September 14, 2021

Notice of Open Public Comment Period
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Intended Use Plan

Dear Interested Party:

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has prepared the following document for the administration of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

Amendments to the Final
Clean Water Intended Use Plan
Federal Fiscal Year 2021
State Fiscal Year 2022

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants Program
Banked State Match Credit for FFY 2022 CWSRF Grant

Background

The Intended Use Plan (IUP) must be developed annually, undergo a public participation process, and be approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Department to be awarded its capitalization grants to support the New Jersey Water Bank. IUPs provide information on how funds, available through the Water Bank, will be used to provide financial assistance for infrastructure projects and identify State policies governing loan awards.

**Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants Program**

New Jersey has been allocated $3,851,714 by USEPA under the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants Program (OSG). This program is intended to address infrastructure needs for combined sewer overflows (CSO), sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), and stormwater management and is being made available to award grants to states to make sub-awards to eligible entities for eligible projects. The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using OSG money shall be not less than 80 percent of the cost and at least 20% of a state’s allocation must be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements, and other environmentally innovative activities. States are to prioritize the award of subawards to eligible subrecipients that are financially distressed communities; implementing a long-term control plan for CSOs or SSOs; or requesting funds for a project included on a state’s Intended Use Plan for the CWSRF.
IUP Amendment for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants Program

The CWSRF intends to use OSG funds for a limited number of eligible projects that address combined sewer overflow correction and/or stormwater and subsurface drainage water. In all cases, municipalities or municipal entities are eligible for assistance. Only capital improvement projects are eligible, including infrastructure planning, design, construction, and equipment purchases. Operations and maintenance activities are not eligible for funding. A project that receives grant money is subject to the same requirements as a project that receives money from CWSRF.

Financing

The financing package will consist of a grant for 80% of the project costs combined with a 20% CWSRF Principal Forgiveness loan. Since only $4,622,057 is available (Grant - Admin. + Cost Share), the scope of these project would be limited to a cost of $1,000,000 to fund approximately five projects. The balance of the project would have to be separately funded and would be eligible for SRF funds at the rates offered for CSO projects as indicated in the IUP.

Prioritization of Projects

Projects will be prioritized to eligible subrecipients that are financially distressed communities; implementing a long-term control plan for CSOs and requesting funds for a project included on the CWSRF Intended Use Plan. Projects will be further prioritized based on whether it serves an overburdened community identified on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Office of Environmental Justice interactive mapping tool, the quantity of flow anticipated to be removed from a system or flood prone area, and the use of green technology consistent with the design and performance standards under N.J.A.C. 7:8 (Green Infrastructure in New Jersey [www.nj.gov/dep/gi/index.html]). Additional points will be awarded for documented localized flooding based on storm intensity and for applicants implementing local hiring requirements in the contract documents.

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants Program Deadlines

October 15, 2021 - Notice of Interest and Project Information
October 29, 2021 - Planning Information
December 2021 - DEP Ranks Projects and Publishes OSG Priority List
March 4, 2022 - Design Documents and Loan Application

Grant/PF Loan Awards will be made on a rolling basis based on project rank and readiness

Applicants are strongly encouraged to request a pre-planning meeting to discuss project scope and eligibility for the OSG program. Please contact Charles Jenkins, Chief, Bureau of Environmental, Engineering and Permitting at charles.jenkins@dep.nj.gov or (609) 984-4429.

Banked State Match Credit for FFY 2022 CWSRF Grant

The “Sources and Use of Funds” table has been revised to reflect that New Jersey will bank a state match credit of $5 million in SFY 2022 for the FFY 2022 CWSRF Grant.
Submission of Comments

Written comments on these amendments to the Final FFY 2021 IUP will be accepted until close of business on September 30, 2021 (all comments must be received by that date). All comments submitted prior to the close of comment will be considered in any changes to financing by the Water Bank.

Written comments on the CWSRF IUP should be sent to the following address:

Mail Code 401-03D
Eugene Chebra, P.E., Assistant Director
Municipal Finance and Construction Element
Division of Water Quality
PO Box 420
401 East State Street, 3rd Floor, West Wing
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420
or
Eugene.Chebra@dep.nj.gov

If you have any questions regarding these Amendments to the IUP, please contact Eugene Chebra, Assistant Director, Municipal Finance and Construction Element, Division of Water Quality at Eugene.Chebra@dep.nj.gov

Sincerely,

Janine Brogle, Director
Division of Water Quality