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The federal stimulus: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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Environment Projects

The types of environmental projects that could be paid for with stimulus dollars include ones that promote water quality and ones that fight global warming. For some projects, funding will be distributed directly to cities through a specific federal agency. For others, it will be funneled through state agencies. Water quality projects that protect our drinking water supply and address pollution in lakes, rivers and streams will be eligible for federal stimulus money. Other environment projects could focus on ways to protect the climate, such as by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Protecting Our Drinking Water Supply

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) received \$38.5 million of stimulus funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for drinking water construction projects. Awards were capped at \$6 million per project. On March 23, 2009, DOH announced its list of recommended projects, which includes a \$6 million low-interest loan for Seattle's Maple Leaf Reservoir Burial Project. Seattle submitted four proposals:

Proposal	Amount Requested	Funding Source	Status
Maple Leaf Reservoir Burial Project <i>This project replaces an open 60 million gallon reservoir with underground structures that will improve the quality and security of our water supply.</i>	\$6 million	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Recommended for funding. State accepting comments through April 6. Send comments to Kitty Weisman
Morse Lake Power Supply Project <i>Chester Morse Lake is the major storage reservoir for Seattle's water supply and pumps are required to provide water during drought conditions. This project moves the generators that power the pumps to reduce the possibility of contaminating the water supply.</i>	\$6 million	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Not currently recommended for funding*
Myrtle Tank 2 Structural Improvements <i>This project will re-coat a 1 million gallon elevated steel water tank to ensure continued protection of treated drinking water, as well as make structural and safety improvements to allow continued maintenance and inspection.</i>	\$1.304 million	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Not currently recommended for funding*
Control Works Surge Tanks Cover <i>A standpipe is a water tank that is taller than it is wide. This project will cover two standpipes on the Cedar Transmission system, which delivers 2/3 of the water supplied by Seattle, to prevent introduction of airborne contamination into water supply.</i>	\$1.019 million	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Not currently recommended for funding*

For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/economic-rec.htm>

*States are at risk of having their funding re-allocated if projects do not move forward on the required timeframes, so it may be possible for state agencies to make additional project awards from the current ranked list.