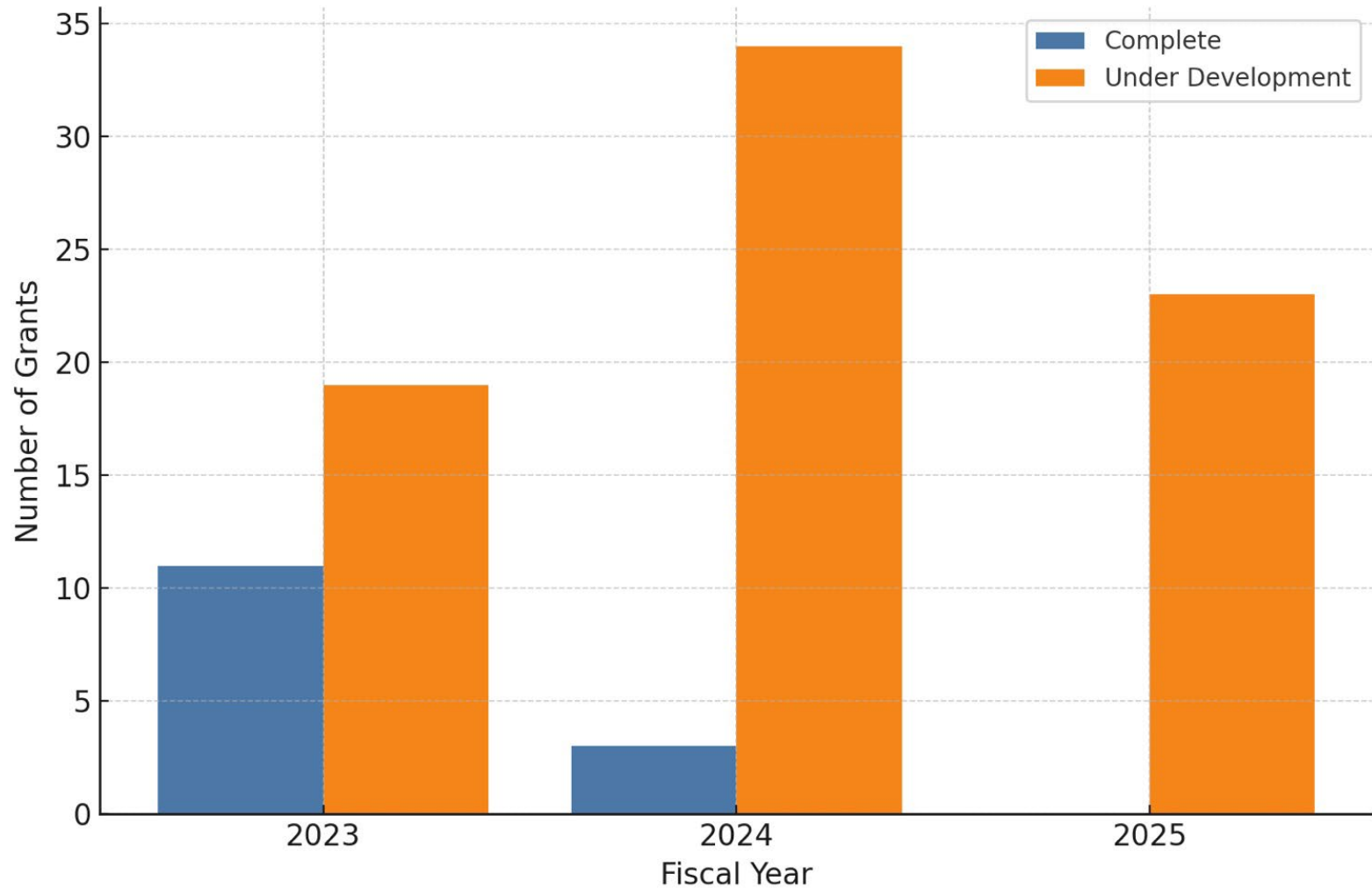
## Aging Infrastructure Grants: Dollar Amount Awarded by Year



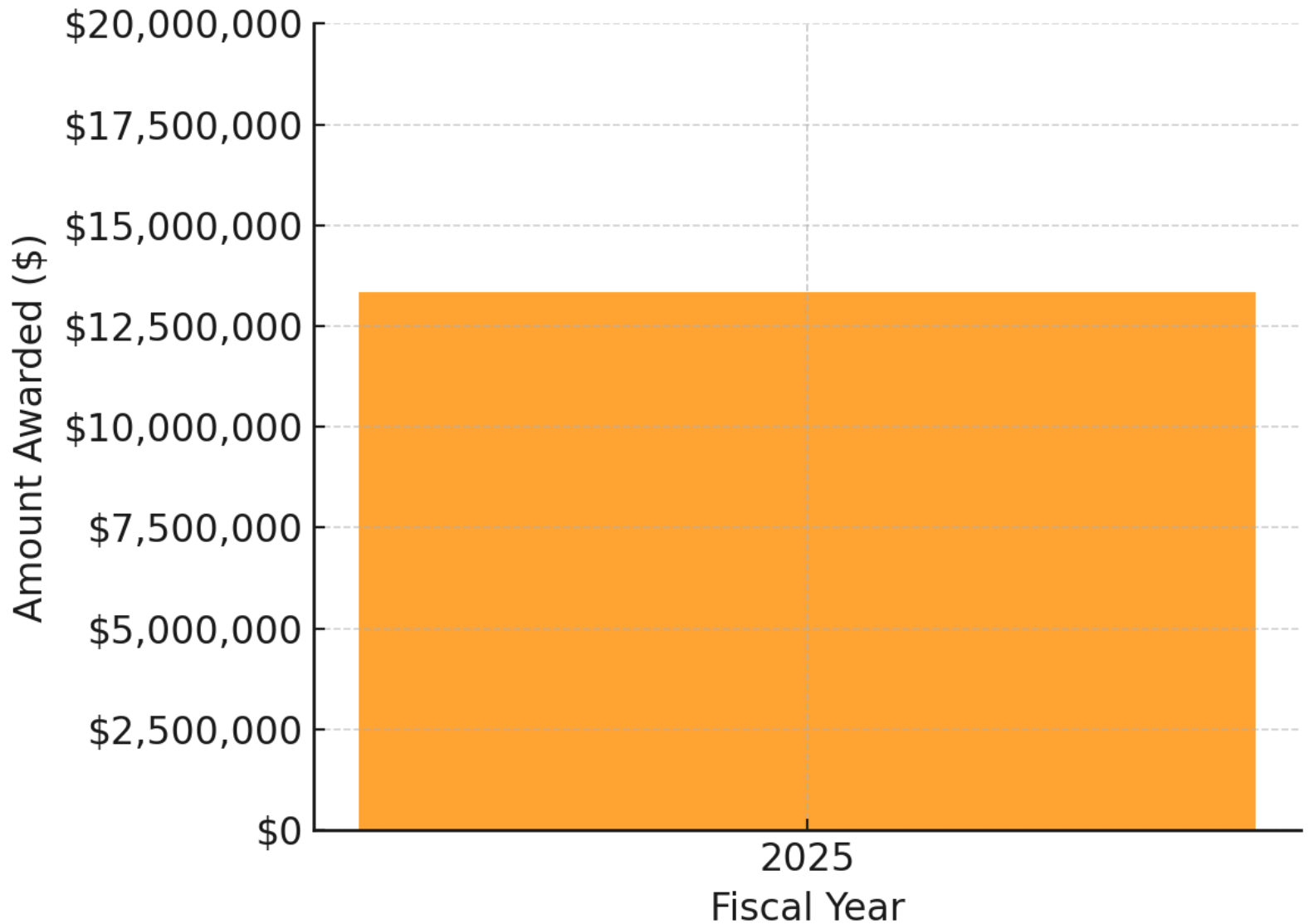
## Aging Infrastructure Grants: Applications vs Grants Awarded by Year



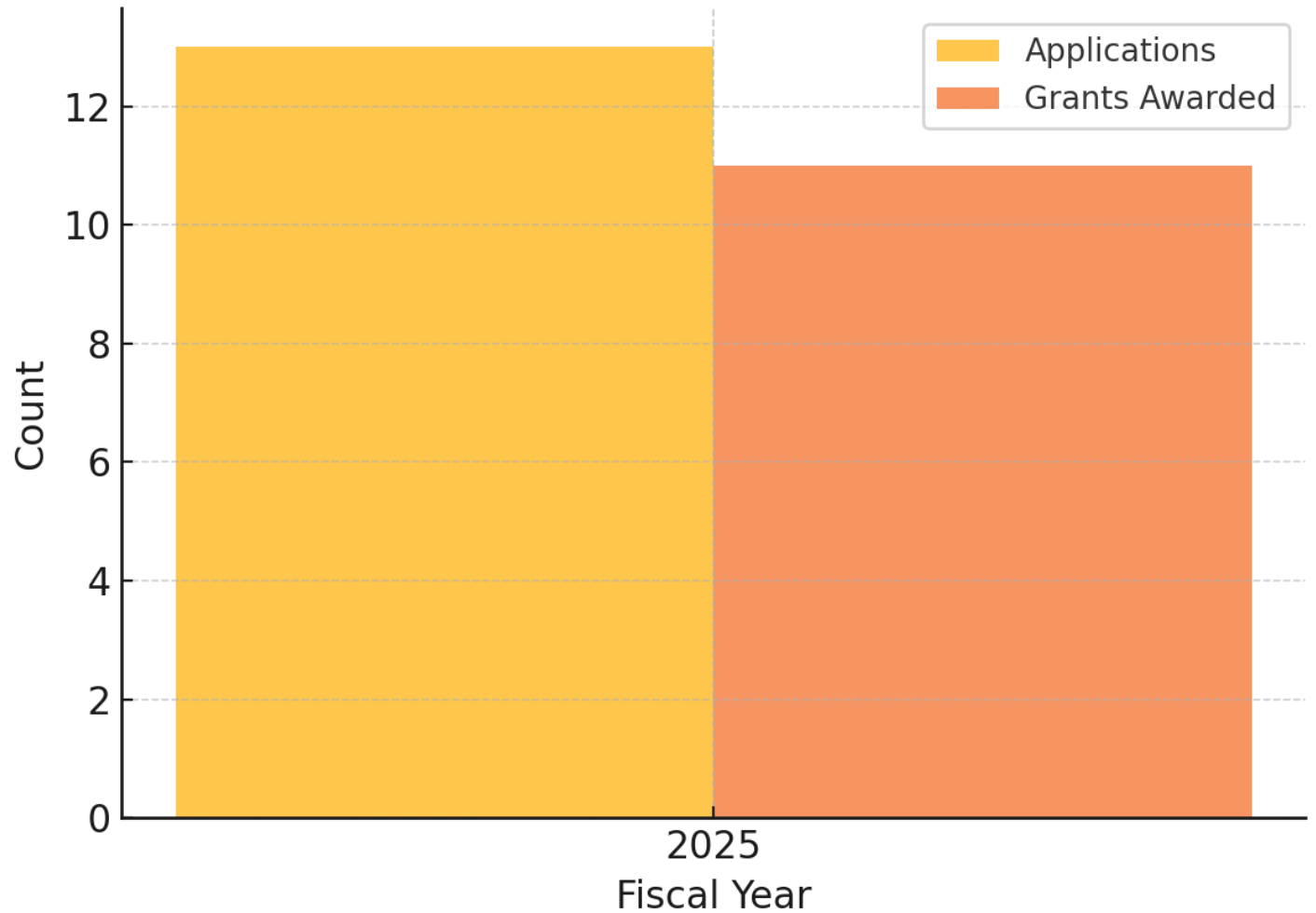
## Aging Infrastructure Grants: Complete vs Under Development by Year



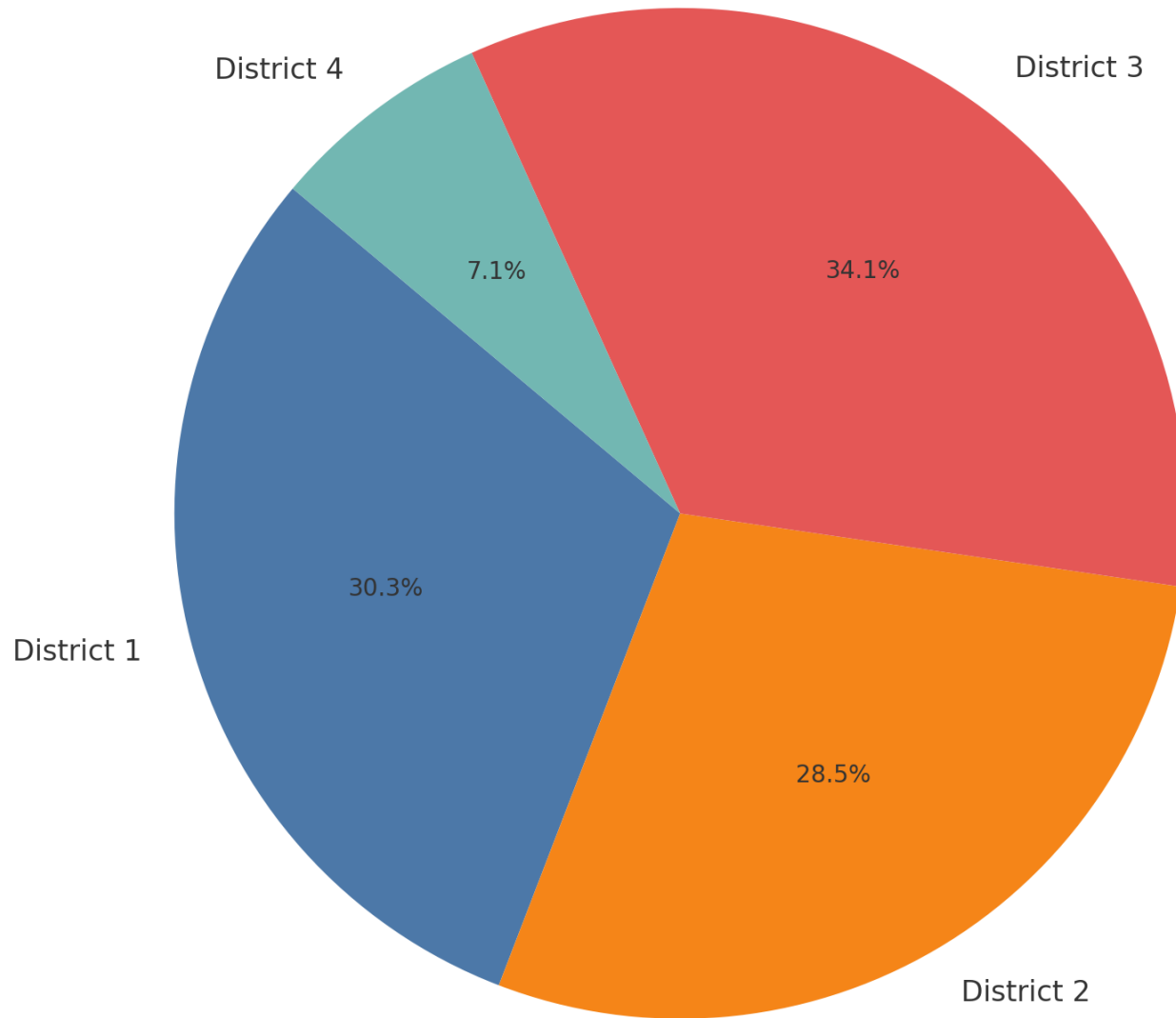
# GW to SW Conversion Grant: Dollar Amount Awarded by Year



## GW to SW Conversion Grant: Applications vs Grants Awarded

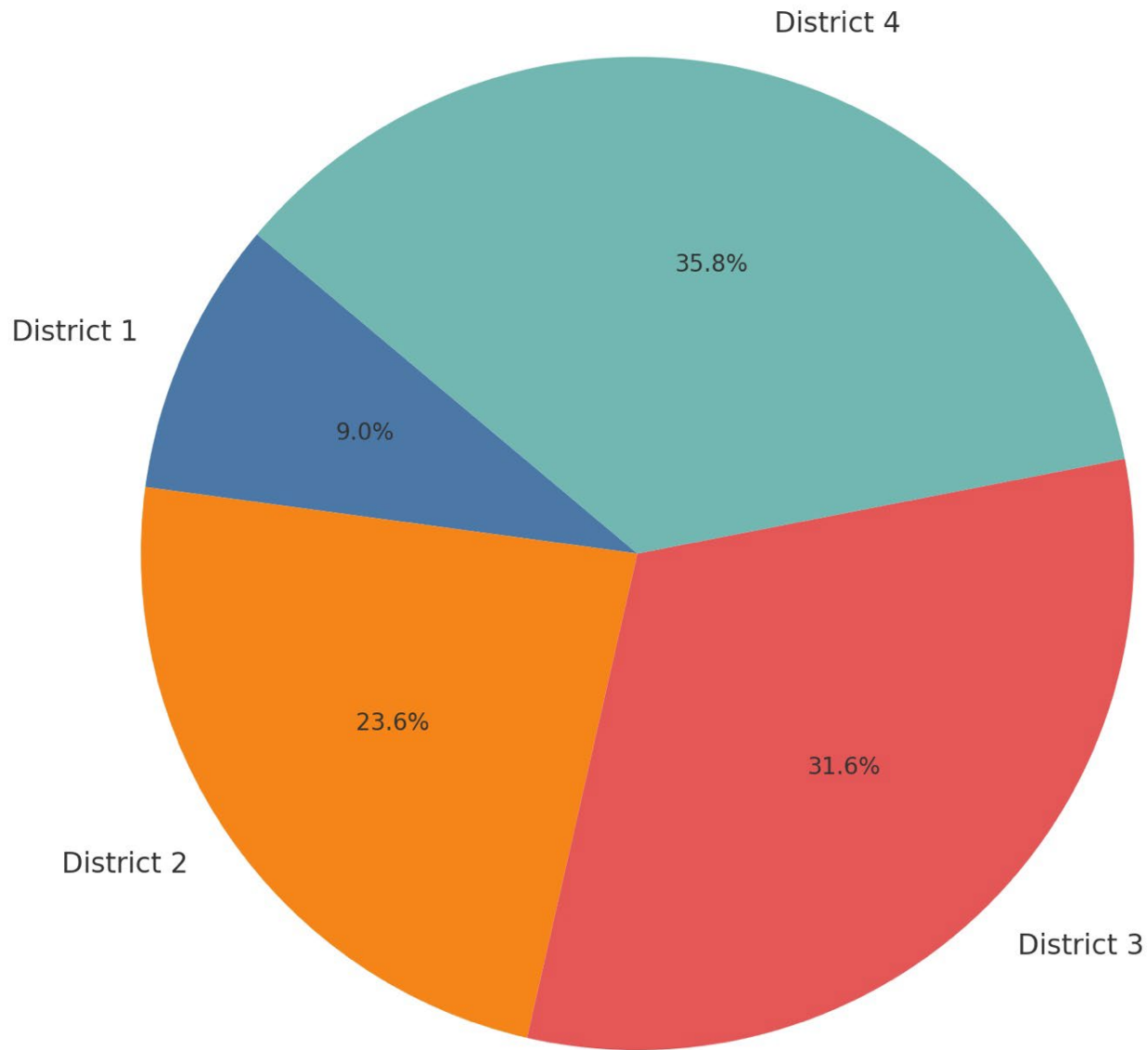


# Flood Management Grants Awarded by IWRB District

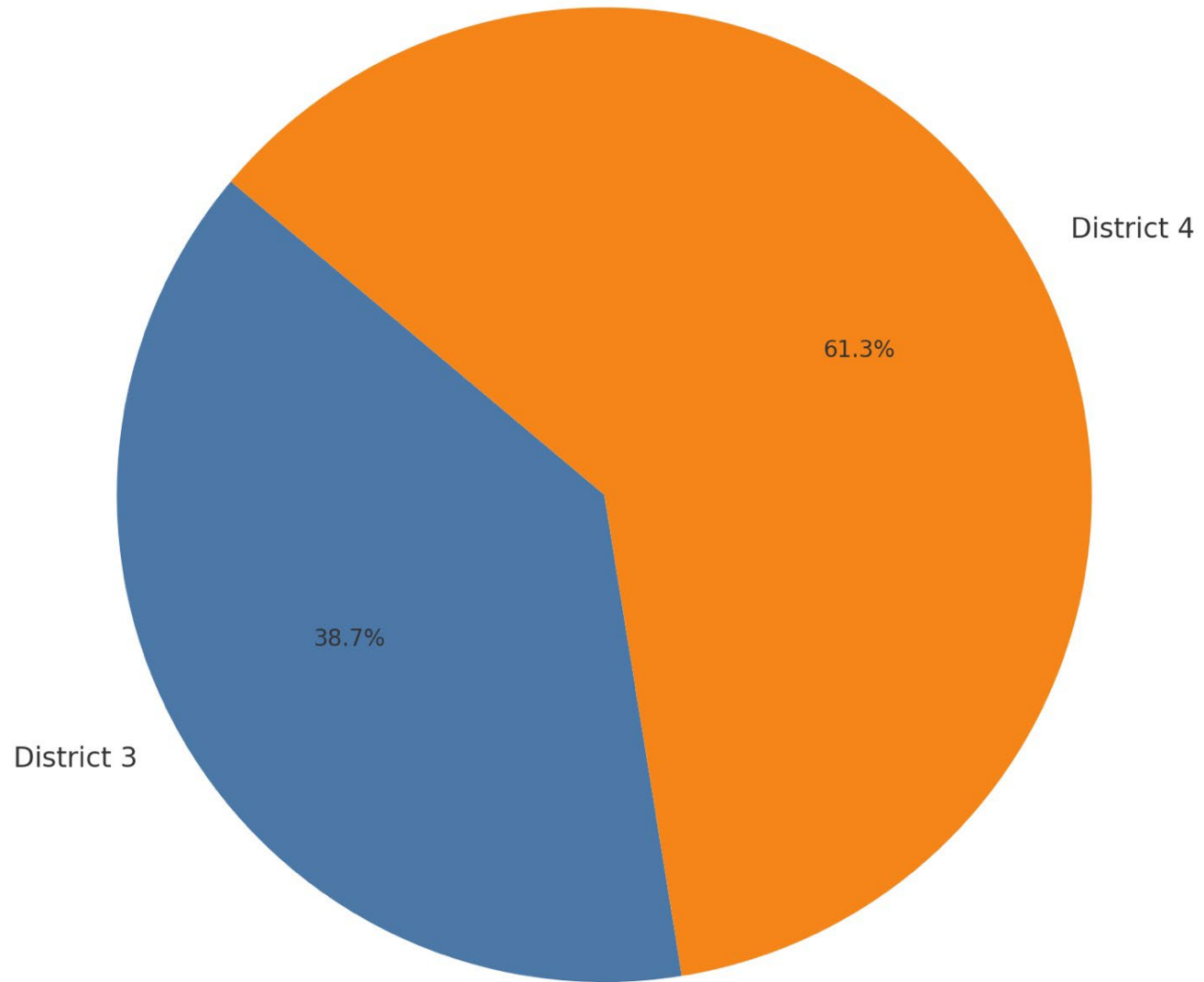




# Aging Infrastructure Grants Awarded by IWRB District



# GW to SW Conversion Grants Awarded by IWRB District





# Grant Contract Management & Staff Resources



- Currently there are 119 active grant contracts (FMG, AIG, GWSCG). This does not include Regional Water Sustainability Project contracts.

- 5 staff members assigned to manage grant contracts. Expectation is that grant contract management will take approximately 10% of staff time. Contracts typically last 2-3 years, but some require extensions for various reasons (materials, permitting, etc.)

- Staff A: 7 current grant contracts + 13 new this year

- Staff B: 21 current grant contracts + 13 new this year

- Staff C: 24 grant current contracts + 12 new this year

- Staff D: 25 grant current contracts

- Staff E: 42 grant current contracts + 12 new this year

- Between now and December 31, 2025 staff anticipates an additional 50+ total new contracts based upon grant schedule this year (new FMG, AIG GWSWC, Telemetry grant awards).



Thank you.

Any Questions?

Neeley Miller

April 2025