Nevada Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Eligibility and Requirements

The Nevada Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides low-cost funding for projects that improve water quality and protect public health. This guide explains who can apply, what types of projects qualify, and the requirements all borrowers must meet.

Eligible and ineligible applicants

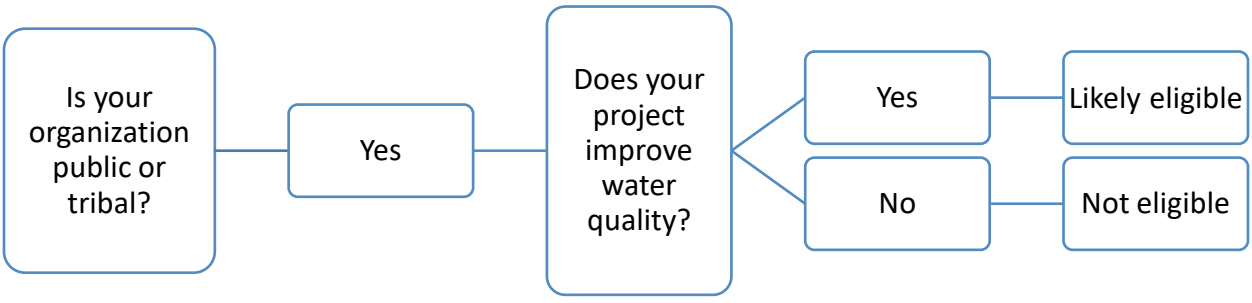
Fundable systems

- Municipalities
- Cities and towns
- Counties
- Districts
- Associations
- Tribal organizations
- Interstate agencies

Not eligible

- Privately owned systems
- Federally owned system

Image 1. Clean water eligibility



Eligible project categories (at a glance)

CWSRF supports a wide range of water-quality improvement projects, including:

1. Centralized wastewater treatment
2. Energy conservation and renewable energy

3. Water conservation and reuse
4. Stormwater management (gray and green infrastructure)
5. Agricultural best management practices
6. Decentralized wastewater systems (e.g., septic, cluster systems)
7. Resource-extraction pollution control
8. Contaminated site cleanup (brownfields, leaking tanks)
9. Landfill closure and leachate management
10. Habitat protection and restoration
11. Silviculture (forestry-related pollution control)
12. Desalination with water-quality benefits
13. Groundwater protection and restoration
14. Surface water protection and restoration
15. Planning and assessment activities
16. Emerging contaminants, including PFAS reduction

Eligible project category details

1. Centralized wastewater treatment

Projects that repair, improve, or expand publicly owned treatment works. Eligible activities include:

- Primary, secondary, and advanced treatment processes
- Sewer system improvements and combined sewer overflow corrections
- Climate-resilient upgrades and security enhancements
- Construction or rehabilitation of components like clarifiers, screening systems, biological treatment, disinfection, filtration, pumps, pipes, and force mains
- Installing separate sanitary and storm sewers
- Downspout disconnection projects

2. Energy conservation

Projects that reduce energy use at treatment works through efficiency or renewable energy. Examples include:

- Energy-efficient lighting, HVAC, process equipment, and control systems
- Onsite renewable energy (solar, wind, methane capture, CHP units, biosolids energy systems)

- Offsite renewable energy when used to power a treatment works
- Waste-to-energy and hydroelectric systems using wastewater flows

3. Water conservation

Projects that reduce water demand or encourage efficient use, such as:

- Water meters and plumbing fixture upgrades
- Efficient irrigation systems
- Water-efficient appliances or incentive programs
- Water reuse systems, precipitation harvesting, and related distribution or injection infrastructure
- Green-infrastructure infiltration systems
- Equipment that supports reclaimed-water reuse, including direct potable reuse systems

4. Stormwater management

Projects that manage stormwater using gray, green, or natural systems. Eligible activities include:

- Traditional gray infrastructure (pipes, storage, treatment, real-time controls)
- Sediment controls, inlet protection, street sweepers, and vacuum trucks
- Green roofs, green streets, walls, and replacing gray systems with green infrastructure
- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Infiltration basins, constructed wetlands, bioretention, bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavement
- Wetland, shoreline, riparian restoration, and urban tree canopy projects

5. Agricultural best management practices

Projects that reduce runoff, erosion, or pollution from agriculture. Eligible examples:

- Manure-management equipment or containment systems
- Water-efficient irrigation systems
- Conservation tillage, windbreaks, sediment basins, terraces, and filter strips
- Streambank stabilization, riprap, and erosion control
- Chemical-use reduction tools and containment structures
- Systems to keep livestock away from waterways
- Sealing abandoned wells or installing diversions around feedlots

6. Decentralized wastewater treatment

Projects that improve or install small-scale or clustered wastewater systems:

- Repairing, replacing, or upgrading septic and cluster systems
- Adding nutrient-removal capabilities
- Constructing decentralized systems
- Establishing responsible management entities (including legal or permitting costs)
- Septage treatment works and pumper trucks

7. Resource extraction pollution control

Projects that prevent or remediate pollution from mining, quarrying, hydraulic fracturing, or oil and gas operations. Eligible activities:

- Treating acid mine drainage or fracking wastewater
- Preventing aquifer contamination and polluted runoff
- Excavating or treating contaminated soils and removing mine tailings
- Discharge diversion, sediment controls, runoff dispersion, capping, backfilling, and soil stabilization

8. Contaminated site cleanup

Eligible activities related to brownfields, Superfund sites, and leaking storage tanks:

- Site assessments
- Removal and disposal of contaminated soil, sediment, or tanks
- Cleanup of contaminated groundwater, surface water, or wells
- Environmental insurance premiums
- Replacing storage tanks that do not meet leak-prevention standards
- Capping and sealing wells

9. Landfills

Projects that address landfill pollution, including:

- Landfill closure, capping systems, and gas-venting layers
- Leachate collection, storage, and treatment
- Slope stabilization and seepage-prevention systems
- Monitoring wells and equipment
- Drainage blankets, liners, sump systems, toe drains, cutoff walls
- Containment structures, booms, litter fences, and barge shelters

10. Habitat protection and restoration

Projects that restore natural systems to protect water quality:

- Shoreline improvements
- Instream habitat enhancements
- Control of invasive vegetation and aquatic species

11. Silviculture (forestry) pollution control

Projects that reduce erosion or pollution from forestry activities, including:

- Stabilizing access roads
- Streambank restoration
- Revegetation and erosion-control measures
- Preventing fertilizers and pesticides from entering waterways

12. Desalination

Eligible when desalination improves water quality. Activities include:

- Brine treatment and disposal
- Desalinating brackish water
- Aquifer recharge using desalinated water
- Treatment and reinjection of brackish groundwater

13. Groundwater protection and restoration

Projects that improve or protect aquifers, such as:

- Pump-and-treat systems
- Aquifer recharge
- Water conservation, reuse, and rainwater harvesting that reduces withdrawals
- Leachate-control systems
- Replacing failing septic systems

14. Surface water protection and restoration

Eligible activities include:

- Acquiring land or water rights to protect water quality
- Atmospheric-deposition reduction (e.g., air-pollution control equipment)

- Energy-efficiency or renewable-energy projects that reduce thermoelectric power use

15. Planning and assessment

CWSRF supports many planning-level activities, including:

- Asset-management and fiscal-sustainability plans
- Cost-effectiveness analyses
- Capital improvement plans
- Integrated planning
- Long-term control plans
- Water/energy audits, conservation plans
- Wastewater and stormwater management plans
- Facility and security plans
- Climate-resilience, drought, emergency, and vulnerability planning
- Watershed plans, TMDL plans
- Environmental management systems
- Project-effectiveness monitoring (equipment and analytical work)

16. Emerging contaminants and PFAS reduction

Projects that reduce exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants, including wastewater-system discharges and nonpoint-source discharges.

Requirements for all CWSRF borrowers

Requirements may change. All borrowers must:

- ✓ Be listed on the State Revolving Fund Priority List
- ✓ Complete the architectural/engineering solicitation
- ✓ Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report or facility plan
- ✓ Conduct an Environmental Review
- ✓ Comply with all federal cross-cutters
- ✓ Complete historic preservation consultation
- ✓ Meet public-participation requirements
- ✓ Obtain necessary permits and easements
- ✓ Comply with Davis-Bacon wage requirements
- ✓ Comply with American Iron and Steel requirements
- ✓ Comply with Build America, Buy America (2021)

- ✓ Provide GAAP-compliant financial statements
- ✓ Set user rates sufficient for operations and maintenance, debt service, and reserves
- ✓ Provide required project signage
- ✓ Comply with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program
- ✓ Demonstrate the capacity to operate, manage, and finance the system

CWSRF Principal Forgiveness Loans

Subject to funding limits. Eligible projects may include:

- Projects meeting Nevada's definition of affordability
- Consolidation projects
- Projects for public educational institutions
- Preliminary Engineering Reports with Environmental Review

Additional considerations:

- ✓ Class A projects on the Priority List
- ✓ Systems serving fewer than 10,000 people
- ✓ Other affordability factors

Borrowers receiving principal forgiveness must:

1. Develop a Fiscal Sustainability Plan
2. Establish a Capital Replacement Reserve Account