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Press Release

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Up to \$500,000 in Alaska Clean Water Actions Grants Available *Local organizations sought to help improve State's high priority water bodies*

(JUNEAU, AK) — Up to \$500,000 is now available for clean water projects through the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) grants. Each year, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), along with the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish & Game, solicits proposals for clean water projects to be funded through the ACWA grants. The funds are granted to local communities and citizens groups for projects that monitor and restore Alaska's high priority water bodies.

"We are pleased to once again provide funds for water quality improvement throughout the state," said DEC's Director of Water Michelle Bonnet Hale. "We've had great success with the ACWA grant program. For example, the Chena River was impaired (polluted) due to excessive sediment that was being carried by stormwater into the river, but recent data now shows the river is meeting standards, thanks in a large part to ACWA grantees working with local government in Fairbanks to improve stormwater management. I encourage local governments and other local organizations to apply for grants to do environmental stewardship projects and to address high priority watershed needs."

Waters that are polluted or at risk of pollution get the highest priority for grant awards. Other priorities for this year's grants include local governments addressing the proper operation and maintenance for on-site septic systems; stormwater controls; and green infrastructure proposals. Proposals can include planning and design work for area-wide programs as well as funding for construction of small demonstration projects.

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>.

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

The solicitation opens December 30, 2013. All applications must be submitted on-line by 5:00 p.m. February 12, 2014.

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