

Irrigation Efficiency Policy Considerations for District Comment

Washington State



**Conservation
Commission**

Jon Culp, Water Resource Programs Manager
Commission Action Request
November 30th, 2017

IEGP Steering Committee



13 Conservation Districts



The background of the slide is a photograph of an agricultural field. In the foreground, there is a complex metal structure for an irrigation system, likely a center pivot system, with multiple vertical and horizontal pipes. The ground is covered in green grass and some small plants. In the distance, there are more trees and a clear sky.

Staff Policy Recommendations:

Add:

- Hold Downs-recognition of consumptive use water savings
- CPDS application and contract
- Public benefits for eligibility:
 - Water Quality
 - Farmland Protection
 - Drought Vulnerability
 - Flow Retiming
- **Revise** eligibility language to reflect proviso—**statewide**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a green, grassy hillside. In the foreground, there is a complex metal structure, possibly a water tower or a large antenna, with various pipes and beams. The structure is made of galvanized steel and has several horizontal and vertical supports. The hillside in the background is covered in green grass and some small shrubs. The sky is not visible.

Staff Policy Recommendations:

Remove:

- the 5% rule
- Administrative functions of the program historically provided by Ecology
- Target Stream Priority Protocol pilot
- Project Eligibility Guidelines related to Water Acquisition Program
- Period of Performance and any other redundant language covered under general SCC Grant Procedures

The background of the slide is a photograph of a green, grassy hillside. A large, silver metal tower structure, possibly for telecommunications or power, is visible on the right side of the image, extending from the bottom towards the top. The hillside is covered in green grass and some small shrubs. The sky is not visible.

Conservation District Comments:

Cascadia CD: *“We support any changes that create additional incentive for landowners to utilize this program”.*

Ask for a delay in looking at statewide eligibility to see how other eligibility related policy changes will impact program demand.

Okanogan CD: Ask for a delay in looking at statewide eligibility to see how other eligibility related policy changes will impact previously prioritized basins restricted from participation prior to other policy change recommendations. Especially the 5% rule.



Response to district comments:

Both commenting districts are concerned that a revision in policy to open eligibility statewide will exhaust the funding. Both had viable projects not eligible because of one or more of the policies we are seeking to change excluded eligibility. Collectively, both have three of the original 16 critical basins.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a green, grassy hillside. In the foreground, there is a complex metal structure, possibly a tower or a framework for a project, with various beams and supports. The structure is made of light-colored metal, possibly aluminum or steel, and is set against the backdrop of the hillside. The hillside is covered in green grass and some small shrubs. There are some trees visible in the distance, and the overall scene is bright and sunny.

Response to district comments:

The budget proviso states:

The state conservation commission shall give preference to projects located in the sixteen fish critical basins, other water-short or drought impacted basins, and basins with significant water resource and instream flow issues. Projects that are not within the basins described in this subsection are also eligible to receive funding.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a green hillside with scattered trees. A large, complex metal structure, possibly a water tower or a telecommunications tower, is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the text boxes. The structure consists of many vertical and horizontal metal beams.

Response to district comments:

The program has operated on a first come-first served basis for over 20 years.

One option could be to switch to an application period with a funding prioritization process based on the proviso.

Another option would be to keep the first come format but develop a prioritization method as an overlay to mirror the proviso.

A large, complex metal irrigation structure, possibly a center pivot system, is visible in a lush green field. The structure consists of multiple long, parallel metal arms supported by a series of vertical poles, extending from the foreground into the distance. The background shows a line of trees and a grassy hillside under a clear sky.

Staff Policy Recommendation

Staff to set up Subcommittees:

- Hold Down Revision
- Small Investment Program Tract

A large center pivot irrigation system is shown in a lush green field. The system consists of a long metal arm supported by a series of vertical black poles, which are anchored into the ground. The arm extends from the foreground towards the background, where a line of trees and a grassy hill are visible. The sky is not visible, but the scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "Potential Motion:" is overlaid in the top left corner.

Potential Motion:

Move to approve policy recommendations as presented (as amended).



Thank you!

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