



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Idaho Water Resource Board opens application period for 2020 State Flood Management Grants; proposals due by June 19, 2020**

BOISE - (April 7, 2020) – The Idaho Water Resource Board opened the application period on Friday, April 3, for its 2020 State Flood Management Grant Program, inviting applications from flood control districts, drainage districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, municipalities, counties and other public entities that may have incurred flood damage in recent times.

The maximum budget for each project is \$200,000; a 50 percent local match is required. Proposals are due to IWRB staff by June 19, 2020. In general, eligible projects include: repairing stream channels damaged by floods; stream-channel improvement; flood-risk reduction; or flood-prevention projects.

This will be the board's third year of overseeing a statewide Flood Management Grant Program. The board received \$800,000 from the Idaho Legislature for the 2020 grant program. Last year, 10 projects were funded statewide at a cost of \$870,000.

Board officials are encouraging applications from new water entities/communities in the 2020 grant program. New applicants will receive 5 extra points in the scoring of proposals.

The board's intent is to distribute grant funds to projects well distributed around the state, officials said. No more than 50 percent of the total budget can be spent in any single board region of Idaho. More details can be found at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/IWRB/programs/financial/forms.html>

In other action, the board approved amended procedures for the Upper Snake River Rental Pool for 2020. The procedures were recently adopted by Water District 01 Advisory Committee, also known as the Committee of Nine. Among other things, the new procedures:

- Place an indefinite moratorium on rentals to "new" lands, which are lands that prior to 2019 did not have water rights associated with them, or, did not previously receive rental water.
- Prohibit certain types of out-of-basin rentals.

The board received input from Bureau of Reclamation officials and a number of interested groups regarding the procedural changes adopted by the Water District 01 Advisory Committee. Board officials vowed to meet with the Committee of Nine to work on resolving conflicts in the coming year.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a \$190,000 loan to Riverland Terrace Subdivision to cover the cost of hooking up water lines to Suez Corp. and phase out three old drinking water wells. The loan has a 20-year term at 3.5 percent interest.
- Approved reducing its interest rate for IWRB loans from 4.5 percent to 3.5 percent to reflect the current interest rates available from lenders and the government.
- Approved a water transaction on Morgan Creek to benefit salmon and salmon, and a water transaction in the Teton River Basin to benefit Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Canyon Creek.

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