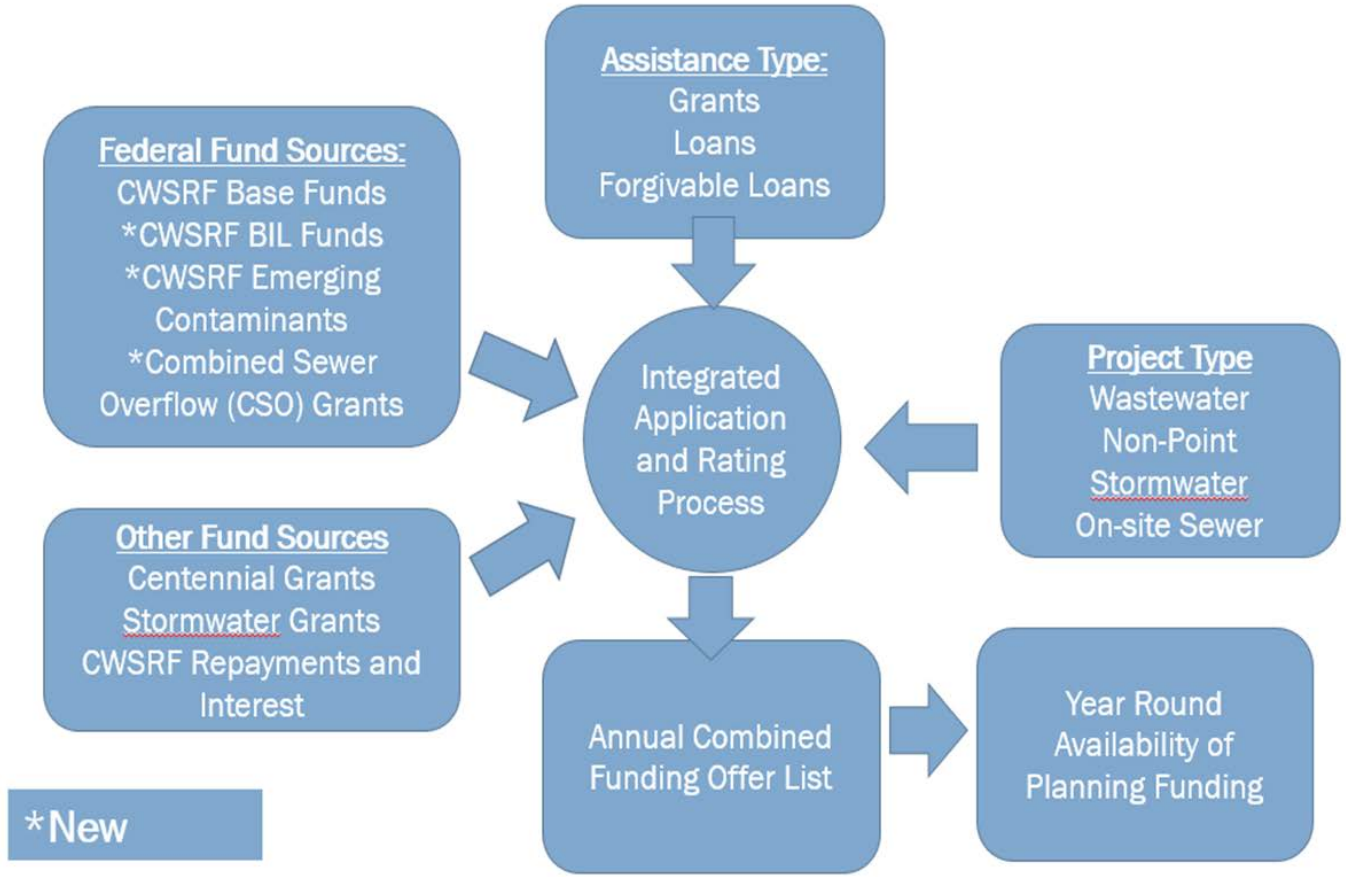
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Funding for Emerging Contaminants

Jeff Nejedly - Water Quality Program (WQP)

Water Quality Combined Funding Program



- Multiple water quality project types
- Multiple funding sources
- One application and offer list/ IUP
  - Water quality combined - Washington State Department of Ecology
- Added Emerging Contaminant $ to CWSRF
  - $5.3M from FFY22+23 (SFY24 List awarded July 2023)
  - $4.5M from FFY24 (SFY25 List- will be awarded July 2024)

BIL CWSRF Emerging Contaminants Fund

Identifying EC projects for priority funding – focus on best use of FFY22 & 23 funds

- Review of EC eligible projects on the SFY24 List
- No obvious wastewater but numerous stormwater treatment project options
  - 6PPD-q had identified as an emerging contaminant with direct impacts on endangered salmon
  - Numerous projects implementing bioretention BMPs
    - Identified as likely effective in removing 6PPD and other contaminants

Seattle Public Utilities – Thornton Creek

- How the stars aligned for funding the Thornton Creek Project
  - Requested $12M in CWSRF loan – EC eligible per EPA approval
  - Awarded SPU the available FFY22+23 $5.3M EC funds plus standard CWSRF loan
  - Award allowed us to apply for the full 22+23 EC federal grant avoiding any risk of losing the FFY22 funds
  - SPU could address the federal requirements
    - Since design was nearly complete, took a team effort to get all approvals prior to SPU going to bid
  - BABA adjustment period design waiver

Status: Project has just started construction

Seattle Public Utilities – Thornton Creek

- Installation of 43 natural drainage systems (bioretention cells) - Thornton Creek Basin.
- Remove pollutants from stormwater before reaching Thornton Creek.
- Provide treatment for total suspended solids (TSS), oil (total petroleum hydrocarbons), PCBs, dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, and total phosphorus.
- According to best available science, these the bioretention cells have a high probability of treating emerging contaminants including 6PPD-quinone.
- This project is expected to directly reduce the total volume and concentration of emerging contaminants. Methods to quantify removal rates for these engineered BMPs are currently under development.

Future Use of EC Funds

- Our current applicant list includes a request to purchase lab equipment specific to support analytical methods for Emerging Contaminants
  - Needs further evaluation for eligibility and funding priority
- Pilot test wastewater treatment methods technologies for EC removal
  - Projects implementing WWTP technologies with co-benefits for reducing nutrients and EC's in wastewater. The new Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit may require more advanced technology at a WWTP for nutrient removal. Many of these technologies can reduce emerging contaminants as well.
  - Concern that EC funds will run out before much progress can be made in this area. Many WWTP's have not planned for removing emerging contaminants due to affordability and lack of regulation in discharge permits. Projects are not "shovel ready"

Thank you!

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