

## **CWSRF Project Description Section**

### **Ideas on Economic Stimulus**

*This is a working draft document based on a Stimulus Bill,  
H.R. 1, and draft Senate language.*

It has come to our attention that lists of specific projects are available at the following sites.

- Projects listed in State Wildlife Action Plans that: restore wetlands, restore hydrology, stabilize stream banks or shorelines, plant wetland flora or buffer strips, address water quality, address storm water attenuation, constructed wetlands to address nonpoint source pollution e.g., for nutrient assimilation, constructing dams or other measures to address sedimentation. Plans for every state can be found at: <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/>
- American Rivers developed a list of ready to go green projects available at <http://www.americanrivers.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=12188>
- National Estuary programs have developed list of projects available at <http://www.nationalestuaries.org/>

States may find these sites helpful in developing project lists for the CWSRF. Projects must be eligible for CWSRF assistance and not all projects on these lists are eligible. EPA simply provides the links as a resource for States responding to Stimulus legislation.

#### **I. Project Definitions and Examples**

*H.R. 1*

- a. Water Efficiency
  - i. Water efficiency is the use of improved technologies and practices to deliver equal or better services with less water.
  - ii. Water efficiency projects consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
    1. Planning and design activities for water efficiency that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
    2. Building activities that implement capital water efficiency projects are eligible.
  - iii. Examples of projects include
    1. Installation of water meters
    2. Retrofit or replacement of water using fixtures, fittings, equipment or appliances
    3. Efficient landscape or agricultural irrigation equipment
    4. Systems to recycle gray water
    5. Reclamation, recycling, and reuse of existing rainwater, condensate, degraded water, stormwater, and/or wastewater streams.
    6. Collection system leak detection equipment

## *DRAFT 2/9/2009*

7. Development and initial distribution of public education materials
- b. Energy Efficiency
    - i. Energy efficiency includes capital projects that reduce the energy consumption of eligible water quality projects or produce clean energy used by a treatment works defined in Sec. 212.
      1. Web link to EPA's clean energy site  
<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/>
      2. Clean energy includes wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biogas combined heat and power systems.
    - ii. Energy efficiency projects consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
      1. Planning and design activities for energy efficiency that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
      2. Building activities that implement capital energy efficiency projects are eligible.
    - iii. Examples of projects include
      1. Energy efficient retrofits and upgrades to pumps and treatment processes
      2. Leak detection equipment for treatment works
      3. Producing clean power for 212 treatment works on site (wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas powered combined heat and power)
      4. Pro-rata share of capital costs for offsite publicly owned clean energy facilities that provide power to a treatment works.
  - c. Mitigate Stormwater Runoff
    - i. Mitigating stormwater runoff includes a wide variety of gray and green infrastructure practices and technologies that improve the quality and reduce the quantity of runoff discharging directly to receiving waters. This may include flood control where approaches are based on preservation and/or restoration of natural hydrologic regimes (volume, rate, duration and temperature of flows) and integrity of aquatic systems.
    - ii. Projects to address stormwater consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible. If a project is specifically required by a draft or final NPDES permit, then it can only be funded through Sec. 212 or Sec. 320 authority.

## *DRAFT 2/9/2009*

1. Planning and design activities for stormwater projects that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
  2. Building activities that implement a capital stormwater project are eligible.
- iii. Examples of projects include
1. Development and initial delivery of public education programs targeting specific stormwater causing receiving stream degradation
  2. Stormwater management systems and practices, including collection, storage, conveyance, infiltration, evapotranspiration, and treatment structures, practices and elements (e.g., plants, soil amendments) that are components of a comprehensive project, program or plan to preserve or restore natural/stable in-stream hydrology.
  3. Stormwater retrofit projects that address hydrologic impacts to receiving waters by reducing discharge flow volume.
  4. Stormwater projects that reduce discharges of high priority pollutants such as chlorides, hydrocarbons, and heavy metals from road vehicles
  5. Restoration of receiving waters where impairment sources/causes have been or are being addressed.
  6. Street sweepers and vacuum trucks (not operation and maintenance costs such as salaries, insurance and fuel)
  7. Collection and storage systems designed for stormwater reuse
  8. Downspout disconnection programs when water is not discharged directly to receiving waters
- d. Encourage Environmentally sensitive project planning, design and construction
- i. Projects that support low impact development, sustainable site development, environmentally sensitive designs, smart growth approaches and designs intended to protect water resources; redevelopment and development projects that reduce stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows; and projects that increase the resiliency of water infrastructure to changes in climate through the use of LID or green infrastructure practices.
  - ii. Projects that encourage environmentally sensitive project planning, design and construction consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
    1. Planning and design activities that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
    2. Building activities that implement capital projects are eligible.

## *DRAFT 2/9/2009*

- iii. Examples of projects include
  1. Water quality portion of brownfield cleanup
  2. Stormwater projects for new construction to control runoff during and after construction that protect or restore site hydrology.
  3. Wetland creation, restoration and or mitigation, including wetland flora.
  4. Projects that incorporate green infrastructure to manage, treat or reduce stormwater discharges, urban nonpoint source runoff, or combine sewer overflow discharges
  5. Projects that use green infrastructure to reduce or eliminate flooding and negative impacts to receiving waters and stream channel stability due to increases in flow volumes and runoff rates as a result of new development or redevelopment

### *Senate*

- e. Green Infrastructure
  - i. Definition: Green Infrastructure includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather to maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring and capturing and using stormwater. On a regional scale, green infrastructure is the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, coupled with policies such as infill and redevelopment that reduce overall imperviousness in a watershed. On the local scale green infrastructure consists of site- and neighborhood-specific practices, such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, porous pavements and cisterns. In addition to managing rainfall, these green infrastructure technologies can simultaneously provide other benefits such as helping filter air pollutants, reducing energy demands, mitigating urban heat islands, and sequestering carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic, recreational and natural resource benefits.
  - ii. Projects to address stormwater through green infrastructure practices consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible. If a project is specifically required by a draft or final NPDES permit, then it can only be funded through Sec. 212 or Sec. 320 authority.
    1. Planning and design activities for green infrastructure projects that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
    2. Building activities that implement green infrastructure projects are eligible.
  - iii. Examples of projects include

## *DRAFT 2/9/2009*

1. Implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree box sizes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health.
  2. Implementation of green streets (combinations of green infrastructure practices in transportation rights-of-ways), for either new development, redevelopment or retrofits
  3. Implementation of water harvesting and reuse programs or projects, where consistent with state and local laws and policies.
  4. Implementation of wet weather management systems for parking areas which include: the incremental cost of porous pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices that mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales.
  5. Establishment and restoration of riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features.
  6. Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from combined sewers and storm sewers.
  7. Comprehensive retrofit programs designed to keep wet weather out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches.
- f. Environmentally Innovative Projects
- i. Projects that demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to managing water resources in a more sustainable way, including projects that achieve pollution prevention or pollutant removal at the least life-cycle costs, subject to environmental review results. Includes approaches to incorporate green infrastructure into drinking water, stormwater and wastewater utility infrastructure and management.
  - ii. Environmentally innovative projects that are consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
    1. Planning and design activities that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
    2. Building activities that implement capital projects are eligible.
  - iii. Examples of projects include
    1. Green Infrastructure/Low Impact development stormwater projects
    2. Decentralized wastewater treatment and/or reuse projects that reduce energy consumption, recharge aquifers and reduce water withdrawals and treatment costs
    3. Projects that employ development and redevelopment practices that preserve or restore site hydrologic processes through sustainable landscaping and site design.

## *DRAFT 2/9/2009*

4. Projects that use water balance approaches (water budgets) at the project, local or state level that preserve site, local or regional hydrology. Such an effort could pilot and show-case efforts to plan and manage in a concerted manner, surface and groundwater withdrawals, stream base flow (aquatic species protection), wetland and floodplain storage, groundwater recharge and regional or local reuse and harvesting strategies using a quantified methodology.
5. Projects that demonstrate the energy savings and climate change implications of sustainable site design practices and the use of green infrastructure such as green roofs, increased tree canopy, reduced water consumption and potable water use due to sustainable site designs, rainwater harvesting and reuse and reductions in hard or infrastructure needed to manage stormwater and CSOs.
6. Projects that demonstrate the differential uses of water based on the level of treatment and potential uses as a means to reducing the costs of treating all water to potable water standards.
7. Projects that identify and quantify the benefits of using integrated water resources management approaches.