



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Idaho Water Board approves nine Regional Water Sustainability Leading Idaho Projects statewide for approximately \$60 million**

MOSCOW – (July 24, 2023) – The Idaho Water Resource Board on Friday approved nine Regional Water Sustainability Projects statewide for a total of \$59.4 million at its regular board meeting in Moscow. The regional projects were funded with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies and state surplus funds allocated to the Board by Gov. Little as part of his Leading Idaho initiative and the Idaho Legislature.

The selected projects were the first recipients drawn from Board’s Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List, which helps guide spending for large, regional water sustainability projects. In January 2022, the Board adopted 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 statewide basis."

The priority list has been further refined in the last year to include projects that are shovel-ready and meet the Board’s criteria for funding.

“We are pleased to fund these worthy projects in our first round of project awards from the Regional Water Sustainability List,” said Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, the Board’s Finance Committee chair. “We all know this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in modernizing our water infrastructure across the state. There will be more projects that receive funding from the Regional Water Sustainability List in the future.”

Seven of the projects are shovel-ready construction projects and two are planning projects:

**The funded projects are listed below in order of the final ranking:**

1. American Falls Spillway Rehabilitation - \$12.5 million; \$23.1M
2. Gooding Flood Control - \$4M; total cost \$40M
3. Nampa Reuse pipeline - \$3M; total cost \$180M
4. New York Canal lining - \$25M; total cost \$50M
5. North Fremont Canal System - \$7.8M; total cost \$19M
6. Raft River Pipeline - \$7M; total cost \$49M
7. Treasure Valley Water Supply study - \$155,500; total cost \$155,500

8. Palouse Basin Aquifer - \$182,500; total cost \$365,000
9. Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement - \$560,000; total cost \$1.1M

All of the project recipients were recommended by the Board's Finance Committee, which heard presentations from project sponsors in a series of public meetings in June. See more about the Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List [here](#).

As part of the two-day Board meeting in Moscow, the Board toured the City of Moscow's Wastewater Reclamation Facility, which supplies about 100 million gallons of treated, reclaimed wastewater to the University of Idaho for watering landscaping and turf. The Board, officials from the City of Moscow, and members of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) also visited the University of Idaho Arboretum to discuss a wastewater reuse and xeriscape project. IDWR staff talked about Palouse Basin Aquifer trends, groundwater/surface water interaction and the challenges of aquifer stabilization. PBAC continues to develop and identify options for implementation of recommended long-term aquifer solutions. See more [here](#).

In other action, the Board:

- Approved \$1.79M to support the Board's statewide cloud seeding efforts. The funds will be used for weather modeling and the necessary computer support, additional weather radar resources, testing propane as an alternative cloud-seeding agent, and more.
- Approved \$1.79M for the Board's Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program with Idaho Power Co. and water users. The funds will be used for weather modeling, super-powered computer time, additional weather radar resources, testing propane as an alternative cloud-seeding agent, and more.
- Approved \$500,000 for construction management services to oversee the completion of the Priest Lake Outlet Dam project. Completion of construction is expected to occur in 2024.
- Approved a \$87,000 loan to the Pinehurst Water District. The Board approved a 10-year loan at an 8 percent interest rate.

For more information about the Idaho Water Resource Board, go to: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwr/b/>

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