

Southern Resident Killer Whale Executive Order Immediate Action Report May 1, 2018

Executive Order Task	
Develop criteria to prioritize financial assistance beginning in the 2019-21 biennium for stormwater projects that benefit Southern Resident recovery.	

Completion Date	July 31, 2018		
Lead Agency	Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)		
Agency Contact	Jeff Nejedly	Agency Contact E-mail	jnej461@ecy.wa.gov
Supporting Agencies, if applicable			

Outcomes/Progress Narrative	
<p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>The Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) is integrated with Ecology's Combined Water Quality Financial Assistance process. As part of the process, applicants for funding complete an application to compete for available funding from four funding sources, Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan, Centennial Clean Water Program (Centennial) grant, Section 319 Nonpoint grant, and Stormwater Financial Assistance Program grant. Successful applicants may be offered funds from one or multiple fund sources, depending on the project category, type of eligible work elements, and funding availability.</p> <p>The combined annual funding application rating and ranking process includes a number of criteria with an emphasis on water quality and public health protection and improvement. These criteria already include connections to benefits and project outcomes that would help lead to protection and recovery of Southern Resident Orcas. For example, priority points are linked to projects that reduce pollution to a waterbody, make a direct connection to pollutants of concern, and address an action contained in a local water quality or watershed plan. In addition, projects in the Puget Sound basin that address specific actions outlined in the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda receive preference over projects in the Puget Sound basin that do not. Projects that provide multiple benefits, like reducing pollutants and protecting salmon habitat generally garner more priority points. There are also points associated with how well the project is planned, scoped, and ready to proceed, as well as project cost effectiveness and sustainability.</p>	

Based on our existing criteria and prioritization process we are already providing tens of millions in funding for stormwater projects that protect and improve water quality and aquatic life in Puget Sound.

Additional Actions:

The Water Quality Program will add language to the combined water quality application guideline document and scoring guidelines referencing Governor's Executive Order 18-02 and Southern Resident Orca recovery as an additional criterion/consideration that stormwater funding applicants can make connection to as a priority for those projects addressing Puget Sound water quality issues. Language will be added through the current guideline revision process for the upcoming State Fiscal Year 2020 fund cycle which opens for applications in August 2018.

In addition, we will coordinate with the National Estuary Program Stormwater Initiative team (housed in Ecology's Water Quality Program) to address GEO 18-02 connections to projects funded through thier process, which are already Puget Sound recovery focused.