

## DHS PROP 50 GRANT PROGRAMS

### ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

#### Generators/Standby Power

##### Chapter 3

Can backup or standby generators be purchased with grant funds under Chapter 3?  
*DHS has determined that backup generators are considered a normal water system responsibility and thus are not eligible under Chapter 3 (Water Security).*

Are electrical hookups for generators an eligible expense under Chapter 3?  
*No.*

##### Chapter 4a.1

Chapter 4.a.1. Would the lack of standby power at a water supply well be considered non-compliance with a safe drinking water standard?  
*No.*

Can backup or standby generators be purchased with grant funds under Chapter 4a.1?  
*No.*

Are electrical hookups for generators an eligible expense under Chapter 4a.1?  
*No.*

#### Chapter 3 -Security Projects

##### Projects determined to be potentially eligible under Chapter 3:

Fencing and alarm system upgrade project

New fencing for above ground storage tanks, motion detectors and electronic sensors

Add housing structures to existing wells to protect facilities from vandalism

Add additional alarm system to water treatment facility entry points (doors and windows)

Emergency storage reservoir for multiple water systems

##### SCADA

Would a project be eligible under Chapter 3 (Security) for a SCADA system to link 5 water systems and treatment plants in 5 different counties?

*More information is needed to determine the eligibility of this project. Specifically:*

*1. How does this proposal improve security? It appears that these are operational improvements. The pre-application should explain how they would be able to respond to problems, in an area that covers 5 counties, in a timely*

*manner. The pre-application should also explain the specific security improvements the SCADA system will provide.*

*2. The pre-application should explain how these 5 systems would benefit from this project, including an explanation about whether or not these 5 systems would be tied together for security response vs. their current practices at the five individual systems.*

### **Projects determined to be not eligible under Chapter 3:**

Sample collection training video/DVD. The purpose is to develop a training video/DVD for sampling procedures to be used as part of a response to an intentional contamination event.

*This is not an infrastructure project that secures any of the water system facilities.*

Long Term Best Management Practices for Water Utilities. The purpose is to develop guidelines for water utilities in California for long-term best management practices for sustaining a sensible level of security and progressively filling analytical gaps.

*This is not an infrastructure project that secures any of the water system facilities.*

The water system does not meet fire flow requirements. Under Prop 50, would we qualify to upgrade our reservoir capacity for security/safety purposes?

*Upgrading water system storage for fire flow capacity is not an eligible project under Prop 50 Grant Program 3 (Water Security).*

New Reservoir - to prevent disruption of drinking water deliveries. We need a back up reservoir or a replacement reservoir equal in size to the existing one.

*NOT eligible, because Chapter 3 projects are intended to increase the reliability of existing facilities, not to increase reliability by constructing new facilities for normal operation (such as storage, booster pumps, or sources), except interties.*

Backup Booster Pumps - We need to install a back up booster pump station or a booster station that can alternate in operation with the existing station to add redundancy

*NOT eligible, because Chapter 3 projects are intended to increase the reliability of existing facilities, not to increase reliability by constructing new facilities for normal operation (such as storage, booster pumps, or sources), except interties.*

New well - design and construction of new well to secure supply of drinking water if existing well goes down due to unscheduled repairs or vandalism.

*NOT eligible, because Chapter 3 projects are intended to increase the reliability of existing facilities, not to increase reliability by constructing new facilities for normal operation (such as storage, booster pumps, or sources), except interties.*

## Chapter 4a.2 - New technology

Arsenic - under Chapter 4a.2 is an arsenic removal technology demonstration that uses commercially available media (or non commercially available technology) that has a patent (or patent pending) eligible under this category?

*Yes, as long as it is one that DHS has not previously approved for that purpose.*

## Chap 4a.4 - Source Water Protection

Would a project for risk assessment modeling and survival of pathogens in the Delta be an eligible source water protection project?

*This project doesn't appear to meet the eligibility criteria. Eligible source water protection (SWP) projects must address a possible contaminating activity (PCA). The project must prevent the release of contaminants from a PCA, or prevent a contaminant that has been released from reaching the drinking water source. This project appears to be a study of pathogen survival, but doesn't do anything about preventing the release of pathogens or preventing their migration. It is possible that after the study is completed, there could be some recommendations that could be funded with a SWP grant.*

Would a project to use fiber ultra filtration units for source water sampling be an eligible source water protection project? This would be beneficial as a tool for source water contamination assessment and protection studies.

*This project doesn't appear to meet the eligibility criteria. Eligible SWP projects must address a possible contaminating activity (PCA). The project must prevent the release of contaminants from a PCA, or prevent a contaminant that has been released from reaching the drinking water source. This proposed SWP project appears to be a monitoring installation, the connection to source water protection is not clear. What is done with the monitoring results? What are the emergency response procedures? How would this prevent the drinking water supply from becoming contaminated? This appears to be a response project, and not a pro-active protection project.*

Would a project to remove weeds from a drinking water reservoir to reduce total organic carbon (TOC) be an eligible source water protection project?

*This doesn't appear to be an eligible project, but more information would be necessary to verify. Eligible source water protection (SWP) projects must address a possible contaminating activity (PCA). The project must prevent the release of contaminants from a PCA, or prevent a contaminant that has been released from reaching the drinking water source. What PCA would be addressed?*

Would a project that studies means of source protection of a groundwater supply that may be under the influence of Onsite Treatment Systems (OSTS) be a viable Chapter 4a4 project?

*This question cannot be answered without more detail. Projects that address on-site systems (septic systems) may be eligible if they prevent the release of a contaminant (i.e. microbial or nitrate) within the protection zones for a drinking water source. Also, because on-site systems have other sources of funding available (from Clean Water SRF,*

*USDA Rural Community Assistance, etc.), the pre-application must explain why other sources of funding were not available for this project.*

County proposed project to address groundwater vulnerability around drinking water supply wells from contamination sources (underground storage tanks, dry cleaners, other urban activities) throughout County. Would County be an eligible applicant?  
*Eligible applicants under Grant Program 4a.4 are public water systems. Other entities may partner with a public water system on a project, but one public water system must be designated as the lead applicant.*

Drinking Water Source Protection Program - would buying a portion of land, in addition to the footprint area of a new well site, in order to remove a septic tank and leach field that is too close to the new well site be an allowable project?  
*Land purchases are eligible expenditures under Prop 50 grant program 4a.4 (Source Water Protection). For this grant program only, the land does not have to be just for the footprint of a treatment or well site. It can be parcels of land adjacent to the source, or even at a distance from the source. Remember that an eligible SWP project must prevent a possible contaminating activity (PCA) from releasing contaminants or prevent a contaminant that has been released from reaching the drinking water supply. The pre-application should discuss how this land purchase (or easement) will meet this criteria.*

Replace old sewer pipelines near drinking water facilities to prevent contamination of ground water drinking water source.  
*To be eligible, the pre-application must explain how this project will protect the drinking water source. The project must address only the zones for which the project is ranked (for example, microbiological contaminants from leaking sewer lines would be considered a high priority in Zone A for a well, but the replacement of leaking sewer lines outside of Zone A would be ranked much lower). In addition, for a project such as this where other funding may be available (normal sewer line replacement funds or perhaps Clean Water State Revolving Fund), the pre-application should explain why the other sources of funds can't pay for the project.*

Would a cost for land over the appraised amount be allowable under Chapter 4a4?  
*The purchase price for each acquisition shall not exceed the fair market value of the property. Fair market value shall be determined by an appraisal that is prepared by a licensed real estate appraiser. All real property shall be acquired from willing sellers.*

## **Chapter 4b - Water Recycling projects**

Are water recycling projects eligible under grant program 4b?  
*In order for a recycled water project to be eligible for funding under grant program 4b (Southern California), the project must reduce demand on Colorado River and address a drinking water standard, regulation, or DHS directive, or address an AB 1747 priority contaminant, or address an emerging contaminant. The only recycled water projects that might possibly meet both criteria are groundwater recharge projects and surface water augmentation projects. Since these types of projects must meet all state and federal*

*MCLs to be approved, the only eligible expenses under Prop 50 would be those necessary to address AB 1747 priority contaminants. DHS will evaluate whether the project is eligible for funding based on the project pre-application.*

## **Chapter 4b – New Wells**

Is drilling a new well eligible under Chap 4b if a utility can demonstrate that the well will be contaminated and the project will reduce demand on Colorado River?

*Yes, Prop 50 Chapter 4b funds may be used.*

## **Private wells/state small water systems**

Can Prop 50 funds be used to connect a state small water system or homes on private wells to an existing public water system?

*These types of projects may be eligible under Prop. 50. The existing public water system and the state small water system (or homes on private wells) must be in non-compliance with the same safe drinking water standard. The project must correct the violation. The existing public water system must be willing to provide service to the state small system or private homes, and the owners of the properties to be connected must be willing to undertake the project. The existing public water system may apply for the grant, or a representative of the properties to be connected may apply on behalf of the water system. In addition, the project must not cause the applicant to exceed the 10% above maximum daily demand (or 20 year plan). The project will be ranked based on the health risk or water quality problem of the existing water supply of the properties to be connected.*

Can a community that is not currently a public water system be an eligible applicant?

*No. The community must first form a public water system before a pre-application can be submitted.*

Does Prop 50 provide any funding for feasibility studies to investigate constructing a community water system?

*No, the Prop 50 grant programs administered by DHS do not provide funds solely for feasibility studies.*

## **Fire flow eligibility**

Is fire flow capacity an eligible component of Prop 50 projects, specifically Chap 4a.1 (Small Community Water Systems)? How is fire flow capacity calculated?

*DHS Prop 50 Chapter 4 grant programs primarily address corrections of safe drinking water standards. Fire flow capacity is not a requirement of the safe drinking water standards. Therefore, projects addressing fire flow are not eligible. However, if a project which addresses compliance with safe drinking water standards includes distribution pipelines, then those distribution pipelines may be allowed to include fire flow capacity in the design and construction.*