

# Appendix B

## SFY 2009 319(h) Grant

### Project Evaluation Criteria

#### **1. Eligible Projects**

##### **A) Watershed-Based Plan Implementation Project**

Projects that are identified in a Department approved watershed-based plan or adopted TMDL will fit this category. Funding priority will be given to projects that are identified and detailed in Department approved watershed-based plans and that meet the following criteria:

- 1 Address impairment(s) found on Sublists 4 or 5 of the *New Jersey 2002 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (2002 Integrated Report)*; and are currently still listed as impaired (Sub-list 4 or Sub-List 5) on the *New Jersey 2006 Integrated Water Quality and Assessment Report (2006 Integrated Report)*.
- 2 Completely implement an approved Watershed-Based Plan or adopted TMDL, or continue implementation of a Watershed-Based Plan or adopted TMDL, and by doing so will provide a good likelihood of achieving the Surface Water Quality Standards for all impairments (excluding mercury) listed on the 2002 Integrated Report will receive priority.

##### **B) Environmental Justice Projects**

For the purposes of this RFP environmental justice projects shall be defined as those nonpoint source implementation projects proposed in urbanized watersheds (as designated by 2002 NJDEP Land Use Land Cover) that will achieve a water quality benefit but does not specifically address water quality use impairments or implement a TMDL. Environmental Justice projects will also be eligible to compete separately under this category. Priority funding will be established on the same criteria.

#### **2. Project Design**

##### **A) Nature, Extent, and Understanding of the NPS Problem**

Consideration will be given to the description of, as well as the actual nature and extent of, the NPS pollutant(s) to be addressed, and the applicant's description of how the project will address the NPS impairment(s).

##### **B) Project Viability**

Projects will be evaluated for their ability to achieve high levels of pollutant load reduction, as well as the long term sustainability of high removal levels and overall likelihood of project success. Projects should be well designed to achieve the project goal, presented in the proper sequence of events (goal/objective/task) and have well thought out long term commitment to maintenance and monitoring. Permitting considerations and environmental constraints will also be considered under this subheading. Those proposals that have greater background investigation regarding the viability of a project will receive priority over projects that have not conducted such preliminary background verification on-site.

##### **C) Cost Effectiveness**

Overall project costs will be evaluated based on the maximum expected load reduction per dollar spent as well as average costs for products and services proposed.

**3. Applicant Resources, Ability, Past Performance, and Presentation**

Applicants must demonstrate that they have all the necessary resources and ability to perform the proposed project in a well organized, concise, detailed project proposal. If the applicant or the submitting entity or project partners have previously received funding from the Department, past performance will be taken into consideration. Timeliness, cooperation with Department staff and partners, and goal achievement will be considered.

**4. Project Partners**

All applications shall be evaluated based on the degree to which they have developed the partnerships necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the proposal.

**5. Evaluation and Management**

Proposals must describe the ability to measure and document effectiveness of the project and the long-term management of the environmental improvement achieved. EPA's STEP-L load reduction model is the tool of choice for this analysis. Detail on STEP-L can be found at: [http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/stepl/models\\$docs.htm](http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/stepl/models$docs.htm) .

**6. Other Funding/In-Kind Services**

Although a match is not required for projects to be funded, in-kind services weigh greatly in the Department's evaluation of each project. This type of support demonstrates a long-term commitment to overall project success. The percentage of matching funds to be supplied by the applicant will also be a factor. The BMP to be implemented for all implementation projects should be determined based on maximum pollutant removal with consideration of the maintenance requirements of the particular BMP.