GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROJECT PRIORITY SYSTEM

PURPOSE

The District of Columbia (DC) receives Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) allocations for use in a Construction Grants program. SRF provides funding for the construction of municipal wastewater facilities and implementation of nonpoint source pollution control and estuary protection projects. The District of Columbia Project Priority Rating System (DC PPRS) describes the process of how available Federal construction grant funding will be directed to make effective use of the limited available funding. Through the process, projects identified for implementation should have the potential to achieve the highest return in terms of attainment of water quality standards and protection of the public health for the residents and visitors to the District of Columbia.

AUTHORITY

Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award capitalization grants to states for the purpose of establishing a CWA State Revolving fund. Legislative provisions in several EPA Appropriation Acts allow DC to receive its capitalization allotment as Title II grants for any activities eligible to receive funding under Title VI.[1]

OVERVIEW

The DC PPRS incorporates several elements: (1) an allocation of available funding; (2) an evaluation of projects; (3) the development of a list of projects for funding; (4) the solicitation of public comment; and (5) the identification of circumstances when lower priority projects may be advanced for funding.

I. ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDING

Function: DC will annually review and allocate its available funding to the uses it wishes to

[1] Legislative provision in Public Laws 101-144 and 101-302 allow the single-government entities of the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific trust territories to receive their 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 and Title VI-eligible activity. All projects are funded at 55% Federal grant share (45% local cost share). To the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of Title VI, the provisions and requirements of Title II apply to project and program made to DC pursuant to these legislative authorities.

support. Eligible categories are treatment works and nonpoint source projects, as well as state administration and construction management of project grants. The allocation represents the financial resources needed to address water quality issues facing DC.

A. Determination of available Federal Funding:

By February 28 of each calendar year, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) will estimate the amount of Federal construction grant funding which will be available for award to grants during the next Federal fiscal year. That estimate will incorporate: (1) unobligated Federal funds which are currently available for award to grants pursuant to Titles II and VI of the CWA; (2) additional grant funds which are expected to be deobligated during the current fiscal year and made available for award to grants during the next fiscal year; (3) the estimated amount which DC would receive based upon the anticipated level of Congressional appropriation for capitalization grant award under Title VI for the upcoming fiscal year; and (4) anticipated obligations to grants before the end of the current Federal fiscal year.

B. Distribution of Federal Funds:

The allocation represents a targeting of available financial resources to support the projects which address water quality goals and objectives which have been determined highest in priority in DC. As such, the allocation will draw upon current and ongoing DC planning mechanisms[2] which identify the water quality problems, the sources and causes of those problems, and activities which reduce or eliminate the problems. The allocation may also support projects which are necessary to meet ongoing and upcoming permit requirements.

DDOE will propose a tentative allocation of anticipated available Federal funds among the principal categories of activities which to be support. The principal categories are: (1) Section 212 treatment works projects, (2) Section 319 nonpoint source activities, and (3) administration of DC's construction grant program, which includes oversight of construction activities associated with the project grants. DDOE may also allocate funds to subcategories within each category. Within the nonpoint source allocation, for example, funds may be targeted to support key watershed areas, or priority water quality standard issues such as sedimentation, floatables, or nutrients.

Funds which are allocated to categories of activities will be available for award to any eligible use within that category. Cross category transfer of funds may occur only if the situation meets the criteria for reallocation of funds.

II. EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

DDOE will solicit comment on its tentative allocation of funding from the principal potential

[2] These include the DC Nonpoint Source Management Plan, DC Section 319 Watershed Implementation Plans, DC Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan, DC Integrated (305(b)) Reports, Anacostia Toxics Action Strategy, and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

applicants for the funding and negotiate any concerns or objections prior to solicitation of public comment on the annual Project Priority List (PPL). The allocation of funds will become final with EPA's acceptance of the PPL for the next Federal fiscal year.

A. Solicitation of Pre-Listing Information

Each calendar year, DDOE will contact known potential applicants for projects grants and solicit pre-application information which DDOE will use in its evaluation of projects for funding in the next Federal fiscal year. DDOE will also solicit information regarding new projects which potential applicants wish to be added to the current fiscal year PPL. DDOE will contact potential applicants in October, to assure that DDOE will receive pre-listing information by February 28. Pre-listing information for each project should attempt to cover the areas on which projects will be evaluated.

B. Eligible Projects

Eligible project activities include: (1) planning, design, and construction of publicly owned treatment works on a priority list developed pursuant to CWA Section 216; and (2) implementation of nonpoint source capital improvements consistent with a US EPA approved DC Nonpoint Source Management Plan and watershed implementation plans, which are developed pursuant to Section 319 of CWA[3] ;(3) development and implementation of a conservation and management plan under Section 320 of the CWA[3]; and (4) green infrastructure, water efficiency improvements, energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities as described by the Green Project Reserve project eligibility guidance pursuant to P.L. 111-88. Projects should protect or restore water quality. Where activities provide both water quality and other benefits, only the portion which benefits water quality may receive grant funding.

1. Examples of Eligible Section 212 Treatment Works Projects

"Treatment works" is defined in Section 212 of CWA. Generally, treatment works are devices or systems which: (1) collect liquid municipal wastes (including but not limited to storm water runoff, industrial wastewaters, and wastes in combined storm water and sanitary sewer systems), and convey them to a central location, and (2) process such wastes to reduce the pollutant potential of those wastes, and provide for the ultimate disposal of residues or byproducts which result from treatment of those wastes.

Treatment works projects must contribute directly to the achievement, or maintenance, of compliance with the enforceable requirements of CWA. Generally, enforceable requirements are limitations or conditions contained in permits (NPDES or MS4) or enforceable orders.

[3] Although activities related to the development and implementation of an estuary conservation and management plan pursuant to Section 320 of CWA could also be funded, DC is not currently required to develop such a plan. If DC should ever be required to develop an estuary conservation and management plan pursuant to Section 320 of CWA, the DC PPRS will be revised to include and address those eligible projects.

Examples include:

- New, expanded or rehabilitated wastewater treatment plants including Biological Nutrient Removal
- Infiltration/inflow correction
- Replacement/rehabilitation of sanitary and/or storm sewers
- Collector, trunk and interceptor sewers, pumping stations [44]
- Combined sewer overflow abatement
- Septage receiving and handling facilities
- Sludge handling and disposal facilities
- Water treatment plant filter backwash & sludge treatment
- Leachate pretreatment at municipal landfills
- End-of-pipe treatment facilities which are required by an MS4 permit for municipal separate storm sewers prior to discharge into a waterbody, such as the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, or Rock Creek and their associated tributaries

Potential projects will be evaluated for their individual contribution towards restoring and protecting the water quality and meeting the health requirements of the CWA. Pursuant to Section 216 of CWA, the evaluation of treatment works projects will include a numerical scoring using the criteria contained in the DC PPRS.

2. Examples of Eligible Nonpoint Source Projects

Nonpoint source refers broadly to water pollution from sources that are not directly related to a piped discharge. This encompasses polluted runoff such as urban runoff and agricultural runoff. To be eligible for grant funding, such projects must be included in DC's Nonpoint Source Management Plan and consistent with Section 319 watershed implementation plans.. Examples of such projects include:

- Waterbody restoration that includes water quality improvements (e.g., stream bank stabilization, drainage erosion control, and sediment control)
- Restoration of riparian vegetation, wetlands, and other water bodies
- Aquatic habitat restoration and protection projects
- Repair of existing stormwater management facilities, or retrofit of new stormwater management facilities for communities that were developed prior to DC stormwater requirements. Examples of these include stormwater wet ponds, stormwater wetlands, infiltration practices, filter systems, stormwater harvest reuse practices, and open channel practices.
- Water quality protection components of municipally-owned brownfields and inactive

[4] Note that Section 211(c) of the CWA establishes limits on the use of allotments of Title II funding for treatment works for control of pollutant discharge from separate storm sewer systems. This limit does not apply to allotments under Title VI for capitalization grant award.

hazardous waste site remediation projects

- Device or controls in runoff collection area upstream of a piped discharge which reduce: (1) the impacts associated with increased flow, or (2) the physical or chemical pollutants which are conveyed to a waterbody, such as the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, or Rock Creek and their associated tributaries

III. DEVELOPMENT OF A LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

Development of the Project Priority List

Function: DDOE will annually develop a list of priority projects for funding. Treatment works project will be displayed on the PPL in descending order of priority. Nonpoint source projects will also be listed on the PPL in descending order of priority.

To be eligible for funding as Title II Construction Grants, proposed projects must be included on the PPL. DDOE will create a PPL, annually, and provide an opportunity for public participation prior to adopting the PPL as final. DDOE will submit the final PPL to EPA for review and acceptance before the beginning of the Federal fiscal year in which the PPL will be effective.

The PPL identifies potential projects which have been determined eligible for funding. The organization of the PPL will generally be consistent with DDOE's allocation of funding. Separate project categories will identify treatment works project and nonpoint source projects.[5] The PPL will include relevant information regarding the scope, schedule, and cost of each project.

Each project category will be separated into two portions: fundable and planning. Projects listed in the fundable portion will be those which are anticipated to be developed for funding during the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective. This means that there is a reasonable expectation that the project sponsor can complete the application requirements (planning, environmental review, public participation, and securing of the non-federal match) by July 1 of the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective.

If the projects which could be developed and funded exceed the amount of funds which are available for award, the fundable portion of the PPL may be further separated into two ranges: fundable and extended. The fundable range would contain the highest priority projects which are anticipated to receive funding based upon the amount of funds available during the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective. The extended range would contain projects which could be developed for funding, but cannot be funded due to insufficient available funds.

The planning portion of the PPL will consist of projects which are unlikely to be developed for funding during the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective, but may be developed for funding with future funding allotments.

---

[5]The nonpoint source project category may be subdivided into specific subcategories, if funding is to be targeted to specific geographic locations, or to sub-classifications of nonpoint source activities

Evaluation of Projects

Function: DDOE will evaluate potential for their contribution to protecting and enhancing water quality. The evaluation of treatment works projects will follow Section 216 and include the assignment of a numerical score. Projects which receive the highest score represent those which are needed most, and therefore considered highest in priority for investment of public funding. Federal grant funds provided through authorizations pursuant to title II or title VI of CWA must be made available first to the highest ranked projects. Nonpoint source projects will be evaluated based upon existing studies and reports which establish a connection between priority water quality issues and activities which will accomplish a reduction or elimination of those issues.

Projects must meet the following minimum program criteria in order to be rated and ranked for consideration for listing:

A. Evaluation of Treatment Works Projects

Treatment works projects will be displayed in descending order of the scoring assigned using the evaluation and scoring criteria of the DC PPRS. Individual projects will be approved for funding in order of their placement on the fundable portion of the PPL, from highest rank to lowest. Higher ranked projects may be bypassed and lower ranked projects approved for finding if the circumstances meet the criteria for project bypass or reallocation of funds.

1. Eligibility Threshold

Potential projects will be reviewed for their individual contribution towards achieving a direct water quality benefit. And thus, protect or improve water quality by meeting a water quality standard, or reducing or eliminating specific, existing water quality problems. Only projects or activities which have a high likelihood of achieving a water quality standard or reducing or eliminating an existing water quality problem will proceed to being included on the PPL. Nonpoint source projects will be evaluated using an evaluation sheet (attachment 2).

2. Readiness to Proceed Threshold in fiscal year

Project sponsor can complete application requirements by July 1 of PPL effective year .

3. Rating Criteria Procedures

Upon meeting the minimum program threshold, projects will be rated and ranked based on the following criteria:

(a) Water Quality Problem Addressed
(b) Project Category
(c) Water Quality Benefit
(d) Effectiveness of Investment
(e) Population Benefit
(f) Green Project Reserve Project

(a) Water Quality Problem Addressed (Existing condition which impairs water quality)

Points are awarded based upon the existing conditions which cause or caused an impairment of water quality. The proposed project can receive points up to the maximum value based on the severity of the problem.

- Raw Sewage Discharge - 10pts
  Any discharge to a receiving water of untreated sanitary sewage.

- Failing Onsite Sewage Disposal System - 5pts. Failing onsite sewage disposal system means a single system of sewers and piping, treatment tanks or other facilities, and disposal of sewage or individual wastes of a liquid nature in the soil of the property or into receiving waters that experience treatment or hydraulic failure. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as the local regulatory agency.

    - Documented Water Quality Degradation - 5pts
    - Other - 3pts
- Untreated/uncontrolled runoff - 5pts Untreated/uncontrolled runoff means stormwater runoff from areas such as homes, buildings, roads, parks, gardens parking lots, resulting in flooding of local streams, erosion of stream banks, or increased pollutant transport. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as DDOE.
    - Documented Water Quality Degradation. (Pathogenic impact) - 5pts
    - Documented Water Quality Degradation. (Non-pathogenic. impacts) - 3pts
    - Other (e.g. Undocumented Water Quality Degradation.) - 2pts

- Impaired Performance of Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) - 5pts Reliability of current unit processes, or obsolescence of equipment is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of an existing publicly owned treatment works, equipment, structure, machinery, and any apparatus which is used or operated for the storage, collection, treatment, neutralization, stabilization, reduction, recycling, reclamation, separation, disposal of sanitary or combined sewerage.
    - Impaired Performance of Collection System/Pump Station - 1pt
- Obsolescence of apparatus or structure is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of existing publicly owned sewers, equipment , and structures which and convey sanitary or combined sewerage to a WWTF.

    - Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) - 5pts. The discharge, which occurs after a storm event, of untreated wastewater carrying both raw sewage and stormwater from the sewer system into surface waters. The overflow occurs because the WWTF lacks enough hydraulic capacity to transport, store, or treat the increased volume of water caused by the storm event.
    - Landfill Discharge - 3pts. Landfill Discharge is the uncontrolled discharge of liquid leachate or seepage into surface water or groundwater from a landfill composed of nonhazardous wastes and/or sludge.

- Materials Storage Area Runoff - 3pts. Materials Storage Area Runoff is the uncontrolled discharge of contaminates or wastes of a nature into surface water or groundwater from a any pile impoundment, compound, material storage facility.
- Sub-surface Discharge - 2pts
- Non-sanitary wastewater (Industrial) - 2pts
- Stormwater only - 1pt. Sub-surface Discharge is any untreated stormwater or industrial discharge beneath the surface of the ground (e.g. infiltration basins, detention ponds, filtration buffers, open channel practices, injection wells, etc.)

- Impaired Performance of Stormwater Treatment/Management Facility - 3pts. Reliability of current unit processes, or obsolescence of equipment is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of an existing structural device which is designed to receive stormwater runoff, and to detain it for a period of time in order to reduce pollutants transport and stream erosion.

- Impact or Threat to a Critical Aquatic/Riparian Habitat -3pts. The flooding of local streams, erosion of streambanks, increased pollutant transport that is often associated with urban area activities such as buildings, roads or parking lots which results in an impact, or threat of an impact, of an aquatic/riparian habitat which the District Department of the Environment has identified to be critical for the capture of nutrients, biological diversity, or species preservation. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as the District Department of the Environment.

- Excessive Inflow/Infiltration - 3pts. Excessive Inflow/Infiltration is the quantity of extraneous flow in a sanitary sewer system, originating from either groundwater infiltration, storm event-inflow, or surface water-inflow, which is more cost effective to eliminate than to capture and direct to the WWTF.

(b) <u>Project Category (Classification of type of project)</u>

Points are awarded if the criterion is included in the proposed project.

- Project Provides for Resources Conservation/Multiple-Use-Benefits - 5pts
  Some of the resource conservation/multiple-use benefits include one or more of the following. Benefits (may include non-capitol benefits such as education and recreation)
  :
  - Protection of waterbodies from flooding
  - Protection of aquatic/riparian habitat
  - Wildlife habitat improvement
  - Creation/protection of forested areas
  - Wetlands protection
  - Protection of drinking water sources

- Project completes a system for which funding was previously awarded - 3pts. Project is required to complete a system or process which was partially funded through previous grant awards.

- Project improves operational reliability - 2pts. Project includes replacement, rehabilitation, retrofit, or conversion of a treatment, collection, or conveyance system for improved operational reliability.

- Demonstration or pilot projects - 2pts. Project demonstrates or pilots small scale versions of a full scale treatment system in order to determine the technical and economical feasibility of an innovative treatment process.

- Project incorporates pollution prevention/waste minimization techniques - 2pts. Project includes a reduction of pollutants at the source rather than end-of-pipe treatment and waste disposal. Projects may include equipment/technology modifications and process/procedure modifications.

- Project required by enforcement action - 10 pts. Project is required to meet administrative or judicial enforcement action against DC.

- Project helps maintain nutrient loading cap as per tributary guidelines - 3 pts. Project provides an additional upgrade to maintain loading cap as per tributary strategy guidelines. Loading cap is a maximum amount of pollution load from point and non-point sources that can be absorbed into the receiving waterbody in order to maintain Chesapeake Bay Nutrient reduction goal load (1985 Base Load - 40% Reduction Goal).

- Project addresses public health and safety issue - Documented - 10 pts.

- Project addresses public health and safety issue - Other 3 pts. Public health and safety issue involves immediate threat to public health and safety. Documented public health and safety issues must be documented by an approving authority such as DDOE.

(c) <u>Water Quality Benefit (Improvement in priority watersheds)</u>

Points are awarded based on the condition of the waterbody that the proposed project will impact. For waterbodies that are included on both the surface water restoration and protection lists, the higher total point rating under either one of those lists must be used, but not both.

- Surface Water Restoration. The 303(d) List identifies waters, known as Water Quality Limited Segments (WQLS's), for which required technology based controls are inadequate to meet water quality standards. The list includes the watershed segment and name, suspected substances and potential sources of the impairment, and the priority for setting a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Using the 303 (d) List, points are assigned if the project benefits a waterbody with a high (10 pts), medium (7 pts), or low (5 pts) priority for TMDL development. Also, points can be given if the project

indirectly addresses a waterbody designated for TMDL development (2 pts). If the project benefits a waterbody in which more than one TMDL priority is identified, the priority with the highest point value should be used.

The Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA) classifies the condition of watersheds into one of four categories. Category 1 watersheds do not meet clean water or other natural resource goals and need restoration, and are most in need of restoration during the next two years. Bonus points are awarded to projects that benefit a Category 1 Priority Watershed. (3 pts)

- Surface Water Protection.
  - Category 2 watersheds currently meet water quality goals but need preventative actions to sustain water quality and aquatic resources.(5 pts)
  - Category 3 watersheds are pristine or sensitive and need an extra level of protection. Selected Category 3 Watersheds are those Category 3 Watersheds with four or more selected indicators that meet Category 3 benchmarks. (3pts) Points are awarded to projects that benefit Category 3 Watersheds or Selected Category 3 Watersheds.

- Bonus points will be awarded to projects that address a regional/local watershed plan to benefit water quality. (3 pts) Examples of these plans include the DC Source Water Assessment Plan, and DC Wetland Protection Watershed Plans.

(d) <u>Effectiveness of Investment</u>

Points are awarded based upon the degree to which the project eliminates a problem.

- Project achieves NPDES Compliance - 8pts
- Project will resolve occasional noncompliance - 4 pts
- Project will resolve frequent noncompliance - 6 pts
- Project will resolve daily noncompliance - 8 pts
- Unknown - 0 pts

- Project achieves Reliable Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Operation - 8 pts
- Project will improve reliability of minor unit process operation - 2 pts
- Project will achieve reliable operation of minor unit process - 4 pts
- Project will improve reliability of major unit process operation - 6 pts
- Project will achieve reliable operation of major unit process - 8 pts
- Unknown - 0 pts

- Project eliminates Raw Sewage Discharge - 10 pts
- Project will eliminate discharges of less than 100,000 gallons that occur once per year- 4 pts
- Project will eliminate discharge of less than 100,000 gallons that occur once per month- 6 pts

- Project will eliminate discharges greater than 100,000 gallons that occur once per year - 8 pts
- Project will eliminate discharges greater than 100,000 gallons that occur once per month - 10 pts
- Unknown - 0 pts

- Project will eliminate minor amount of Infiltration or Inflow - 4 pts
- Project will eliminate a significant amount I or I - 6 pts
- Project will eliminate significant I or I to significantly improve STP operations, or significantly reduce CSO - 8 pts
- Unknown - 0 pts

(e) Population Benefit

Points are awarded based upon the number of people who are affected by the project.

- Primary benefits of project are to downstream population - 2 pts
- Primary benefits of project are to DC residents - 4 pts
- Project will result in significant water quality benefits to DC residents and downstream population - 6 pts
- Unknown - 0 pts

(f) Green Project Reserve Project–

Points are awarded based on whether a project addresses green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities as described by U.S. EPA's Green Project Reserve category description

- Project description indicates that project fits the GPR definition- 5 pts
- Project description does not indicate that project fits the GPR definition-0 pts

B. Evaluation of Nonpoint Source Activities

The nonpoint source section of the PPL will follow the pattern used in the allocation of funding. This includes, where applicable, subcategories of activities for which funds are allocated. Nonpoint source activities will be displayed in order of their ranking, from highest to lowest.

1. Eligibility Threshold

Potential projects will be reviewed for their individual contribution towards achieving a direct water quality benefit. And thus, protect or improve water quality by meeting a water quality standard, or reducing or eliminating specific, existing water quality problems. Only projects or

activities which have a high likelihood of achieving a water quality standard or reducing or eliminating an existing water quality problem will proceed to being included on the PPL. Nonpoint source projects will be evaluated using an evaluation sheet (attachment 2).

2. Readiness to Proceed Threshold in fiscal year

Project sponsor can complete application requirements by July 1 of PPL effective year .

3. Rating Criteria

Upon meeting the minimum program threshold, projects will be rated and ranked based on the following criteria:

(a) Green Project Reserve Compliance
(b) Project Location
(c) Water Quality Benefit
(d) Environmental Goals Support
(e) Cost Benefit
(f) Project Feasibility
(g) Innovativeness

- **EPA's Green Project Reserve Project (GPR) Category Descriptions** –Commencing in 2009, U.S. EPA initiated a goal of using not less than 20 percent of CWSRF to fund projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities.

    - Project description indicates that project fits the GPR definition- 5 pts
    - Project description does not indicate that project fits the GPR definition-0 pts

- **CSO/MS4 areas Remediated by implementation of the project-** Points are awarded depending on the project's location in one of the two areas. Within DC, the sewers are constructed as separate or combined. The separate sewer system is comprised of two piping systems, a sanitary sewage and a stormwater system. The combined system is comprised of one piping system that carries both sanitary sewage and stormwater. Two thirds of the city is served by a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

    - Project located in CSO area of the city- 5 pts
    - Project location in MS4 area of the city- 7 pts

- **Support of Environmental Goals -** Points are awarded based on the number of the following environmental goals that the project will support.

        - Specific TMDL implementation plan (will project implementation contribute to the delisting District Waterbody or waterbodies TMDL efficiency (organics, metals, others)

        - Enhanced impervious area retrofit (will project result in 1.2" volume storage)
        - Enhanced green roof coverage (will project result in 1.2" volume storage)
        - Chesapeake Bay Program goals (will project implementation assist DC in meeting its CBP TMDL goals-TMDL efficiency (N, P TSS))
        - CSS overflow event remediations (Will project focus on Volume storage or a specific sewershed)
        - Climate Action Plan (Will project address the climate action plan?-Water efficiency/energy/air quality indicators)
    - 4 or more goals -10 pts
    - 2 to four goals 5 pts
    - Less than 2 goals -0 pts

- **Cost Benefit** Points are awarded based on how cost effectively a projects will reduce or eliminate an water quality problem
    - Exceeds regulatory goals- $/gallon retained or $/lbs reduced- 5 pts
    - Match provided-Partner brings match/ Match exceeds 45% -3 pts

- **Project Feasibility** Points awarded if project sponsor demonstrates that proposed project will/can be implemented within four (4) months of being listed on the DC project priority list. 4 or more indicators demonstrated – 10 pts, 2- 3 indicators demonstrated- 5 pts, less than 2 indicators demonstrated-0 pts
    - Ownership-Owner is applicant
    - Timeline identified-Design exists/ construction phases identified
    - Engineer/permit reviewer input-Concept plan/stamped drawing/permits obtained
    - Organization/agency has successfully completed and maintained a green infrastructure project-Testimonials, photos, press, etc.
    - Individual and team experience is evident in technical and organizational management of the project-Resumes, firm qualifications, past project descriptions, etc.
    - Experience working with District or Federal Government agencies and funding and in multi-stakeholder settings- Past project descriptions

- **Support for Innovation in urban nonpoint source pollution control-** Points awarded if project is likely to add to the available alternatives that when implemented will reduce nonpoint source pollution and will provide opportunity for stakeholder exposure
    - New technology/application-Does not currently exist in DC or new scenario-5 pts
    - Education/outreach opportunity—Project to be sited at school, recreation center or high foot traffic location- 5 pts

IV. SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Participation

Function: DDOE will solicit public comment on the DC PPRS, substantive changes to the DC PPRS, the annual PPL (including the annual funding allocation), and substantive changes to the PPL before adoption of these documents as final.

The public participation process allows the public to become aware of and involved with DC's determination of priority environmental problems and its utilization of Federal grant funding to address those problems. DDOE will provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the PPL, and adopt the PPL as final after all comments have been addressed and resolved.

B. Public Hearing:

DDOE will be responsible for: (1) scheduling a public hearing to be held no later than June 30 of the year prior to the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective, (2) advertising of the public hearing using locally-appropriate media, (3) distribution of notice of availability to parties which DDOE believes would be affected or potentially interested, (4) convening the public hearing and making appropriate arrangements for recording the hearing, and (5) preparation of a follow up summary (i.e., a "Responsiveness Summary') of public comment received and DDOE actions taken in response to those comments.

Prior to adoption as final documents, DDOE will solicit public comment, through a public hearing forum, on the DC PPRS, substantive changes to the DC PPRS (when applicable), the annual PPL (including the annual funding allocation), and substantive changes to the PPL. Changes are substantive when they materially alter the likelihood that projects on the annual PPL will receive funding. Examples include: (1) the addition of projects which have not undergone public hearing as part of to the fundable portion of the list, (2) changes in project priority rating system of projects which results in the displacement of existing projects from the fundable portion of the PPL, and (3) significant changes in scope or cost of existing projects.

Non-substantive changes include typographical adjustment which do not alter the likelihood that projects identified on the annual PPL will receive funding, and the movement of projects from the extended range to the fundable range as a result of (1) additional Federal funds becoming available during the fiscal year, (2) project bypass procedures, or (3) the reallocation of fund procedures.

V. IDENTIFICATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN LOWER PRIORITY PROJECTS MAY BE ADVANCED FOR FUNDING

A. Project Bypass Criteria

Function: Occasionally a highly ranked project on the PPL will not be ready to complete the application requirements by the yearly deadline. To ensure efficient use of the yearly allotments, a process for funding lower ranked- but ready to complete the application requirements- projects is necessary.

The ability to bypass projects which are not yet ready to proceed according to schedule is an

integral part of priority list management. A project on the fundable range of the annual PPL, and identified for funding during the current fiscal year, may be bypassed and a lower-ranked project may be funded under the following situations:

(a) DDOE determines that a project should be bypassed in order to address existing or imminent hazardous emergency conditions.
(b) DDOE determines that a project within the fundable range will be insufficiently developed to proceed to grant award during the current fiscal year.

Before one or more projects on the annual PPL may be bypassed, DDOE will formally notify each of the applicants whose project may be bypassed, to provide an opportunity to respond or provide additional information as appropriate. A response must be received by DDOE in writing within thirty (30) days of DDOE's letter, or DDOE will conclude that the applicant has no objection to the bypass of its project. If no objection to the proposed bypass is received, DDOE may then certify and recommend award of grant funding to the next, unfunded project in order of their appearance on the fundable portion of the annual PPL.

If a project which 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 additional funding becomes available to fund the project. However, reinstatement of a bypassed project cannot displace a project which is in the fundable range of the DC PPRS and which continues to be on schedule for grant award within the current fiscal year. Any project which is bypassed maintains it numerical priority rating and will be eligible for inclusion on a subsequent year DC PPRS in either the fundable or planning portion, without prejudice.

B. Reallocation of Funds

Function: DDOE will protect available Federal funds for use within DC by revising the allocation of funds, as needed, to ensure obligation of all funds to projects which are ready to proceed prior to loss of such funds due to reallotment or expiration[6].

DDOE's annual allocation of Federal funds serves to direct financial resources to support priority activities and address specific water quality needs. DDOE will act to protect any Federal construction grant funds from loss to DC if such loss would occur because the time during which such funds are available for use by DC expires before projects can be developed for award[7].

[6] Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional allotment pursuant to Title VI are subject to reallotment to other states pursuant to Section 604 (c)(2) of CWA if not awarded within 2 years
[7] The end of the Federal fiscal year following the year in which the funds were allotted or reissued and made available to the District of Columbia.

C. Reallocation of Unobligated Funds

Function: As funds that were previously awarded to other projects become available due to lower than costs, change in the scope of work or expiration of the grant period, it is important to reallocate those funds to prevent the loss of funds.

By April 30 of each year, DDOE will review the status of Federal construction grant funds which are available for award, and the plans of the applicants for which those funds were allocated. DDOE will then determine whether any funds will be subject to loss to DC through expiration or reallotment to other states due to the lack of sufficient projects which will be developed and ready to apply for funding before July 30 of the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective.

Within each category of projects, if lower ranked projects are developed and can be ready for DDOE certification of priority before July 30 of the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective, DDOE may approve bypassing of higher-ranked projects to allow funding of lower-ranked projects by following the Project Bypass procedure.

If, however, DC funds will be subject to loss because lower ranked projects are not developed and cannot be ready for DDOE certification of priority before July 30, DDOE will revise its allocation of funds to protect DC funds from loss. The reallocation will make funds which will be subject to loss available to the category, or categories, which DDOE believes is highest in priority before July 30.

If DDOE determines that a reallocation is necessary, it will, before July 15 of the fiscal year during which the PPL is effective, formally notify all parties who are affected by the reallocation. The reallocation will become effective upon the date of such notification by DDOE.

VI. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

A. Timely Implementation of Program

Function: U.S. EPA will fulfill activities and actions for which DDOE is responsible, but cannot accomplish, for whatever reason, within the time frames identified in this DC PPRS.

US EPA recognizes DDOE as the instrumentality within DC government which has the authority to perform many of state-level responsibilities which are established in Titles II and VI of CWA. Section 216 of CWA empowers states with the sole authority to determine priority for funding of publicly owned treatment works. The solicitation of public comment, as well as the resolution of questions or concerns which are raised through such processes, regarding the state's determination of project priority is inherently a state-level responsibility

B. DDOE Initiated Requests

In accomplishing these responsibilities, DDOE may request assistance from U.S. EPA to perform or carry out specific technical, mechanical, or administrative tasks. U.S. EPA will consider such requests, and where appropriate provide the requested assistance.

C. **U.S. EPA Initiated Action**

EPA may monitor the development of salient elements of the DC PPRS. If elements are being performed by DDOE materially later than the time frames specified in the DC PPRS, EPA will accomplish such specific technical, mechanical, or administrative actions as required to minimize the risk of losing DC funds to other states. In such an event, DDOE will remain responsible for accomplishing the work element, in accordance with the DC PPRS, pursuant to CWA and associated implementing regulations at 40 CFR 31 and 35.

Attachment 1

CWA SRF Section 212 Treatment Works Projects
DDOE Evaluation Form

Project Title: _____

Project Submitted By: _____

Eligibility Threshold Met? (Yes/No)	
Readiness to Proceed Threshold in fiscal year (application requirements can be completed by July 1)? Yes/No	
Evaluation Criteria and Maximum Points ( ) for each criteria	**Score**
Water Quality Problem Addressed (Existing condition which impairs water quality) Points are awarded based upon the existing conditions which cause or caused an impairment of water quality. The proposed project can receive points up to the maximum value based on the severity of the problem. • Raw Sewage Discharge - 10pts Any discharge to a receiving water of untreated sanitary sewage. • Failing Onsite Sewage Disposal System - 5pts. Failing onsite sewage disposal system means a single system of sewers and piping, treatment tanks or other facilities, and disposal of sewage or individual wastes of a liquid nature in the soil of the property or into receiving waters that experience treatment or hydraulic failure. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as the local regulatory agency. o Documented Water Quality Degradation - 5pts o Other - 3pts • Untreated/uncontrolled runoff - 5pts Untreated/uncontrolled runoff means stormwater runoff from areas such as homes, buildings, roads, parks, gardens, parking lots, resulting in flooding of local streams, erosion of stream banks, or increased pollutant transport. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as DDOE. o Documented Water Quality Degradation. (Pathogenic impact) - 5pts o Documented Water Quality Degradation. (Non-pathogenic.	

impacts) - 3pts
  - Other (e.g. Undocumented Water Quality Degradation.) - 2pts

- Impaired Performance of Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) - 5pts Reliability of current unit processes, or obsolescence of equipment is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of an existing publicly owned treatment works, equipment, structure, machinery, and any apparatus which is used or operated for the storage, collection, treatment, neutralization, stabilization, reduction, recycling, reclamation, separation, disposal of sanitary or combined sewerage.
  - Impaired Performance of Collection System/Pump Station - 1pt
- Obsolescence of apparatus or structure is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of existing publicly owned sewers, equipment , and structures which and convey sanitary or combined sewerage to a WWTF.

  - Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) - 5pts. The discharge, which occurs after a storm event, of untreated wastewater carrying both raw sewage and stormwater from the sewer system into surface waters. The overflow occurs because the WWTF lacks enough hydraulic capacity to transport, store, or treat the increased volume of water caused by the storm event.
  - Landfill Discharge - 3pts. Landfill Discharge is the uncontrolled discharge of liquid leachate or seepage into surface water or groundwater from a landfill composed of nonhazardous wastes and/or sludge.
  - Materials Storage Area Runoff - 3pts. Materials Storage Area Runoff is the uncontrolled discharge of contaminates or wastes of a nature into surface water or groundwater from a any pile impoundment, compound, material storage facility.
  - Sub-surface Discharge - 2pts
  - Non-sanitary wastewater (Industrial) - 2pts
  - Stormwater only - 1pt. Sub-surface Discharge is any untreated stormwater or industrial discharge beneath the surface of the ground (e.g. infiltration basins, detention ponds, filtration buffers, open channel practices, injection wells, etc.)

- Impaired Performance of Stormwater Treatment/Management Facility - 3pts. Reliability of current unit processes, or obsolescence of equipment is affecting, or has the potential to affect, the performance of an existing structural device which is designed to receive stormwater runoff, and to detain it for a period of time in order to reduce pollutants transport and stream erosion.

• Impact or Threat to a Critical Aquatic/Riparian Habitat -3pts. The flooding of local streams, erosion of streambanks, increased pollutant transport that is often associated with urban area activities such as buildings, roads or parking lots which results in an impact, or threat of an impact, of an aquatic/riparian habitat which the District Department of the Environment has identified to be critical for the capture of nutrients, biological diversity, or species preservation. Documented water quality degradation should be provided by an approving authority such as the District Department of the Environment. • Excessive Inflow/Infiltration - 3pts. Excessive Inflow/Infiltration is the quantity of extraneous flow in a sanitary sewer system, originating from either groundwater infiltration, storm even-inflow, or surface water-inflow, which is more cost effective to eliminate than to capture and direct to the WWTF.	
Project Category (Classification of type of project) Points are awarded if the criterion is included in the proposed project. • Project Provides for Resources Conservation/Multiple-Use-Benefits - 5pts Some of the resource conservation/multiple-use benefits include one or more of the following: o Benefits (may include non-capitol benefits such as education and recreation) o Protection of waterbodies from flooding o Protection of aquatic/riparian habitat o Wildlife habitat improvement o Creation/protection of forested areas o Wetlands protection o Protection of drinking water sources • Project completes a system for which funding was previously awarded - 3pts. Project is required to complete a system or process which was partially funded through previous grant awards. • Project improves operational reliability - 2pts. Project includes replacement, rehabilitation, retrofit, or conversion of a treatment, collection, or conveyance system for improved operational reliability. • Demonstration or pilot projects - 2pts. Project demonstrates or pilots small scale versions of a full scale treatment system in order to determine the technical and economical feasibility of an innovative treatment process.	_____

• Project incorporates pollution prevention/waste minimization techniques - 2pts. Project includes a reduction of pollutants at the source rather than end-of-pipe treatment and waste disposal. Projects may include equipment/technology modifications and process/procedure modifications. • Project required by enforcement action - 10 pts. Project is required to meet administrative or judicial enforcement action against DC. • Project helps maintain nutrient loading cap as per tributary guidelines - 3 pts. Project provides an additional upgrade to maintain loading cap as per tributary strategy guidelines. Loading cap is a maximum amount of pollution load from point and nonpoint sources that can be absorbed into the receiving waterbody in order to maintain Chesapeake Bay Nutrient reduction goal load (1985 Base Load - 40% Reduction Goal). • Project addresses public health and safety issue - Documented - 10 pts. • Project addresses public health and safety issue - Other 3 pts. Public health and safety issue involves immediate threat to public health and safety. Documented public health and safety issues must be documented by an approving authority such as DDOE.	
Water Quality Benefit (Improvement in priority watersheds) • Surface Water Restoration. The 303(d) List identifies waters, known as Water Quality Limited Segments (WQLS's), for which required technology based controls are inadequate to meet water quality standards. The list includes the watershed segment and name, suspected substances and potential sources of the impairment, and the priority for setting a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Using the 303 (d) List, points are assigned if the project benefits a waterbody with a high (10 pts), medium (7 pts), or low priority (5 pts) for TMDL development. Also, points can be given if the project indirectly addresses a waterbody designated for TMDL development (2 pts). If the project benefits a waterbody in which more than one TMDL priority is identified, the priority with the highest point value should be used. The Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA) classifies the condition of watersheds into one of four categories. Category 1 watersheds do not meet clean water or other natural resource goals and need restoration, and are most in need of restoration during the next two years. Bonus points are awarded to projects that benefit a Category 1 Priority Watershed. (3 Pts)	_____

• Surface Water Protection.
  o Category 2 watersheds currently meet water quality goals but need preventative actions to sustain water quality and aquatic resources.(5 pts)
  o Category 3 watersheds are pristine or sensitive and need an extra level of protection. Selected Category 3 Watersheds are those Category 3 Watersheds with four or more selected indicators that meet Category 3 benchmarks. Points are awarded to projects that benefit Category 3 Watersheds or Selected Category 3 Watersheds.(3 pts)
 	
• Bonus points will be awarded to projects that address a regional/local watershed plan to benefit water quality. Examples of these plans include the DC Source Water Assessment Plan, and DC Wetland Protection Watershed Plans. (3 pts)	

Effectiveness of Investment • Project will contribute to achieving NPDES Compliance - 8pts • Project will resolve occasional noncompliance - 4 pts • Project will resolve frequent noncompliance - 6 pts • Project will resolve daily noncompliance - 8 pts • Unknown - 0 pts • Project achieves Reliable Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Operation - 8 pts • Project will improve reliability of minor unit process operation - 2 pts • Project will achieve reliable operation of minor unit process - 4 pts • Project will improve reliability of major unit process operation - 6 pts • Project will achieve reliable operation of major unit process - 8 pts • Unknown - 0 pts • Project eliminates Raw Sewage Discharge - 10 pts • Project will eliminate occasional small discharge - 4 pts • Project will eliminate frequent small discharge - 6 pts • Project will eliminate occasional large discharge - 8 pts • Project will eliminate frequent large discharge - 10 pts • Unknown - 0 pts • Project will eliminate minor amount of Infiltration or Inflow - 4 pts • Project will significantly eliminate I or I - 6 pts • Project will eliminate significant I or I to significantly improve STP operations, or significantly reduce CSO - 8 pts • Unknown - 0 pts	_____

Green Project Reserve ○ Project description indicates that project fits the GPR definition- 5 pts ○ Project description does not indicate that project fits the GPR definition-0 pts •	_____
Total Score	_____

Name of Reviewer:_____ **Date:**_____

Comments:

Attachment 2

CWA SRF Nonpoint Source Projects
DDOE Evaluation Form

Project Title:_____

Project Submitted By: _____

Eligibility Threshold Met? (Yes/No)	
Readiness to Proceed Threshold in fiscal year (application requirements can be completed by July 1)? (Yes/No)	
Evaluation Criteria and Maximum Points ( ) for each criteria	**Score**
• **EPA's Green Project Reserve Project (GPR) Category Descriptions –** o Project description indicates that project fits a GPR category description- 5 pts o Project description does not indicate that project fits a GPR category-0 pts	_____
CSO/MS4 Areas Remediated by Implementation of the Project o Project located in CSO area of the city- 5 pts o Project location in MS4 area of the city- 7 pts	_____
Support of Environmental Goals o 4 or more goals -10 pts o 2 to four goals 5 pts o Less than 2 goals -0 pts	_____
Cost Benefit o Exceeds regulatory goals- $/gallon retained or $/lbs reduced- 5 pts o Match provided-Partner brings match/ Match exceeds 45% -3 pts	_____
Project Feasibility • 4 or more indicators demonstrated – 10 pts, • 2- 3 indicators demonstrated- 5 pts, • less than 2 indicators demonstrated-0 pts	_____
Support for Innovation in urban nonpoint source pollution control o New technology/application-Does not currently exist in DC or new scenario-5 pts	

○ Education/outreach opportunity—Project to be sited at school, recreation center, high foot traffic or location- 5 pts	_____
Total Score	_____

Name of Reviewer:_____**Date:**_____

Comments: