

Office of State Lands and Investments

Funding Wyoming Public Education

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Our agency's Administrative Services Division (Grants and Loans Section) administers grants and loans programs that fund infrastructure capital projects for local government entities. Two (2) existing loan programs, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Programs, which respectively fund wastewater treatment and drinking water system improvements, are currently funded federal (80%) and state (20%). [*Estimated total funding for the Clean Water SRF for FY 2009 is \$3,929,160 and estimated total funding for the Drinking Water SRF for FY 2009 is \$9,775,200*]

On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The ARRA contains a myriad of economic recovery funding allocations aimed at jumpstarting our nation's ailing economy. This white paper focuses on the flow of ARRA dollars into Wyoming to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Programs administered by our agency. [*Estimated at \$19.39M for Clean Water SRF and \$19.5M for Drinking Water SRF*] There is no state match requirement for ARRA federal funds for Wyoming's SRF programs.

Here are the highlights of the ARRA as it pertains to the SRF Programs:

- Eligible infrastructure projects must be under contract or construction within twelve (12) months of bill enactment. [*February 17, 2010*]
- Federal funding under the ARRA is for SRF loans but the ARRA also requires that the State of Wyoming make at least 50% of the new money available in the form of principal forgiveness, negative interest rates, or grants or any combination thereof.
- Potential funded projects must appear on the State's Intended Use Plan as amended to include newly identified eligible projects.
- Twenty percent (20%) of ARRA funding for both SRF programs is to be set aside for funding "green" infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities. Preliminary guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is that the State must make a "timely and concerted solicitation" for such projects. Eligible local government entities are urged to contact the Office of State Lands and Investments or the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality or the Wyoming Water Development Office to discuss their project(s) for this special funding set aside. "Green" infrastructure projects will only be accepted and reviewed for this special funding set aside through June 15, 2009. Thereafter, any unexpended set aside funding will be made available for conventional projects.
- General Provisions of the ARRA include two (2) key components: 1) Section 1605 provides for the use of American iron, steel and manufactured goods in projects. USEPA can waive this requirement under certain circumstances. 2) Section 1606 provides for specific wage requirements. All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded by the ARRA must be paid the wages prevailing in the locality for similar projects as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.
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