



Washington State Conservation Commission

January 18, 2016

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Sarah Groth, WSCC Fiscal Analyst
Karla Heinitz, WSCC Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Revision to SCC Emergency and Cultural Resource Fund

Summary: Commission staff is recommending a revision to the spending criteria for the cultural resource and emergency funding previously set aside by the Commission.

Action Requested: Approval of modification of the allowable projects.

Description:

At the July 2015 Commission meeting, \$1,000,000 of capital non-shellfish funding was set-aside to cover the costs for two needs – cultural resource review and fire recovery. Since this action by the Commission a new request has been made that these funds be made available for projects related to flood disasters.

Commission staff met and propose to the Commission a modification of the allowable use of these set-aside funds. Staff proposes these funds continue to be eligible to assist districts in the costs associated with cultural resource review. However, staff recommend an expansion of the disaster related portion of the funding to be made available in the following circumstances:

1. Upon the determination of the Commission of a disaster, funding would be made available for conservation district projects that address emergent project needs, disaster recovery project needs, and long-term disaster preparedness project needs.
2. A “disaster” would be determined by the Commission and doesn’t need to be based on a Governor or Federal disaster declaration. It could be based on an identifiable project need related to an actual or anticipated disaster. For example, there may be projects relating to long-term drought preparation even though there is no state drought disaster declaration.
3. Possible disasters eligible for funding would be fire preparation, response, and recovery; flood preparation, response, and recovery; drought response and preparation; invasive species; sever weather. This is not an exhaustive or all-inclusive list.

4. Conservation district capital projects eligible for funding from the Cultural Resource and Disaster Assistance Account (CRDAA) must be entered into the CPDS system and identified and sufficiently described as a project addressing a disaster need.
5. Projects funded from the CRDAA would be funded apart from other capital funded processes and would not be “counted against” other funded project decisions.
6. When making funding decisions, Commission staff will identify and consider whether there are other fund sources that could be used for the proposed project. Other fund sources include state appropriation or supplemental appropriation, federal program funding, or considered as a regular conservation district sponsored project.
7. Funding will be for the 2015-17 biennium and will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding for capital projects also will not compromise funding needs for cultural resources from this fund source. Cultural resource funding will be set aside in a sufficient amount to meet anticipated needs.
8. The Commission will receive periodic briefings as to the status of the CRDAA and any projects funded from the account.