



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Water Board opens application period for second round of Aging Water Infrastructure statewide grant program; applications due Dec. 9

BOISE - (Nov. 3, 2022) – The Idaho Water Resource Board has opened the application period for the second round of the Idaho Aging Water Infrastructure statewide competitive grant program. Applications are due by Dec. 9, 2022.

Each individual application cannot exceed \$2 million, Board officials said. A total of \$12.5 million is available for the second round of applications. The Board will meet in early 2023 to evaluate the applications and decide which projects to fund. The Idaho Legislature in 2022 set aside surplus funds to the Idaho Water Resource Board to create the new aging infrastructure competitive grant program.

In a special meeting last week, Board officials updated the evaluation criteria for the Aging Water Infrastructure statewide competitive grant program.

Eligible Projects: The IWRB defines an aging water infrastructure project as any new project, or new phase of an improvement project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation. Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline are not eligible for this funding opportunity. Additionally, for purposes of this grant program, the term 'aging water infrastructure' does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.

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

Following public feedback, the Board adopted detailed criteria that will guide the evaluation of grant applications. Details on the criteria and how to apply for an Aging water Infrastructure grant can be found here: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb/programs/financial/aging-infrastructure-grant/>

Entities that applied for an aging water infrastructure grant and did not receive funds in the first round can apply for grant funds in the second round, officials said. Entities that did receive funds in the first round can apply for more funds in the second round, officials said.

This week, the Board also has set a deadline to submit requests to have projects added to the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. Those requests are due by Dec. 1, 2022. The IWRB will support implementation of water sustainability projects, including studies, that provide benefits on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale.

Inclusion on the regional priority list is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability, officials said. 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.

Details on how to submit a request to have a project added to the Board's Regional Water Sustainability Priority List can be found here: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/financial/regional-water-sustainability-list-projects/>

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