



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Water Pollution Control Proposals Sought

CARSON CITY -- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is seeking proposals for funding of projects and programs that will reduce nonpoint source water pollution within the state.

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is polluted runoff resulting from water washing over the land, whether from rain, private car washing or the watering of crops or lawns. Along the way, the runoff picks up an array of contaminants, including oil and sediment from roadways, agricultural chemicals from farmland, and nutrients and toxic materials from urban and suburban areas. The polluted runoff eventually finds its way into the state's waterways, either directly or through storm drain collection systems.

Although some progress in controlling nonpoint source pollution has been made in recent years, it continues to be the primary cause of water quality impairments throughout Nevada and the nation.

“Nonpoint source pollution is a major issue for those of us concerned about Nevada’s water quality,” said Kathy Sertic, chief of NDEP’s Bureau of Water Quality Planning. “We want to identify and fund projects within the state that will help address this serious, but often overlooked, source of water pollution.”

Proposals selected will be awarded federal funds available under Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and will be administered by the NDEP’s Nonpoint Source Program. Proposals will be accepted for consideration until January 25, 2008, and must follow the guidelines for application as delineated in the Request for Proposals (RFP), which is available for download at www.ndep.nv.gov.

Approximately \$750,000 in federal grant funding is available. State and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Questions about the RFP or eligibility for funding may be addressed to Birgit Widegren at 775-687-9550 or via email at bwidegren@ndep.nv.gov.

(more)

Water Pollution Control Grants - Continued

Two types of funds are available for award:

Base Funds: For projects that include demonstration and evaluation of Best Management Practices (BMPs); that provide public education programs on NPS pollution management; that include programs that focus on the protection of threatened waters, source water or other high-priority unimpaired waters; and that include monitoring and assessment associated with an implementation project. Approximately \$250,000 in base funds are available as part of this RFP.

Incremental Funds: For projects working toward Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan implementation or watershed restoration. The goal of these projects is to restore waters that are on Nevada's List of Impaired Waters. To qualify, restoration project proposals must implement TMDLs or watershed-based plans that satisfy the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirements (as described in [Attachment A](#) of the RFP). Approximately \$500,000 in incremental funds are available as part of this RFP.

The following types of projects will receive priority consideration by NDEP:

1. Projects that form partnerships with the Conservation and Resource Protection Grant Program;
2. Projects that include funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentives Program;
3. Projects involving one or more Conservation District;
4. Projects that incorporate Low-Impact Development techniques;
5. Projects that address urban runoff issues not required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I or Phase II permit.

Congress established the national NPS Program with passage of the 1987 amendments to the CWA. In recent years, the EPA has increased the NPS Program's focus on states' lists of impaired waters, emphasizing the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to help solve water quality problems at the watershed level. Information on the national NPS Program is available online at: www.epa.gov/OWOW/NPS/. Nevada's most recent Impaired Waters List is available online at: ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/303dlist.htm. Additional information regarding Nevada's TMDL program is available online at: ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/tmdl.htm.

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