

Memorandum



To: File

From: Justin Ferguson, Project Manager

Date: April 21, 2025

Re: Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Administration Guidelines and Qualification Criteria

Program Description

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to help surface water entities throughout the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area implement innovative operational efficiencies in an effort to improve the demand for surface water. Applications for funding for this program will be accepted year-round.

Program Focus:

Projects considered under this program include purchasing and installing equipment, conducting efficiency studies, and/or other activities designed to improve operational efficiencies that result in reduction in the demand for surface water.

Geographic Area

Limited to surface water diversions within the Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater Supply are eligible for this program

Application Requirements:

Surface water operational efficiencies funding applications need to include the following criteria:

Efficiency Results Likely to Be Achieved

- What are the proposed project goals and how will the project improve operational efficiency. Please provide sufficient details supporting how the efficiency results were determined.
- Consideration will be given to potential impacts to the ESPA for the efficiency actions and will be reviewed on a case by case basis

Project Proposal Clarity & Implementation Schedule

- Project sponsor description: organization type, background, current operations, etc.
- Project description
 - Proposed project narrative, project map, scope of work (and supporting documents/designs if appropriate) & any other supporting information the applicant would like to include
- Cost estimate and budget
- Project implementation schedule

Additional Project funding sources

- If other funding sources are used to support the project, please provide a list with the agency and funding amount
 - *Sponsor's contributions, IWRB grants, other state and federal grants, etc.*

How Does This Project Promote State and/or Local Priorities

- Demonstrate how this project will support the 2024 SWC agreement.

Eligible Entities:

Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts

Funding Limit

Projects funded under this project are eligible for up to 100% funding per project.

Contract Terms

Funding for projects may be made in annual installments each fiscal year based on the amount of appropriations.

Application Process

Staff will review submitted applications and, when necessary, schedule a meeting with the applicant to discuss the information provided. For a request to be considered complete, all sections of the application must be filled out, with supporting documentation provided where necessary. All incomplete applications will be held for 30 days from receipt; incomplete applications past 30 days will be declined and returned to the applicant, at which time a new, complete application must be submitted.

Funding requests will be presented to an appropriate IWRB Finance Committee for a recommendation to the IWRB. Funding request applications that do not receive funding or do not receive a favorable recommendation will be declined and returned to the applicant. An unfavorable recommendation or incomplete application does not prevent applicants from re-applying.

Program Proposal Submission

Completed applications can be emailed to the Idaho Water Resource Board's Grants Team at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov. Physical copies must be postmarked by the application date and can be mailed to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: IWRB Grants Team – Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Team
P.O Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise, ID. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

322 E. Front Street
Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

If you have questions about the application package or would like to schedule a meeting with the Grants Team, email us at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov, Attention: Surface Water Ops Program.