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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 14-62

Dec. 23, 2014

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Up to \$425,000 in Alaska Clean Water Actions grants available *Local organizations sought to improve state's high priority water bodies*

(JUNEAU, AK) — Up to \$425,000 may be awarded for clean water projects through the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) grants. Each year, the Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Natural Resources and Fish & Game, solicit proposals for clean water projects to be funded through ACWA grants. The funds are granted to local communities and citizens groups for projects that monitor and restore Alaska's high priority water bodies.

Recently, ACWA grants funded 'green infrastructure' projects in Fairbanks and Skagway that reduced stormwater pollution by using the natural environment. DEC hopes to expand the number of communities around the state using this low impact natural technology. On another recent project, DEC worked with homeowners and septic pumping services in the Matanuska Susitna Valley to establish routine pumping agreements, known as septic cooperatives. Well maintained septic systems are less likely to fail and are more protective of the environment.

"We are pleased to once again provide funds for water quality improvement throughout the state," said DEC Director of Water Michelle Hale. "DEC has had great success with the ACWA grant program. In recent years, the grants have helped fund numerous projects that work to change both infrastructure and human behavior."

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

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/acwa/onlineACWAapp.htm>.

The solicitation opens Dec. 23, 2014. All applications must be submitted online by 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2015.

To see what communities and organizations have accomplished on past ACWA projects, go to: http://dec.alaska.gov/water/acwa/acwa_index.htm.

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