

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Clark County Public Health (CCPH)

CCPH SR2016_179

DATE: October 10, 2016

REQUESTED ACTION:

County Manager approval of a grant application with Department of Ecology for the provision of providing low interest loans for residents with failing septic systems. If a contract is awarded, loans will be available between July 1, 2018 through July 1, 2023..

_____ Consent _____ Hearing X County Manager

BACKGROUND: As of October 2016 there are approximately 35,000 on-site sewage treatment systems throughout Clark County. Many of the systems still in service have been in place for a couple of decades and the need for repairs and in some cases, replacements is ongoing. For system owners who need to make major repairs or replace their old systems, the costs can be significant.

Between July 2015 and July 2016, CCPH notified 17,000 properties that are overdue for routine operation and maintenance (O&M). During the first 6 months, a voluntary compliance rate of 34% occurred for overdue systems and 66% for current systems. As a result, an increase of critical deficiencies has been observed with 6.83% of overdue systems and 3.40% for current systems. This has led to an increase of repair permits for failing septic systems.

Year	Number of Septic Repair Permits
2014	12
2015	24*
2016 (as of Sept. 13)	45

*11 permits filed due to multiple failures in a mobile home park at time of sale.

Historically, some homeowners who have qualified have been able to gain low-interest loan assistance through the Community Development Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) to fund repairs and replacements. The HRP, which is funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), is generally only available to very low income homeowners and many homeowners who need assistance with funding repairs and replacements do not qualify. Data provided from Clark County Community Services:

Year	# Applications Sent	# Applications Returned	# Projects Funded	Total Amount Funded
2014	12	6	4	\$92,080
2015	13	5*	2	\$32,570
2016 (As of July 7)	7	2**	0	\$0

*2 applications returned are rollovers from 2014

** 1 application returned is a rollover from 2015

The Regional Clean Water Loan Program is a partnership between Department of Ecology, Department of Health, Financial Institution Partner(s) (FIP), and the Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ). Funds awarded to the LHJ are managed as low interest loans operated by Craft3, a non-profit organization acting as the FIP. Craft3 holds the responsibility of collection of issued loans to

homeowners, repayment of Clean Water SRF loan to Ecology, and ensuring Centennial Grant match requirements are met. Funds are directly transferred from Ecology to Craft3.

By securing loan funds and gaining entry into the Regional Clean Water Loan Program, Clark County will significantly increase the resources available to county homeowners who need assistance. This will increase the volume and speed of needed repairs, which will in turn lessen public health threats and protect groundwater.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
		Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	\$0
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	\$0
Account	1025 Public Health
Company Name	

DISTRIBUTION:

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Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
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APPROVED: _____
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

DATE: _____

SR# _____

APPROVED: _____
Mark McCauley, County Manager

DATE: 10/18/16