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\$700,000 in Alaska Clean Water Actions grants available Organizations sought to help improve high priority water bodies

(Juneau, Alaska) More than \$700,000 in grants is available for clean water projects, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today. Each year, DEC along with its partners in the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) program, the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game, solicits proposals for projects to be funded through ACWA grants. The funds are granted to local communities and citizens groups for projects that monitor and restore targeted high priority water bodies.

"ACWA grants have very positive impacts on water quality throughout Alaska," said DEC's Water Division Director Lynn Kent. "We encourage local governments, Native groups, watershed councils, any organization interested in improving the state's water quality to apply for funding to address priority water body needs."

New to the ACWA grants this year is a stewardship project that will provide monies to monitor stormwater impacts to urban anadromous streams in southcentral Alaska.

Assessing and preventing stormwater pollution is a priority of the eight-year-old program. Projects receiving grants last year were diverse and distributed around the State. For example, the Juneau Watershed Partnership is constructing a number of stormwater treatment demonstration sites-to help show ways to reduce pollutants in stormwater. In Unalaska, three sediment separators are being installed to the City's stormwater collection system.

For more information about the program's priorities and the solicitation, visit DEC's website at:

www.dec.state.ak.us/water/acwa/acwa_index.htm

Applications must be submitted on-line by February 19, 2010