

PROGRAM 5 – Alaska Clean Water Actions

DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Conservation

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) Program, under the Federal Clean Water Act, creates a cooperative method to collect information and direct resources to prevent or correct water quality problems. It also provides an avenue to identify areas where pollution prevention and watershed planning efforts are encouraged to protect or improve water quality. This effort helps address water quality problems in a holistic manner by fully assessing the potential contributing causes and sources of pollution, then prioritizing restoration and protection strategies to address these problems.

Activity included supports a wide variety of activities such as technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects. State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) submits their proposed funding plans to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.

II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

The funding for this program includes Federal Assistance Listing Numbers (ALN):

- 66.468 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Implementation Grants. The required match is either provided by the sub-awardee or by state General Funds.
- 66.472 Beach Monitoring and Notification Program Implementation Grants. These funds are one hundred percent Federal and there are no state funds contributed.
- 66.447 Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program. The required match for these grants varies per federal award and can be dependent on whether a sub-awardee is a disadvantaged community. The identified match is either provided by the sub-awardee or by state General Funds.

Every other year DEC conducts a call for proposals, interested entities must submit a grant application to DEC. A team of evaluators reviews the applications and determines the amount of each subaward. Grants are distributed over 24 months, spanning three fiscal years.

After application review and determination, a grant offer is made to the sub-awardee. Division of Water makes payments based upon the payment schedule established for each ACWA grant. This payment schedule is included within the grant agreement. The assigned DEC Project Manager provides technical assistance and oversees the project. After the project is complete, receipt of deliverables is confirmed, a final reconciliation of all reported match and expenses is performed, and the grant is closed.

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DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Conservation

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND SUGGESTED AUDIT PROCEDURES

A. TYPES OF SERVICES ALLOWED AND UNALLOWED -

Compliance Requirement:

2 CFR 200 Cost Principles apply. Grant funds can be expended only for those budgeted items specifically detailed in the grant agreement for each line item unless DEC has approved a request to modify the approved budget. Review to compare grant agreement, related project records, and expenditures.

Statutory Laws: Clean Water Act, BEACH Act, Davis Bacon Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Environmental Education Act

Regulatory Laws: Title 2 CFR part 200 and 1500, 40 CFR parts 2, 7, 29, 34, 35, and 50 CFR Part 85.

Allowable costs are included in the grant agreement and may include: salaries and benefits, travel and per diem, supplies, contractual, equipment, and other direct costs incurred as a result of the project, and indirect costs of the grantee.

Suggested Audit Procedures:

Review grant agreement to determine if:

- a) Expense is necessary, reasonable, and allowable; and
- b) Documentation is mathematically accurate and supports the expense.

B. ELIGIBILITY -

Projects must involve activities related to the implementation of NPS water pollution prevention or reduction. All projects must be consistent with the ACWA Request for Proposals Action Categories. Projects identified to be funded by the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant may only be awarded to Municipal Governments.

C. MATCHING, LEVEL OF EFFORT, AND/OR EARMARKING REQUIREMENTS -

The matching requirement is determined in the grant agreement.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS –

Compliance Requirements:

Grantees must satisfy several specific requirements detailed under the section of the grant titled, General Conditions, including the various reporting requirements detailed in the grant agreement. However, the reporting

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DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Conservation

requirements may be altered by the department if no activity has occurred for the project.

Suggested Audit Procedures:

- a) Review grantee's records to determine whether the requirements of the Grant Conditions have been satisfied and appropriate reports have been submitted as required; and
- b) Obtain copies of submitted financial reports to review for completeness and timeliness.

E. Tests And Provisions –

Compliance Requirement: The agreement specifies the reporting requirements that must be satisfied.

Suggested Audit Procedure:

Review grant award to determine if any special test and provisions are required and ensure entity is in compliance with these requirements.