

May 16, 2024

TO: Conservation Commission Members
James Thompson, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Sarah Groth, Director of Accounting and Budget

SUBJECT: Funding Approval for Fiscal Year 2025

Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Informational Item	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary:

SCC staff seek approval to allocate fiscal year 2025 funds to districts.

Requested Action:

Approve the funding proposal proposed below with specific award amounts for the following grant programs in the attached table.

Staff Contact:

Sarah Groth, Director of Accounting and Budget

Background and Discussion:

Funding Allocation Request:

1. SCC Administration The operating budget passed by the legislature allows for administration funding to continue at the same levels as the 2021-23 biennium. As SCC staff determine best course(s) of action, SCC staff recommends continuing administration activities at the 2021-23 level with a few adjustments to increase staff capacity in areas the Chair, Executive Director and commission staff have identified.

Included in this are additional items added to our operating budget:

- Organic & Climate Smart Ag Evaluation
- Community Engagement Plan
- Ag Science Program (Ecosystem Monitoring)
- Salmon Riparian Education & Communications
- Artificial Lighting (King CD)

2. Implementation Allocation (Exhibit 1): SCC recommends funding for Implementation at \$9,202,095 per fiscal year, an increase of approximately \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2025. This is due to increased CTA funding received in the 2023-2025 operating budget, in the amount of \$500,000 per fiscal year ongoing and onetime funding of \$3,500,000 in funding passed in the 2024 supplemental budget. At the district round table meeting on May 9, 2024, districts supported a

reduced allocation of \$2,222 per district to support an increase in funding for the Center for Technical Development. This will result in a \$75,000 per district one-time increase for FY25.

3. Task Orders The operating budget allows SCC to continue funding NRCS task orders at the same amount as fiscal year 2023 funding not to exceed \$225,000 per fiscal year. SCC staff are working with districts and NRCS to prepare task orders to allow districts to begin work July 1, 2024. SCC staff recommend, as was the case in fiscal year 2023 & 2024, SCC staff in consultation with NRCS would be authorized to approve and execute new task orders.

4. Riparian Plant Prorogation The operating budget allows SCC to continue funding the RPPP at \$1,300,000 per fiscal year. SCC staff request approval to award funding in accordance with commission approved programmatic guidelines for Riparian Plant Propagation Program as well as additional RFP's developed with the assistance of DES, not to exceed \$1,300,000.

5. Sustainable Farms & Fields The operating budget allows SCC to continue funding the SFF at \$1,500,000 per fiscal year. SCC staff request approval to award funding in accordance with commission approved programmatic guidelines for Sustainable Farms & Fields Program not to exceed \$1,500,000.

6. Disaster Assistance Program (DAP): The Legislature appropriated \$600,000/\$300,000 per fiscal year for One-time funding is provided solely to support continued development of the disaster assistance program established in RCW 89.08.645, to provide short-term financial support for farmers and ranchers during disasters. Funding must be prioritized for farmers and ranchers who are most economically vulnerable. SCC staff request approval to award funding in accordance with commission approved programmatic guidelines for Forest Health & Community Wildfire and any cultural resource work required per Executive Order 21-02.

7. Engineering Allocation (Exhibit 1): Professional Engineering grant will continue funding at \$250,000 per engineering area, per fiscal year 2025. SCC staff request approval to award funding in accordance with commission approved programmatic guidelines for Professional Engineering.

8. CREP: Project development and project management/TA (Exhibit 1): The capital budget passed by the legislature included \$4,000,000 for CREP from the State Building Construction Account and \$11,000,000 from the Natural Climate Solutions Account for a total of \$15,000,000 for project development and project management/TA and cost share activities. Reappropriation for unspent 2021-2023 Cost Share and TA funds was also included in the budget bill.

For CREP, the program manager is recommending CREP TA funding for FY 25 at the level established in FY22. Pending conversations with district staff and review of the outreach conducted these amounts may be amended, at the discretion of the CREP program manager, not to exceed a total of \$2,000,000 for the fiscal year. CREP cost share and maintenance will continue to be requested and awarded as needed by districts consistent with the CREP maintenance policy established in 2017.

Recommended Action and Options:

Approve the funding proposal proposed below with specific award amounts for the following grant programs in the attached table.



Washington State Conservation Commission

District	Implementation FY 25	Professional Engineering FY 25	CREP Project Development, Project Management/TA FY 25
Adams	\$ 204,491.00		
Asotin	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 56,849.00
Benton	\$ 204,491.00		
Cascadia	\$ 204,491.00		
Central Klickitat	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Clallam	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 41,769.00
Clark	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 26,784.00
Columbia	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 19,920.00
Columbia Basin	\$ 204,491.00		
Cowlitz	\$ 204,491.00		
Eastern Klickitat	\$ 204,491.00		
Ferry	\$ 204,491.00		
Foster Creek	\$ 204,491.00		
Franklin	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Grays Harbor	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 15,889.00
Jefferson	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 29,264.00
King	\$ 204,491.00		
Kitsap	\$ 204,491.00		
Kittitas	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Lewis	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 73,566.00
Lincoln	\$ 204,491.00		
Mason	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 40,212.00
North Yakima	\$ 204,491.00		
Okanogan	\$ 204,491.00		
Pacific	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 9,130.00
Palouse	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 71,167.00
Pend Oreille	\$ 204,491.00		
Pierce	\$ 204,491.00		
Pine Creek	\$ 204,491.00		
Pomeroy	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 35,926.00
Rock Lake	\$ 204,491.00		
San Juan	\$ 204,491.00		
Skagit	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 64,370.00
Snohomish	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 85,333.00
South Douglas	\$ 204,491.00		
South Yakima	\$ 204,491.00		
Spokane	\$ 204,491.00		
Stevens	\$ 204,491.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Thurston	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 48,931.00
Underwood	\$ 204,491.00		
Wahkiakum	\$ 204,491.00		
Walla Walla	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 87,186.00
Whatcom	\$ 204,491.00		\$ 300,630.00
Whidbey Island	\$ 204,491.00		
Whitman	\$ 204,491.00		
New Projects TA			\$ 993,074.00
Total	\$ 9,202,095.00	\$ 2,250,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00