

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 CLEAN WATER CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM  
 PROJECT PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM  
 FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS, SEWAGE,  
 STORMWATER GREY, AND STORMWATER GREEN  
 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
 NOVEMBER 2022 REVISION**

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## **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document contains the District of Columbia's (District's) Project Priority Rating System (PPRS), which describes the process through which the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) chooses projects for inclusion in applications for the Clean Water Construction grants funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The PPRS must be approved by DOEE, vetted through the public, and accepted by the EPA. Any revision to the PPRS described in this document must undergo the same public and agency approval process before being applied in the District's Clean Water Construction (CWC) program.

## **DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### Project Priority Rating System (PPRS)

The District of Columbia Project Priority Rating System describes the process through which DOEE selects projects for inclusion in applications for EPA's Clean Water Construction grants.

### Project Priority List (PPL)

The Project Priority List presents projects from each of the four Project categories, on a roster for that category, with projects listed in descending order of rank and based on the total points awarded using the scoring criteria. Projects are considered for funding in rank order, from highest to lowest.

**CSO** – Combined Sewer Overflow  
**CSS** – Combined Sewer System  
**CWC** – Clean Water Construction  
**CWSRF/SRF** – Clean Water State Revolving Fund  
**DOEE** – Department of Energy and Environment

**EPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency  
**MS4** – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System  
**NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
**PPL** – Project Priority List  
**PPRS** – Project Priority Rating System

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CLEAN WATER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

The waters of the District, like waters in most urban settings, are polluted by anthropogenic uses and require work to make them clean enough to support healthy aquatic life and to allow humans to swim and fish safely. The District is working to mitigate the causes of impairment<sup>1</sup> to make

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<sup>1</sup> The causes of impairment to the District's rivers, lakes, and estuaries include total suspended solids, nutrients, toxics, pathogens, oil and grease, metals, and trash. The sources with major impacts on District waters include combined sewer overflows (CSO), urban runoff to storm sewers, spills and dumping, and construction. River and stream banks are eroded from high-volume flashy flows of stormwater, contributing sediment and nutrient pollution. The full report of impairments to District of Columbia waters can be found in the District of Columbia Water

District waterbodies fishable and swimmable. In addition, the U.S. EPA requires the District to complete specific tasks to improve water quality and enforces these requirements through permits from the EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. These include the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4), DC Water’s Blue Plains permit, and the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). A link to each of these permits can be found on EPA’s District [NPDES](#) and [MSGP](#) websites. Projects funded by the District Clean Water Construction (CWC) program may be used to meet the requirements of NPDES permits.

The CWC program is managed by DOEE. DOEE is the District agency tasked to coordinate, implement, track, and report on the work of meeting water quality goals and NPDES permit requirements.<sup>2</sup> The CWC program is designed to direct funding to projects that have the potential to achieve the highest return in terms of attainment of water quality standards and for the protection of public health. The District’s CWC program funds the construction of treatment works as defined in [Section 212 of 33 U.S.C. 1292](#). The categories of treatment works projects funded are what the District calls Sewage Infrastructure Projects, Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Projects, Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects, and Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects. Together, these projects are referred to as “CWC projects.”

District CWC projects are funded with federal grant funds and local matching funds. CWC Stormwater Green, Stormwater Grey, and Sewage Infrastructure projects are generally funded at a 55% federal grant share and 45% local match share. DOEE solicits projects to fund through a Request for Applications (RFA), also known as a “solicitation.” The RFA will reflect DOEE’s predicted matching requirement for the advertised grant year. The federal funding source is EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) allocation, which the District receives in the form of a grant.<sup>3</sup> The local match can be any non-federal funding source. CWC Emerging Contaminants Projects do not require a local match share.

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Quality Assessment Report on EPA’s website.

<sup>2</sup> The Water Pollution Control Act of 1984 is the primary source of the District’s legal authority to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to District waters for the purpose of achieving water quality objectives. The District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01 et seq. established the agency currently known as DOEE and charged it with protection of the District’s natural resources.

<sup>3</sup> Title VI of the Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA to award capitalization grants to states for the purpose of establishing a Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Legislative provisions in Public Laws 101-144 and 101-302 allow the District to receive its annual allotments for Title VI capitalization grants as Title II construction grants. An additional provision in Public Law 102-389 expands the range of activities which DC may fund with such grants to include Title VI-eligible activity. Provisions and requirements of Title II that do not conflict with provisions of Title VI apply to District CWC projects.

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROJECT PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS, SEWAGE, STORMWATER GREY, AND STORMWATER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

### **I. OVERVIEW**

The Project Priority Rating System (PPRS) describes the process through which DOEE develops an annual Project Priority List (PPL), how DOEE rates and ranks projects that are placed on the PPL, how DOEE identifies projects for application for EPA's Clean Water Construction grants, and how DOEE allocates available funding among project categories.

The cycle of activity that produces each new fiscal year's CWC grant award occurs over a two-year period. In the first year, DOEE updates the PPL with new projects, as follows:

- DOEE solicits applications for new projects;
- DOEE scores each application according to the CWC scoring criteria (see Section III);
- DOEE adds new projects to the PPL within the applicable project category, in order from highest score to lowest, creating four ranked lists;
- DOEE seeks public comment on the PPL; and
- DOEE submits the PPL to EPA for review and approval.

Typically, the solicitation occurs in spring with a 30-day open period, the draft PPL is posted for public comment in July, and the final draft of the PPL is sent to EPA for review and approval in August.

In the second year of the cycle, DOEE applies for CWC funding in the following way:

- EPA notifies DOEE of the SRF funding allocation, which identifies the specific amount of federal funding that is available for the District's CWC program for the upcoming fiscal year;
- DOEE identifies the set of the most highly ranked projects on the PPL that are ready to proceed with funding from the SRF allotments;
- DOEE calculates the total amount of federal funding required to fully fund the Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure Projects, Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects, and Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects;
- DOEE sends a request to EPA to release remaining allotment amounts to DC Water for Sewage Infrastructure Projects<sup>4</sup>. To date, these funds have been granted from EPA to DC Water because DC Water has been the only entity applying for those funds; and
- DOEE submits the District's CWC grant application to EPA.

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<sup>4</sup> Emerging Contaminants allotments are restricted and may not be directed to other project categories.

Generally, EPA notifies DOEE of the SRF funding allocation in April. DOEE identifies the set of stormwater projects and subsequently sends the request for release of funds for Sewage Infrastructure Projects in May, submits the stormwater project grant application in July, and receives the funds from EPA in September.

This PPRS also details the way in which decisions on funding allocation will be decided under more uncommon circumstances. This includes a method for settling a case of tied scores, reasons and methods for bypassing or reinstating a project, cause for removing a project from an approved PPL, and identifying circumstances that would warrant reallocation of funds after the award. Finally, this PPRS specifies how the District would update a finalized PPL and how the District would update this PPRS in the future.

## II. PROJECT SOLICITATION

Annually, DOEE will solicit new project applications to be added to the next fiscal year's PPL. Applications will be accepted from registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities, institutions of higher learning, and District government agencies. DOEE will provide notice of this through the *District of Columbia Register* and post the solicitation to its website. In addition, DOEE will email the solicitation to any grant partners and stakeholders who DOEE believes may be interested. This solicitation will request applications for four categories of work: Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure Projects, Sewage Infrastructure Projects, Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects, and Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects.

All categories of work may contribute to the achievement or maintenance of compliance with the enforceable requirements of the CWA as well as goals of other District environmental initiatives. Generally, enforceable requirements are limitations or conditions contained in permits issued under the NPDES program, including the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4), DC Water's Blue Plains permit, and the Multi-Sector General Permit, and enforceable orders.

### (1) Sewage Infrastructure Projects

Sewage Infrastructure Projects include work on devices or systems that collect liquid municipal wastes, including sanitary sewage and combined stormwater and sanitary sewage, convey waste waters to a central location, process such wastes to reduce the pollutant potential of those wastes, and provide for the disposal of residues or byproducts that result from treatment of those wastes.

Project examples include the following:

- New, expanded, or rehabilitated wastewater treatment works, including Biological Nutrient Removal;
- Infiltration/inflow correction;
- Replacement/rehabilitation of sanitary and/or storm sewers;

- Replacement/rehabilitation of collector, trunk, and interceptor sewers and of pumping stations;
- Combined sewer overflow abatement;
- Repair or replacement of damaged sanitary or combined sewer infrastructure that leaks untreated sewage into District waters;
- New, expanded, or rehabilitated sludge handling and disposal facilities;
- Water treatment plant filter backwash and sludge treatment; and
- Measures to reduce energy consumption for publicly-owned treatment works.

## (2) Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure Projects

Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure Projects are projects to mitigate substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, which are known or anticipated in the environment, that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. These substances, microorganisms, or materials can include many different types of natural or manufactured chemicals and substances—such as those in some compounds of personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics—as well as cyanobacteria, algal toxins or manganese. Due to their novel nature, pollutants addressed by this project category are not regulated under the NPDES program.

Project examples include the following:

- Planning studies to identify emerging contaminant issues and anticipated to lead to the construction of treatment works;
- New, expanded, or rehabilitated wastewater treatment works, including Biological Nutrient Removal;
- Combined sewer overflow abatement;
- Repair or replacement of damaged sanitary or combined sewer infrastructure that leaks untreated sewage into District waters;
- Any method, conveyance, equipment, or infrastructure used as part of a system for treating stormwater to remove pollutants; and
- Equipment to conduct and maintain filtration practices.

## (3) Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects

Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects are projects to prevent or reduce the discharge of stormwater pollution into the storm sewer, combined sewer, or District waterbodies from industrial activities at municipal facilities. Industrial activities require stormwater pollution prevention under the MSGP permit, the District's MS4 permit, or other NPDES permit.

Project examples include the following:

- Leachate pretreatment at municipal landfills and trash transfer stations;
- Infrastructure to prevent stormwater from coming into contact with contaminants; and
- Any method, conveyance, equipment, or infrastructure used as part of a system for treating stormwater to remove pollutants.

#### (4) Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects

Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects are projects to retain stormwater via infiltration, evapotranspiration, or harvesting for reuse and projects to protect, restore, or construct stream and wetland ecosystems.

Project examples include the following:

- Green streets;
- Permeable pavement;
- Bioretention;
- Green roofs;
- Cisterns for harvesting and reuse of stormwater;
- Street tree/urban forestry/tree box expansion;
- Downspout disconnection;
- Wetland restoration;
- Stream restoration and daylighting;
- Sustainable landscaping and site design;
- Other practices that mimic natural hydrology to provide a water quality benefit; and
- Equipment to maintain these practices, such as a vacuum-powered street sweeping of permeable pavers.

### **III. PROJECT EVALUATION AND SCORING**

DOEE will evaluate project applications for their contribution to protecting and enhancing water quality. Project applicants will identify the project category for which they are applying. For projects that may be eligible under more than one category, DOEE will determine the category into which it would fit best. Within each project category, applications will be ranked based on the total points awarded using the scoring criteria for the applicable category, published in this document. Projects that receive the highest score are the most needed, and therefore considered highest in priority for investment of public funding. Each project category has minimum eligibility requirements that a project must meet to proceed to scoring.

(1) Sewage Infrastructure Project Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

- Budget includes at least \$250,000 in Clean Water Construction-eligible costs;
- Project contributes to the achievement, maintenance, or compliance with the enforceable requirements of the CWA;
- Project site is publicly-owned and located in the District of Columbia;
- Application includes proof of permission from the property owner;
- Project must include construction; however, funds can also be used for design;
- Application includes a feasible plan for maintenance of the structure, restoration, or planting that ensures continuing functionality;
- Application must present a project that can be completed within three-years; alternatively, the project can be broken into phases that are funded consecutively, with each being completed within a three-year time period<sup>5</sup>;
- Projects must be voluntary and as such, cannot be used to meet the stormwater management requirements of 21 DCMR Chapter 5; and
- Application must identify the planned source and amount of non-federal matching funds to be used for the project.

(2) Sewage Infrastructure Project Scoring Criteria

All projects meeting the minimum eligibility requirements will be scored according to the criteria. The points shown for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion. Reviewers award points for each criterion based on the degree to which the project application satisfies that criterion.

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<sup>5</sup> DOEE, in coordination with EPA, may allow extensions in circumstances where delays or adverse conditions impair the funding recipient's ability to produce outputs in the original award period of the grant, and where milestones for work to complete outputs are identified.



Sewage Infrastructure Project Scoring Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
<b>Project feasibility (40%)</b>	
Organization/agency has successfully completed and maintained a project similar to the proposed project	10
Team managing project has the technical qualifications and direct experience to effectively manage the proposed project	10
Organization/agency has experience with District or federal government agency construction contracting requirements and grant reporting requirements	10
Organization/agency has experience with District and/or federal permitting processes, as applicable	10
<b>Cost effectiveness (15%)</b>	
Project is cost-effective relative to other projects with similar scope (i.e., project produces significant water quality benefits for the cost of project)	10
Project application identifies a non-DOEE source of match (i.e., applicant match contribution frees DOEE local revenues for use on additional voluntary water quality construction projects)	5
<b>Project scope (35%)</b>	
Project meets an NPDES permit requirement	5
Project improves energy efficiency or pollutant removal efficiency of wastewater treatment process	10
Project improves operational reliability of wastewater treatment devices and systems	10
Project prevents polluted discharges from entering District waters	10
<b>Innovation and transferability (10%)</b>	
Project uses new technology or new application of technology that could add to the available alternatives for meeting clean water goals	5
Project may produce a method, finding, design, or device that is likely to be adopted by a subsequent water quality project and that provides an increased water quality benefit to the District	5
<b>Maximum Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

(3) Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Project Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

- Budget includes at least \$250,000 in Clean Water Construction-eligible costs;
- Project contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Clean Water Act, to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the District’s waters;
- Project site is publicly owned and located in the District of Columbia;
- Application includes proof of permission from the property owner;
- Project must include construction; however, funds can also be used for design OR a planning study anticipated to lead to construction;
- Application includes a feasible plan for maintenance of the structure, restoration, or planting that ensures continuing functionality;
- Application must present a project that can be completed within three-years. Alternatively, the project can be broken into phases that are funded consecutively, with each being completed within a three-year time period<sup>6</sup>; and
- Projects must be voluntary, and as such, cannot be used to meet the stormwater management requirements of 21 DCMR Chapter 5;

(4) Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Project Scoring Criteria

All projects meeting the minimum eligibility requirements will be scored according to the criteria. The points shown for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion. Reviewers award points for each criterion based on the degree to which the project application satisfies that criterion.

Stormwater Emerging Contaminants Project Scoring Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
<b>Project feasibility (30%)</b>	
Organization/agency has successfully completed and maintained a project similar to the proposed project OR implemented a similar planning study.	5
Organization/agency has experience with District and/or federal permitting processes, as applicable	5
Team managing project has the technical qualifications and direct experience to effectively manage the proposed project	5
Organization/agency has experience with District or federal government agency contracting and grant reporting requirements	5

<sup>6</sup> DOEE, in coordination with EPA, may allow extensions in circumstances where delays or adverse conditions impair the funding recipient’s ability to produce outputs in the original award period of the grant, and where milestones for work to complete outputs are identified.

Project has the support of District residents, businesses, and agencies involved in or affected by the proposed project	5
Project development exceeds conceptual designs, which may include ground truthing, utility surveys, and sixty percent designs (or equivalent measures for projects that do not require these actions)	5
<b>Cost effectiveness (40%)</b>	
Project is cost-effective relative to other projects with similar scope (i.e., project produces significant water quality benefits for the cost of project)	10
Project will lead to or directly mitigate PFAS and/or novel substances or organisms recognized as meeting EPA’s “emerging” definition	30
<b>District environmental initiatives (20%)</b>	
Project benefits a District Priority Watershed <sup>7</sup>	5
Project contributes towards DOEE’s equity and environmental justice initiative	5
Project provides a green jobs training benefit to District residents	5
Elements of project supports goals of other District environmental initiatives (i.e., Sustainable DC Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, etc.)	5
<b>Innovation and transferability (10%)</b>	
Project uses new technology or new application of technology that could add to the available alternatives for meeting clean water goals	5
Project may produce a method, finding, design, or device that is likely to be adopted by a subsequent water quality project and that provides an increased water quality benefit to the District	5
<b>Maximum Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>7</sup> A list of District Priority Watersheds will be accessible to CWC Project applicants through a link to DOEE’s website or as an attachment to the published new project application request.

(5) Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Project Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

- Budget includes at least \$250,000 in Clean Water Construction-eligible costs;
- Project contributes to the achievement, maintenance, or compliance with the enforceable requirements of the CWA;
- Project site is publicly owned and located in the District of Columbia;
- Application includes proof of permission from the property owner;
- Project contributes to achievement, maintenance, or compliance with the enforceable requirements of the CWA;
- Project must include construction; however, funds can also be used for design;
- Application includes a feasible plan for maintenance of the structure, restoration, or planting that ensures continuing functionality;
- Application must present a project that can be completed within three-years. Alternatively, the project can be broken into design and construction phases that are funded consecutively, with each being completed within a three-year time period<sup>8</sup>;
- Projects must be voluntary, and as such, cannot be used to meet the stormwater management requirements of 21 DCMR Chapter 5; and
- Application must identify the planned source and amount of non-federal matching funds to be used for the project.

(6) Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Project Scoring Criteria

All projects meeting the minimum eligibility requirements will be scored according to the criteria. The points shown for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion. Reviewers award points for each criterion based on the degree to which the project application satisfies that criterion.

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<sup>8</sup> DOEE, in coordination with EPA, may allow extensions in circumstances where delays or adverse conditions impair the funding recipient's ability to produce outputs in the original award period of the grant, and where milestones for work to complete outputs are identified.

Stormwater Grey Project Scoring Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
<b>Project feasibility (30%)</b>	
Organization/agency has successfully completed and maintained a project similar to the proposed project	5
Organization/agency has experience with District and/or federal permitting processes, as applicable	5
Team managing project has the technical qualifications and direct experience to effectively manage the proposed project	5
Organization/agency has experience with District or federal government agency construction contracting requirements and grant reporting requirements	5
Project has the support of District residents, businesses, and agencies involved in or affected by the proposed project	5
Project development exceeds conceptual designs, which may include ground truthing, utility surveys, and sixty percent designs (or equivalent measures for projects that do not require these actions)	5
<b>Cost effectiveness (20%)</b>	
Project is cost-effective relative to other projects with similar scope (i.e., project produces significant water quality benefits for the cost of project)	5
Project application identifies a non-DOEE source of match (i.e., applicant match contribution frees DOEE local revenues for use on additional voluntary water quality construction projects)	15
<b>NPDES permit category (20%)</b>	
Project contributes to meeting an MS4 permit requirement	10
Project contributes to meeting a Multi-Sector General Permit requirement	10
<b>District environmental initiatives (20%)</b>	
Project benefits a District Priority Watershed <sup>9</sup>	5
Project contributes towards DOEE's equity and environmental justice initiative	5
Project provides a green jobs training benefit to District residents	5
Elements of project supports goals of other District environmental initiatives (i.e., Sustainable DC Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, etc.)	5

<sup>9</sup> A list of District Priority Watersheds will be accessible to CWC Project applicants through a link to DOEE's website or as an attachment to the published new project application request.

<b>Innovation and transferability (10%)</b>	
Project uses new technology or new application of technology that could add to the available alternatives for meeting clean water goals	5
Project may produce a method, finding, design, or device that is likely to be adopted by a subsequent water quality project and that provides an increased water quality benefit to the District	5
<b>Maximum Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

(7) Stormwater Green Infrastructure Project Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

- Budget includes at least \$250,000 in Clean Water Construction-eligible costs;
- Project contributes to the achievement, maintenance, or compliance with the enforceable requirements of the CWA;
- Project site is publicly owned and located in the District of Columbia;
- Project must reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and/or enhance habitats which protect or improve water quality;
- Projects must be voluntary, and as such, cannot be used to meet the stormwater management requirements of 21 DCMR Chapter 5;
- Application includes proof of permission from the property owner;
- Project must include construction; however, funds can also be used for planning, survey, design, permitting, project-related outreach, and educational signage;
- Application must present a project that can be completed within three-years; alternatively, the project can be broken into design and construction phases, with each being completed within a three-year time period<sup>10</sup>;
- Application must include a feasible plan for maintenance of the structure, restoration, or planting that ensures continuing functionality; and
- Application must identify the planned source and amount of non-federal matching funds to be used for the project.

(8) Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects Scoring Criteria

All projects meeting the minimum eligibility requirements will be scored according to the criteria. The points shown for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion. Reviewers award points for each criterion based on the degree to which the project application satisfies that criterion.

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<sup>10</sup> DOEE, in coordination with EPA, may allow extensions in circumstances where delays or adverse conditions impair the funding recipient's ability to produce outputs in the original award period of the grant, and where milestones for work to complete outputs are identified.

Stormwater Green Infrastructure Project Scoring Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
<b>Project feasibility (30%)</b>	
Organization/agency has successfully completed and maintained a project similar to the proposed project	5
Organization/agency has experience with District and/or federal permitting processes, as applicable	5
Team managing project has the technical qualifications and direct experience to effectively manage the proposed project	5
Organization/agency has experience with District or federal government agency construction contracting requirements and grant reporting requirements	5
Project has the support of District residents, businesses, and agencies involved in or affected by the proposed project	5
Project development exceeds conceptual designs (30%), which may include ground truthing, utility surveys, and sixty percent designs (or equivalent measures for projects that do not require these actions)	5
<b>Cost effectiveness (20%)</b>	
Project is cost-effective relative to other projects with similar scope (i.e., project produces significant water quality benefits for the cost of project)	5
Project application identifies a non-DOEE source of match (i.e., applicant match contribution frees DOEE local revenues for use on additional voluntary water quality construction projects)	15
<b>NPDES permit category (20%)</b>	
Project contributes to meeting an MS4 permit requirement	10
Project contributes to meeting a Multi-Sector General Permit requirement	10
<b>District environmental initiatives (20%)</b>	
Project benefits a District Priority Watershed <sup>11</sup>	5
Project contributes towards DOEE's equity and environmental justice initiative	5
Project provides a green jobs training benefit to District residents	5
Elements of project support goals of other District environmental initiatives (i.e., Sustainable DC Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, etc.)	5

<sup>11</sup> A list of District Priority Watersheds will be accessible to CWC Project applicants through a link to DOEE's website or as an attachment to the published new project application request.

<b>Innovation and transferability (10%)</b>	
Project uses new technology or new application of technology that could add to the available alternatives for meeting clean water goals	5
Project will produce a method, finding, design, or device that is likely to be adopted by a subsequent water quality project and that provides an increased water quality benefit to the District	5
<b>Maximum Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **IV. PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

The PPL is an inventory of potential projects that are eligible for funding through the CWC program. All projects that are proposed to DOEE through the CWC project solicitation are vetted for minimum eligibility, scored, and then placed on the PPL. The PPL presents the projects in four lists – one for each project category. Within each category, projects are listed in descending order by rank based on the total points awarded using the scoring criteria. Each project listing displays relevant information about the project, including rank, average score, project name, applicant, project category, the total cost, the portion of the cost that will be requested from EPA, and the portion of the cost that will be paid for with local matching funds. For each newly updated PPL, DOEE will provide an opportunity for public involvement, which allows stakeholders to become aware of and provide input on the District’s determination of project scoring and ranking.

##### **A. Public Comment**

DOEE will solicit public comment on each newly updated PPL by publishing notice of the public comment period in the District Register and on the DOEE website, and by providing the draft PPL on the DOEE website. DOEE will also email the notice directly to CWC stakeholders, and provide the PPL in hard copy, upon request. All relevant comments will be considered when finalizing the PPL.

##### **B. PPL Public Hearing**

DOEE will also provide an opportunity for public comment through a public hearing. DOEE will accomplish this in the following way:

- Schedule a public hearing on the PPL to be held prior to the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective;
- Advertise the public hearing to the general public through the District Register, to DOEE stakeholders, and to parties which DOEE believes would be affected or potentially interested;
- Convene and document the public hearing; and



- Submit to EPA a summary of public comments received and DOEE actions taken in response to those comments.

#### C. Substantive Changes to the PPL

DOEE will solicit public comments and hold a public hearing on substantive changes to the PPL. Changes are substantive when they alter the likelihood that a project or projects on the annual PPL will receive funding. Two examples of substantive changes include (1) the addition of new projects to the PPL or (2) changes in the SRF Project Priority Rating System, which require existing projects on the PPL to be re-ranked. Non-substantive changes do not alter the likelihood that projects identified on the annual PPL will receive funding. Correction of a typographical error is an example of a non-substantive change.

#### D. EPA Review and Acceptance of PPL

DOEE will submit the final PPL and any finalized substantive changes to the PPL to EPA for review and acceptance. This is EPA's opportunity to voice any concern it may have about the PPL. DOEE will address those concerns to the mutual satisfaction of DOEE and EPA.

### **V. PROCEDURE FOR IDENTIFYING PPL PROJECTS TO PROPOSE FOR FUNDING**

In the second year of the CWC grant application cycle, EPA notifies DOEE of the amount of funding allocated to the District for the next grant award. DOEE uses the PPL to identify the most highly-ranked projects that are ready to proceed. DOEE determines the number of projects to fund by considering the amount of funding available, the number of projects identified as ready to proceed, and DOEE's capacity to oversee projects. DOEE then submits a grant application to EPA to fund implementation of the selected project set.

#### A. New Phases to Existing Projects

Ongoing projects deemed ready to begin a new phase of work will receive priority over new projects.

#### B. Rank Order

At the time of application to the CWC grant, DOEE shall propose to fund the highest priority projects from the PPL that is applicable to that grant funding cycle, in order of rank, unless a project is bypassed as described below.

#### C. Tied Scores

DOEE will resolve a case of tied scores by comparing each project's potential to maximize the benefit to District waterbodies. This will be done by comparing the

averages of the scoring criteria for a project's feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

#### D. Readiness to Proceed

In preparation for application to the applicable fiscal year CWC grant, DOEE will email each applicant the following questions to determine the project's readiness to proceed:

1. Will the proposed project be ready to start work within six months after the start of the applicable fiscal year;
2. Should the proposed project be funded in phases to ensure that the work is complete and funds are fully expended within the time period of the applicable grant;
3. If the project will be completed in phases, what portion of the requested funding should apply to the applicable phase;
4. Has the local match for the project been acquired and is it available for use in the grant time period; and
5. Have there been changes to key members of the project team identified in the application? If so, please provide a brief biography or resume for the team members who have or will replace them, including, for future team members, timing for when they will be available.

DOEE will require applicants to respond to these questions in writing within ten business days of inquiry. DOEE will evaluate each applicant's response, and if necessary, ask follow-up questions to determine if the proposed project is ready to proceed.

#### E. Project Bypass Criteria

When a highly ranked project on the PPL will not be ready to proceed during the fiscal year in which funding is made available, the next lower-ranked project that is ready to proceed may be funded. The project must be from the same category. Any project which is bypassed will maintain its numerical project rank and will be eligible for inclusion in a future application for CWC funds.

#### F. Project Reinstatement

If a project that has been bypassed through this procedure can be made ready for funding during a current fiscal year, the bypassed project may be reinstated for funding during the current fiscal year if sufficient funds become available.

#### G. Project Removal

DOEE may remove a project from the PPL if it is no longer feasible or it will no longer provide a reasonably efficient water quality benefit (e.g., innovations in technology or changes in market rates cause the proposed project to be a poor investment). In this circumstance, DOEE will notify the applicant by email of the intent to remove a project

and the reason for the decision. The applicant will have ten business days to provide evidence that the project is actually feasible and efficient. If after review of new evidence, the assessment stands, DOEE may then remove the project from the PPL.

## **VI. FUNDING ALLOCATION AMONG PROJECT CATEGORIES**

Following notification from EPA of the level of Congressional appropriation for capitalization grant award under Title VI (Clean Water State Revolving Fund) for the upcoming federal fiscal year, DOEE will propose an allocation of those federal funds between project categories.

DOEE will determine the funding split between project categories as follows:

### **Green, Grey, and Sewage Infrastructure**

- DOEE will identify all the Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects and Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects on the PPL that are ready to proceed and ongoing projects that require additional funds for their next phase;
- DOEE will determine project suitability based on DOEE's capacity to administer the projects, the needs of the MS4 permit, availability of local matching funding, federal and District equitable justice requirements, and the current water quality priorities of the District;
- DOEE will sum the federal portion of the cost for the set of ongoing Grey and Green Infrastructure Projects that are ready to proceed into an additional phase;
- DOEE will sum the federal portion of the cost for the set of the most highly-ranked Stormwater Grey and Green Infrastructure Projects from the PPL that are ready to proceed, and that will be the proposed Stormwater Grey and Green Infrastructure Project funding request<sup>12</sup>; and
- The remainder of the SRF funding allocation is the proposed Sewage Infrastructure Project funding request.

### **Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure**

The Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure Projects allotment is restricted to projects on the Emerging Contaminants Infrastructure PPL. Thus, DOEE will identify and prioritize all projects on the PPL that are ready to proceed and ongoing projects in need of an additional funding phase. DOEE will then sum the cost for the set of projects identified as ready to proceed. DOEE will then award the allotment to ongoing projects in need of an additional funding phase and those most highly ranked projects deemed suitable based on its capacity to administer the projects, federal and District equitable justice requirements, and the current water quality priorities of the District.

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<sup>12</sup> The presentation of the calculation of the federal cost of Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects before Stormwater Green Infrastructure Projects in this list should not be interpreted as putting a higher priority on Stormwater Grey Infrastructure Projects.

## **VII. CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING REALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

Funding may become available when a funded project has lower than expected costs, which can come from changes in the scope of work or expiration of the grant period. To prevent the loss of funding, DOEE will reallocate or transfer those funds to another project funded by the same grant award if that project has a justifiable need for increased funding. In addition, DOEE may allow funding of projects that remain on the PPL by following the procedure for identifying PPL projects to propose for funding. This may also include transferring funds between categories to projects DOEE believes to be highest in priority. DOEE will only reallocate funds to projects that are able to be completed within the federal grant award period.

If DOEE determines that a reallocation is necessary, it will present EPA with an amended work plan that shows the new set of projects to be funded through the grant. EPA must approve this amended work plan before it goes into effect. The reallocation will become effective upon the date that EPA notifies DOEE that the amended work plan has been accepted.

## **VIII. FUTURE REVISIONS TO THE CLEAN WATER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM PROJECT PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM**

For each newly updated PPRS, DOEE will provide an opportunity for public involvement. This allows stakeholders to become aware of and provide input on the process by which the District chooses projects for inclusion in applications to EPA's Clean Water Construction grants.

### **A. Public Comment**

DOEE will solicit public comment on each newly updated PPRS by publishing notice of the public comment period in the District Register and on the DOEE website and by posting the draft PPRS on the DOEE website. DOEE will also email the notice directly to CWC stakeholders and provide the PPRS in hard copy upon request. All relevant comments or outcomes from a public hearing will be considered when finalizing the PPRS.

### **B. PPRS Public Hearing**

DOEE will also provide an opportunity for the public to comment through a public hearing. DOEE will accomplish this in the following way:

- DOEE will schedule a public hearing on the revised PPRS;
- DOEE will advertise the public hearing to the general public through the District Register, to DOEE stakeholders, and to parties which DOEE believes would be affected or potentially interested;

- DOEE will convene and record the public hearing; and
- DOEE will submit to EPA a summary of public comment received and DOEE actions taken in response to those comments.

#### C. EPA Review and Acceptance of PPRS

DOEE will submit the final draft of the revised PPRS to EPA for review and acceptance before using it for a cycle of project solicitation, ranking, and funding. The effective date of this document will be the date EPA notifies the District of an approved PPRS.