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Millions
of dollars
are available
to lend!



State of Oregon
**Department of
Environmental
Quality**

Supporting communities during COVID-19

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund project officers, engineers, managers and other staff are here to support loan applicants and borrowers during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In this issue, we highlight ways in which DEQ and other agencies are helping communities maintain water quality.

Financial resources

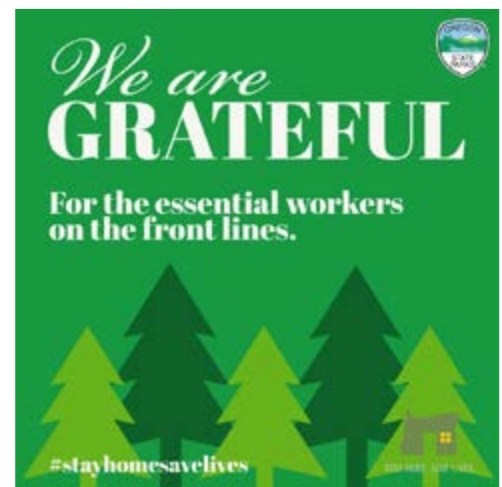
The CWSRF loan fund is currently forecast to meet Oregon's demand for water quality infrastructure funding for the next 20 years, and we will continue to accept loan applications as usual.

It is not clear whether the federal government will provide infrastructure stimulus funding to help those affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic. DEQ will reach out to existing applicants and borrowers if any new funds become available. Sign up for [Gov Delivery](#) for the latest program information.

CWSRF borrowers who have financial concerns related to their loan should contact Kathy Estes, Loan Specialist, at estes.kathy@deq.state.or.us or 503-229-6814.

Safety

Because of physical distancing and other measures, CWSRF is



providing alternatives to certain project requirements:

- Documents with scanned original signatures are now allowable
- Virtual or photographic site inspections can be arranged
- Virtual loan signing meetings may be available
- Adobe Sign online signature program will be implemented for all loan related forms mid-summer.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your [project officer](#).

Operator's certification assistance

Wastewater operators are allowed extra time to earn Continuing Education Units, thanks to the Environmental Quality Commission. The EQC passed emergency rules that extend certain DEQ issued licenses and certifications until the earliest of either October 15, 2020 or 60 days after the date on which the COVID-19 State of Emergency is no longer in effect. This provides operators with extra time to obtain CEUs. Online training is still available and links are provided here: <https://www.oesac.org/Courses>.

Oregon law requires owners of domestic wastewater systems to have their systems under the responsible control and direction of certified operators. Trained and certified operators are necessary to protect public health and the environment. Many in-person opportunities to attain the 2.0 Continuing Education Units that are required for certification renewal were cancelled or postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEQ emailed operators whose certificates expire June 30, 2020, with information on the extension and how to renew. Operators may download and print the generic [renewal form PDF](#) located on the program web page in the Program Information section. Operators should renew as soon as possible. The website will be updated as new information becomes available. Questions? Email opcet@deq.state.or.us.

"Having fully operational drinking water and wastewater services is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Americans from other public health risks. Our nation's water and wastewater employees are everyday heroes who are on the frontline of protecting human health and the environment every single day."

- Andrew Wheeler, EPA Administrator
[EPA Urges States to Support Drinking Water and Wastewater Operations](#)

Send Application and Fee to: DEQ Business Office 700 NE Multnomah St., Ste 400 Portland, OR 97232-4100 OpCert info: 803-229-9649	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Application for Re-examination or Rescheduling of Operator Certification Exam	DEQ USE ONLY L2K Receipt # _____ Application # _____ Amount Received _____ Date Received _____ Check # _____
IMPORTANT: To take the re-exam, you need to complete the Re-examination form and submit the form to DEQ with the required fees within one year of the date from which the initial exam was taken. If one year has passed from the initial exam date, a new application for examination along with the proper fees must be submitted.		
A. APPLICANT INFORMATION Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last four of SSN: _____		
B. MAILING ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ e-mail (required): _____ Is this a change of mailing address? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Employer: _____ Do you require disability accommodation in testing? (If "yes", please submit an accommodation form). <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
C. CERTIFICATE TYPE AND GRADE (select one exam per form) <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Collection: <input type="checkbox"/> Grade I <input type="checkbox"/> Grade II <input type="checkbox"/> Grade III <input type="checkbox"/> Grade IV <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment: <input type="checkbox"/> Grade I <input type="checkbox"/> Grade II <input type="checkbox"/> Grade III <input type="checkbox"/> Grade IV		
D. RE-EXAMINATION FEE \$240 (for any Type of Grade) <input type="checkbox"/> Pr <input type="checkbox"/> * Request		

Get the protection you need

[Supply Connector](#) is Business Oregon's collaborative project to connect businesses and communities with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturers and suppliers to fight the spread of COVID-19 and keep employees safe. This tool provides a searchable database of businesses that can help provide PPE. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management provides [more resources](#) online.

Clean Water Services: local research for a global problem



Photo courtesy of Clean Water Services

Clean Water Services is collaborating on two research projects to track COVID-19 in sewage, assisting public health experts to determine whether the virus is in a community. Using new analytical techniques, researchers are able to find evidence of the virus at the neighborhood scale. The researchers are looking for *signs* of the virus in sewage, not the virus itself. For information about [worker and facility safety](#) during the pandemic visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online.

Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network

The [Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network](#) helps utilities get personnel, equipment, materials and associated services to restore critical operations impacted by any type of emergency. Utilities can find [contact information for their WARN on each state's website](#) or can [contact EPA via email](#).

[EPA's Pandemic Incident Action Checklist](#) is comprised of three different checklists that can help water utilities with pandemic preparation, response and recovery. Each checklist provides examples of actions that drinking water and wastewater systems can take.

Rural community assistance

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership is offering technical assistance and training relating to COVID-19 response for your water or wastewater system. For information contact info@rcap.org or visit <https://www.rcap.org/>.

Below-market interest rates keep projects affordable

The CWSRF always offers below-market interest rates, with some loans at less than 1%. Our current interest rates are the lowest the program has ever offered. If the U.S. Treasury Department's 20-year bond rate continues to decrease, we may be able to offer even lower rates next quarter, which starts July 1, 2020.



By financing their SE Interceptor project through the CWSRF, the city of Bend saved their community money with a below-market interest rate loan.



The CWSRF finances small and large infrastructure projects, such as a treatment facility in Coos Bay.

Interest rates and other financial terms vary by loan type and repayment period. Rates are adjusted quarterly, based on the average Bond Buyer rates of the previous quarter, as published by the Federal Reserve. Once a loan is signed, the interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan. If a fee is charged, the amount is equal to 0.5% of the unpaid balance, and is collected once annually. Current [rates](#) are available on the CWSRF website.

Planning for the next emergency

Even while coping with the pandemic, communities may be thinking about how to prepare for future emergencies, such as flooding. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund finances planning efforts to keep water infrastructure ready for whatever may come. This could include seismic upgrades, energy or water conservation, public education and more. Below-market rate loans are also available for restoring facilities damaged by natural disasters or other events. [Contact the CWSRF](#) to find out how we can help.





Clean Water State Revolving Fund
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (503) 229-LOAN (5626)
(800) 452-4011
CWSRFinfo@deq.state.or.us

MISSION STATEMENT

Oregon's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program supports communities by funding projects that improve water quality and environmental outcomes for the State of Oregon. The program is dedicated to working with small communities and on projects that increase financial and environmental sustainability, climate resiliency and water and energy efficiency.

- Program Charter

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Contacts

Northwest Region

Covering the counties of: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Tillamook

PROJECT OFFICER

Rebecca Kramer,
503-229-6018

Mailing address:
700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Western Region

Covering the counties of: Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill

PROJECT OFFICER

Alexis Cooley,
541-687-7341

Mailing address:
165 E. Seventh Ave., Ste 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Eastern Region

Covering the counties of: Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Wasco, Sherman, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler

PROJECT OFFICER

Bonnie Lamb, 541-633-2027

Mailing address:
475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701

DEQ Headquarters

Lynn Barlow,
Program Manager,
503-229-6896

Lee Ann Lawrence, Program
Coordinator,
503-229-5622

Kathy Estes, Loan Specialist

Oscar Orejel, Loan Specialist

Chris Marko, Program Analyst

Jennifer Kenny, Program Analyst

Mailing address:
Clean Water State
Revolving Fund
700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ransom Horner-Richardson, 541-633-2080

Upcoming events

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

2020 deadlines for receiving applications at DEQ
by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the due date:*

AUGUST 14, 2020

DECEMBER 14, 2020

*An additional review will be scheduled if five or more
applications are received between set deadlines

Oregon Brownfields and Infrastructure Summit

OCT 5-6
VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

The second annual summit brings
together case studies, financing
options and creative problem solving
for water, transportation and energy
infrastructure challenges statewide.
<https://theoregonsummit.com/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA is offering monthly sessions about
American Iron and Steel requirements.

JUNE 24 (11AM):

NATIONAL DE MINIMIS WAIVER

Specific days to be announced:

JULY 2020:

AIS CERTIFICATION LETTERS

AUG. 2020:

USDA, AIS, AND CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

SEP. 2020:

PROJECT/PRODUCT SPECIFIC WAIVERS

OCT. 2020:

NATIONAL MINOR COMPONENTS WAIVER

[Registration and information are available from EPA.](#)

Accessibility

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request.
Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.