

Operating 9/20/2022 \$ in thousands - Biennialized FTEs		2023-25 Biennium Budget Request 9/20/2022				
		FTE	GF-State	MTCA ¹	Other	Total
2023-25 Carryforward Base Budget		1,904.9	72,605	301,193	330,925	704,723
Maintenance Level Changes						
1	Address Toxic Tire Wear Chemical	5.8		2,702		2,702
2	Illegal Drug Ops Hazardous Waste	8.7		2,368		2,368
3	WCC Member Wages and Benefits			831	1,670	2,501
4	General Wage Adjustment		82	674	249	1,005
5	Public Participation Grants			1,179		1,179
6	Teck Metals Litigation Support			700		700
7	Hazardous Waste & Toxics IT Systems	1.2		422		422
8	Minimum Wage Increases - Facilities		14	74	32	120
9	Meeting Air Operating Permit Needs	0.2			64	64
10	Operations Center Lease Increase			32		32
Policy Level Changes						
Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts						
11	AQ in Overburdened Communities	8.3			2,479	2,479
12	GHG Inventory Development	4.6	1,248			1,248
13	Washington Fuel Reporting System	0.8			1,796	1,796
14	Implement Climate Commitment Act	6.3			3,633	3,633
15	HFC Compliance and Equity	1.2		296		296
Prevent and Reduce Toxic Threats and Pollution						
16	Laboratory Accreditation Auditors	5.8		1,774		1,774
17	Litter Control and Waste Reduction				1,250	1,250
18	Modernizing TurboPlan System	1.7			1,050	1,050
19	Cultural Resources for Cleanup	2.3		660		660
20	Washington Compost Emissions Study			2,500		2,500
Protect and Manage Our State's Waters						
21	Toxic Tire Wear in Stormwater	8.4		5,195		5,195
22	Coastal Climate Hazards	10.6		3,914		3,914
23	Drought Preparedness and Response	2.3			11,000	11,000
24	Municipal Wastewater Permitting	17.3			5,002	5,002
25	Industrial Discharge Permitting	18.4			5,130	5,130
26	Nooksack Adjudication	8.1	2,738			2,738
27	Lake Roosevelt Adjudication	4.0	1,536			1,536
28	WQ Grant and Loan Administration	8.6		560	1,576	2,136
29	Contaminated Sites Redevelopment	5.8		1,430		1,430
30	Addressing Nonpoint Pollution	10.4		2,256		2,256
31	Safe and Sustainable Groundwater	2.3		721		721
32	Vessel and Oil Transfer Inspectors	2.3		552	237	789
33	Tug Escort Environmental Assessment	1.2		1,106		1,106
34	Floodplain Management Grants				800	800

		2023-25 Biennium Budget Request 9/20/2022				
		FTE	GF-State	MTCA ¹	Other	Total
35	Wetland Mitigation Bank Oversight	2.3		548		548
36	River Migration Mapping for Salmon	1.2	354			354
37	WQ Fee and Loan Tracking Systems	1.2			468	468
38	Padilla Bay Reserve Stewardship	2.3		446		446
Other						
39	EAGL Modernization	7.2	485	2,106	1,258	3,849
40	Enterprise Content Management	6.9	300	1,306	780	2,386
Total Changes		167.6	6,757	34,352	38,474	79,583
Total Operating Budget		2,072.5	79,362	335,545	369,399	784,306

¹ Model Toxics Control Operating Account (23P-1, 23P-7) and Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account (23R-1).

Protecting the Environment | Ensuring Public Health | Supporting Economic Growth & Jobs

As the state’s lead environmental agency, Ecology’s mission is to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations, while valuing and supporting Washington’s economic success. We’re tackling challenges that are unique to our times and require us to take a broad and holistic approach to our work that focuses on not only *what* we do, but also *how* we do it.

- Ecology’s strategic goals are to:
- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
- Reduce and prepare for climate change impacts.
- Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution.
- Protect and manage our state’s waters.

Our agency’s deep commitment to environmental justice is tied to each of our strategic goals and guides the way we work to accomplish those goals.

Ecology’s \$79.6 million 2023-25 biennial operating budget request reflects an economy that is largely recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to help support our communities during this time, while continuing to protect environmental and public health through a focus on equity and environmental justice. This operating budget request is needed to:

- Effectively implement recently enacted climate policy legislation aimed at reducing carbon pollution - including the Climate Commitment Act and Clean Fuel Standard - to achieve state greenhouse gas emission limits and reduce air pollution in overburdened communities.

- Support recommended priorities and actions from the Governor’s 2021 salmon strategy update and State/Tribal Riparian Protection & Restoration Workgroup needed to better monitor the health of our riparian buffers and protect salmon.
- Improve water quality through timely issuance of municipal wastewater and industrial discharge permits, implementing water quality cleanup plans and best management practices to reduce nonpoint pollution, and mitigating toxic chemicals in stormwater runoff from industrial and contaminated sites.
- Assist local communities with environmental issues, including coastal climate hazards and resiliency, flood risks, drought, contaminated drinking water, toxic site cleanup, water right adjudications, and the impacts of solid waste and litter accumulation.
- Fund key information technology enhancements to ensure Ecology can continue to pass funding through to local communities for environmental and public health projects and improve data collection and reporting on hazardous waste generation, toxic chemicals in consumer products, water quality permits, and wastewater treatment plant operator certifications.
- Support legal costs incurred by the Attorney General’s Office related to current litigation involving Ecology.

These requests are supported primarily by dedicated environmental funds and direct charges to customers for services provided.

The following summarizes each request for Ecology. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section.

Maintenance Level

1. **Address Toxic Tire Wear Chemical. \$2,702,000, 5.8 FTEs.** For over two decades, Washington has worked to understand why salmon populations have declined and find ways to prevent possible extinction. Recently, researchers at the University of Washington and Washington State University learned that an ingredient in tires (known as 6PPD) creates a toxic by product that is released into the environment and is especially toxic to Coho salmon in very small amounts. Funding was provided in the 2022 supplemental operating budget to expand the research into safer alternatives to 6PPD and conduct alternative assessments for possible replacement chemicals. However, that funding was only provided one-time for fiscal year 2023; but the work needed to support these efforts is ongoing. Ecology is requesting ongoing funding to further the research and work on assessments started in fiscal year 2023 that will inform development of a cohesive strategy

- and recommendations for how to eliminate the use of this toxic chemical in tires. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
2. **Illegal Drug Ops Hazardous Waste. \$2,368,000, 8.7 FTEs.** Ecology supports law enforcement agencies when they respond to illegal drug operations. Spill responders are called in to collect the dangerous waste from these sites, arranging for its proper storage and eventual disposal. The number of these responses has increased significantly in recent years and, as a result, so has the amount of dangerous waste having to be temporarily stored at Ecology facilities. Funding was provided in the 2022 supplemental operating budget, based on a submitted decision package, to support this increased workload. However, that funding was only provided as one-time for fiscal year 2023, while the need for additional staff to support our law enforcement partners, and meet dangerous waste requirements under Chapter 173-303 WAC, is ongoing. Ecology is requesting a maintenance level adjustment to provide the funding needed to support this work on an ongoing basis, consistent with our 2022 decision package. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
 3. **WCC Member Wages and Benefits. \$2,501,000.** The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) collaborates with organizations to complete environmental restoration and recreation enhancement projects statewide. As the state minimum wage continues to increase, WCC must increase the living allowance and benefits package for its AmeriCorps members to remain competitive with other opportunities; retain members for their full terms; and allow anyone eligible the opportunity to serve, regardless of socio-economic background. This is an equity adjustment in the living allowance to ensure it is comparable to, and consistent with, the state minimum wage law. Ecology requests state funding to maintain 389 members and staff with WCC's cost-share model, where partners provide 75 percent and Ecology provides a 25 percent match through a mix of AmeriCorps grant funds and state appropriation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local)
 4. **General Wage Adjustment. \$1,005,000.** State agencies received funding in the 2022 supplemental operating budget for the collective bargaining agreement general wage increase of 3.25 percent, effective July 1, 2022. Funding was based on the available Compensation Impact Model (CIM) projections from staffing data provided by agencies in May 2020. For Ecology, this did not reflect the significant changes to staffing and fund sources in the 2021-23 enacted and 2022 supplemental budgets. Ecology is requesting a Maintenance Level adjustment to fully fund the general wage increase in the 2023-25 biennium and ongoing, using the most recent CIM data from May 2022. (Multiple Funds)
 5. **Public Participation Grants. \$1,179,000.** The Public Participation Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides funding to help individuals and not-for-profit public interest organizations facilitate public participation in the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites, carry out waste management education projects, and

facilitate implementation of the state’s solid and hazardous waste management priorities. Ecology is requesting a maintenance level adjustment of \$1,179,000 to keep grant funding aligned with the mandated level of one percent of moneys collected under RCW 82.21.030, Hazardous Substance Tax. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

6. **Teck Metals Litigation Support. \$700,000.** This request aligns with the Office of the Attorney General’s (AGO) budget request for continuation of Phase 3 of the Pakootas v. Teck Metals, Ltd. (Teck) litigation, in which Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are co-plaintiffs in federal district court. Phases 1 and 2 of the litigation previously established Teck’s liability for releases of metals and other chemicals into the Columbia River from its smelting complex in Canada. Phase 3 of the litigation, which is expected to go to trial starting in June 2023, is needed to recover natural resource injuries and damages because of pollution from the smelter operations. This request supports expert and AGO resources needed next biennium to complete this phase of the litigation, which Ecology will then be billed for. Ecology is requesting appropriation, consistent with the AGO’s budget request, to cover these increased legal costs. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
7. **Hazardous Waste & Toxics IT Systems. \$422,000, 1.2 FTEs.** State and federal regulations require many businesses to report information about toxic chemicals and wastes to Ecology through two existing IT systems. The TurboWaste system is used to collect annual information from more than 4,000 hazardous waste generators regarding quantity, concentrations, and characteristics of hazardous wastes. The High Priorities Chemical Data System collects information from manufacturers on toxic chemicals in consumer products. Funding was provided in the 2022 supplemental operating budget, based on a submitted decision package, to enhance and maintain these systems to meet complicated federal reporting requirements, ensure regulatory compliance, and provide technical assistance. However, that funding was only provided one-time for fiscal year 2023, while the work needed to support these systems is ongoing. Consistent with our 2022 decision package, Ecology is requesting a maintenance level adjustment to provide the funding needed on an ongoing basis. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
8. **Minimum Wage Increases - Facilities. \$120,000.** Washington State’s minimum wage has increased every year since 2011 and, under RCW 49.46.020, it is adjusted each year based on the U.S. consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. These increases, along with changes in prevailing wage rates, continue to increase costs across a number of Ecology’s existing service and maintenance contracts, including janitorial and security services. Ecology is requesting a maintenance level adjustment in funding to cover the increased costs associated with these minimum and prevailing wage changes in existing service and maintenance contracts for Ecology facilities. (Multiple Funds)

9. **Meeting Air Operating Permit Needs. \$64,000, 0.2 FTE.** Federal and state laws define the scope and content of the Air Operating Permit Program. Under these laws, industrial facilities that emit large amounts of air pollution are required to comply with and pay the full costs of the program. State law requires Ecology to use a workload analysis model to determine the budget necessary to administer the program each biennium. In June 2022, Ecology published its final workload analysis, projecting an increased workload for the 2023-25 biennium, based on current costs and workload projections. Ecology is requesting additional spending authority to match the revenue levels already set by the 2023-25 workload analysis. (Air Operating Permit Account)
10. **Operations Center Lease Increase. \$32,000.** This request is for a maintenance level lease increase for Ecology’s Operations Center lease in Thurston County. The scientific and monitoring work done at this facility benefits Ecology, other state agencies, tribes, and local partners, and helps protect, preserve, and enhance Washington’s environment for current and future generations. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Policy Level

Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts

11. **AQ in Overburdened Communities. \$2,479,000, 8.3 FTEs.** Under section 3 of the Climate Commitment Act, RCW 70A.65.020 requires Ecology to take actions to reduce criteria air pollutant emissions in identified overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. When the law was passed in 2021, the costs to implement stricter standards was indeterminate in Ecology’s final fiscal note. Now, more than a year into our implementation, Ecology has identified the necessary steps to develop and implement the emission control strategies and methods needed to reduce criteria air pollutants in the identified overburdened communities. Ecology is requesting funding to conduct a series of reoccurring rulemakings that will set stricter standards for control technology used to limit or mitigate the air pollution released from stationary emission sources. (Climate Investment Account)
12. **GHG Inventory Development. \$1,248,000, 4.6 FTEs.** The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is the official measure for assessing progress toward meeting Washington’s statutory GHG emission limits. These limits are both aggressive and in line with current climate science, yet our ability to track progress toward meeting them, and predict the outcomes of policy decisions, has not kept pace. This request will provide additional resources to improve the timeliness and accuracy of data reported in Inventory and provide policy support staff that predict and track the GHG impact of current and proposed climate policies. These needs are critical to our ability to meeting the state’s GHG limits and minimize our contribution to global climate change. (General Fund-State)

13. **Washington Fuel Reporting System. \$1,796,000, 0.8 FTE.** The Clean Fuel Standard, passed in 2021 (E3SHB 1091), requires fuel suppliers to gradually reduce the carbon intensity of their products 20 percent below 2017 levels by 2038. The law requires Ecology to adopt rules to establish the Clean Fuels Standard Program by January 1, 2023. To meet these requirements, Ecology is developing the Washington Fuel Reporting System, an online market platform that will allow regulated entities to register for the new program, report fuel transactions, calculate the credits and deficits generated by these transactions, and trade credits to achieve compliance. However, the new market platform that will go live in January is based on aging technology that needs to be replaced. Ecology is requesting funding over the next three years to collaborate with the state of California in co-developing market platforms for each state. This approach will allow both states to leverage the same or similar services for their own programs, at lower costs, while helping to achieve emission reduction goals. (Clean Fuels Program Account)
14. **Implement Climate Commitment Act. \$3,633,000, 6.3 FTEs.** Under the Climate Commitment Act, Washington is implementing a cap-and-invest program to limit GHGs. The revenue from purchases of emissions allowances will be invested into projects and grants that help achieve the state's climate change mitigation and resilience goals. These projects will aim to support affordable transitions for regulated entities and their customers and support environmental justice. The 2022 supplemental operating budget fully funded program implementation costs for Ecology during the 2021-23 biennium, consistent with our final fiscal note for the bill that passed in 2021. However, as Ecology has progressed in creating the cap-and invest-program, we have identified additional needs in several key areas of the program, based on our experience with actual implementation to this point. This budget request provides funding for additional staff and contract resources needed to continue successful implementation of the cap-and-invest program into the future. (Climate Investment Account)
15. **HFC Compliance and Equity. \$296,000, 1.2 FTEs.** Legislation passed in 2019 and 2021 established and expanded Washington-specific restrictions on the sale of products containing certain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a category of potent (GHG). HFCs are chemicals made up of hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon, and are commonly used in air conditioning and refrigeration, in producing insulating foams, and as propellants. Ecology received funding in the 2019-21 operating budget to adopt rules and expand monitoring and compliance requirements to include the prohibitions on HFCs. However, since 2019, the compliance workload associated with these restrictions has outpaced our current staffing capacity. Ecology requests funding to add a new HFC compliance inspector to meet the current workload demand and contract for a one-time study to identify and quantify the extent of any equity challenges created by bans on HFC-related products. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Prevent and Reduce Toxic Threats and Pollution

16. **Laboratory Accreditation Auditors. \$1,774,000, 5.8 FTEs.** The Laboratory Accreditation Unit is responsible for auditing environmental and drinking water laboratories that do business in, or with, Washington State. These audits are a key component of the accreditation process and help ensure that analyses are properly conducted according to prescribed methods and that Washington makes informed decisions based credible, defensible data. The workload for this unit has increased significantly over the last decade as the need for technical assistance has grown, along with the demand to accredit new laboratories looking to analyze complex, novel compounds such as 6PPD-quinone. Ecology does not currently have sufficient staff to keep up with this increased workload, and a 2021 audit by the Environmental Protection Agency found that 34 drinking water laboratories had not been audited within three years, which is required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This request will provide one-time bridge funding for the 2023-25 biennium to address this drinking water lab backlog and reestablish a standard audit cycle for other environmental labs that need to be accredited. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
17. **Litter Control and Waste Reduction. \$1,250,000.** Waste generation rates are rising, while recycling rates have stagnated. Litter pollution has grown considerably, in part due to the impacts of the pandemic. To increase public engagement, inspire behavior change, and address the state’s growing litter problem, Ecology is requesting funding to develop a waste reduction campaign and continue to invest in litter control efforts on state highways. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account)
18. **Modernizing TurboPlan System. \$1,050,000, 1.7 FTEs.** TurboPlan is Ecology’s IT reporting system for more than 500 Washington businesses and organizations that are required to submit pollution prevention plans under RCW 70A.214.110. This application provides an online portal for entities to submit their plans and charts reported data over time, showing trends in production, chemical use, waste, and energy consumption, while also providing data Ecology needs to assess Hazardous Waste Planning Fees each year. TurboPlan is now over a decade old and needs to be updated to remain functional and provide the data reporting and analysis capabilities needed to continue reducing hazardous waste in Washington. Ecology is requesting funding for additional IT staff and contract resources to redevelop and modernize this critical application. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Hazardous Waste Assistance Account)
19. **Cultural Resources for Cleanup. \$660,000, 2.3 FTEs.** There are currently over 6,100 toxic cleanup sites across Washington that are either in the process of being cleaned up or still awaiting cleanup. As these sites are addressed, ground disturbing activities or building/structure demolition associated with cleanup could negatively impact cultural resources at these sites. Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Program needs staff with a background

and expertise in cultural resources management to complete required reviews and consultations with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and affected Tribes on projects receiving state funding. This request will support specialized staff needed to help Ecology meet Government-to-Government obligations related to cultural resources protection and allow cleanup project managers to move cleanups forward in a timely and effective manner. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

20. **Washington Compost Emissions Study. \$2,500,000.** One-time funding is requested to conduct a statewide compost emissions study. The results from this study will provide important information that will be used to improve the quality of permitting decisions, improve compost facility operations and odor control, and support state goals to reduce organic waste in landfills to help reduce climate change impacts, as established in the organic materials management law passed in 2022 (E2SHB 1799). Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Protect and Manage Our State's Waters

21. **Toxic Tire Wear in Stormwater. \$5,195,000, 8.4 FTEs.** 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-Q) is a chemical of emerging concern that is lethal to salmon in small doses. More research is needed to better understand its persistence in the environment and which stormwater treatment approaches are effective in managing 6PPD-Q's toxic effects to Coho and other aquatic organisms impacted by stormwater runoff. Ecology received one-time funding in 2021-23 and 2022 to monitor 6PPD-Q in the environment, identify effective best management practices to treat tire wear chemicals in stormwater runoff, and develop laboratory methods to analyze 6PPD-Q in water and sediment. However, much of this work cannot be completed in a single biennium. This request will continue the work needed to provide an ongoing management strategy and monitoring effort for 6PPD-Q. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
22. **Coastal Climate Hazards. \$3,914,000, 10.6 FTEs.** Washington faces severe and costly damage to life and property from climate change. For coastal populations, there is an increased risk from worsening coastal hazards, such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. At Governor Inslee's request, the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council developed a set of coastal resilience recommendations in 2021, focused on building the organizational infrastructure for a sustained partnership between state agencies and coastal communities to help them address the challenging issues of the present and shape a prosperous future. Ecology requests funding and staff capacity needed to implement three of these priority recommendations; 1) expand data analysis to assess site scale vulnerabilities within coastal communities, 2) deliver coordinated state-level technical assistance, and 3) increase local capacity to design and implement effective on-the-ground projects. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

23. **Drought Preparedness and Response. \$11,000,000, 2.3 FTEs.** Washington faces serious impacts to its snowpack, infrastructure, and water supply as the climate continues to change, drought becomes more frequent, and temperature extremes become more common. Ecology monitors statewide water supply levels and has authority to declare a drought emergency when water supply projections fall below 75 percent of average, and there is a risk of undue hardship to water users and uses. However, there is currently no ongoing fund source available to support drought preparation or emergency response. This budget request supports agency request legislation for the 2023 session that establishes permanent funding for drought planning and preparation to improve resiliency to the effects of climate change and authorizes funding for Ecology to take immediate actions when a drought emergency is declared. (State Drought Preparedness Account; NEW – Emergency Drought Response Account)
24. **Municipal Wastewater Permitting. \$5,002,000, 17.3 FTEs.** Ecology issues water quality discharge permits for municipal wastewater treatment plants. A majority (66 percent) of those permits are currently expired because we do not have sufficient resources to process renewals. SSB 5585, passed in 2022, removed the cap on municipal wastewater permit fees and included a requirement to reduce the backlog of expired permits. Ecology convened an advisory group to develop recommendations for increasing permit fees for the 2023-25 biennium. This request will provide the appropriation authority needed, consistent with the revised fees, to hire the additional staff needed to reduce the current backlog over time. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Water Quality Permit Account)
25. **Industrial Discharge Permitting. \$5,130,000, 18.4 FTEs.** Over the years, the number and complexity of water quality permits for commercial and industrial facilities has grown much more than staffing levels. This request includes four parts to increase staffing resources to meet increased customer demand for Ecology’s permitting services. Increased staffing is needed to 1) reduce the current backlog of individual industrial wastewater permits that are expired; 2) process permit applications for sector-specific general wastewater permits and conduct compliance inspections for sand & gravel permittees; 3) process application documents for industrial stormwater and construction stormwater general permits; and 4) provide support for permit-related legislative requests, state performance reporting, and accessible and user-friendly guidance and publications. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Water Quality Permit Account)
26. **Nooksack Adjudication. \$2,738,000, 8.1 FTEs.** Ecology is proposing an adjudication of water rights in the Nooksack watershed (throughout Water Resource Inventory Area [WRIA] 1). Water is critical for fish, wildlife, recreation, and all economies in the Nooksack watershed. But uncertainties about Tribal senior water rights, unquantified claims, and the validity of water uses pose ongoing impediments to effective water management to support the state’s environment and economy. Adjudication of WRIA 1 will provide

urgently needed resolution of water rights disputes (adjudication of Lake Roosevelt and Middle Tributaries is addressed in a separate decision package). Ecology is requesting \$2.74 million to conduct a general adjudication of surface and groundwater rights that will determine who has a legal right to use water, including the federal government and Indian Tribes (Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe), and the priority and quantity of each right. (General Fund-State)

27. **Lake Roosevelt Adjudication. \$1,536,000, 4.0 FTEs.** Ecology is proposing an adjudication of water rights in the area of Lake Roosevelt and its Middle Tributaries (Water Resource Inventory Area [WRIA] 58). Water is critical for fish, wildlife, recreation, and all economies in the Lake Roosevelt area. But uncertainties about Tribal senior water rights, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water right, and the validity of water uses pose ongoing impediments to effective water management to support the state's environment and economy. Adjudication of Lake Roosevelt will provide urgently needed resolution of water rights disputes (adjudication of the Nooksack WRIA 1 is addressed in a separate decision package). Ecology is requesting \$1.54 million to conduct a general adjudication of surface and groundwater rights that will determine who has a legal right to use water, including the federal government and Indian Tribes (Spokane Tribe and Colville Confederated Tribes), and the priority and quantity of each right. (General Fund-State)
28. **WQ Grant & Loan Administration. \$2,136,000, 8.6 FTEs.** Ecology currently manages over \$1.3 billion in grants and loans for water quality infrastructure and nonpoint pollution projects across the state through its Water Quality Combined Funding Program. While funding for these investments has grown steadily over the years to meet demand in local communities, staffing levels needed to administer these funds have not kept pace. Since 2014, the number of projects funded through this program has increased by 197 percent, but staffing has only increased by 62 percent over that same time. Ecology requests funding for additional staff needed to ensure these critical funding opportunities reach the communities that need them and are effectively managed to completion. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Water Pollution Control Revolving Administration Account, Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
29. **Contaminated Sites Redevelopment. \$1,430,000, 5.8 FTEs.** Managing toxic pollutants in discharges from contaminated sites is important to protect human health and Washington waters. Toxic chemicals, including those of emerging concern, may become mobilized during site remediation or other construction activities and threaten achieving state and national goals for fishable waters, salmon recovery, and healthy watersheds. This request will address toxics in stormwater runoff from industrial and contaminated sites, which will get contaminated properties back into use sooner for affordable housing, economic redevelopment, public access, and overall economic vitality in the community. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

30. **Addressing Nonpoint Pollution. \$2,256,000, 10.4 FTEs.** Nonpoint sources of water pollution, such as runoff from streets, farms, forestlands, and other sources, continue to pollute Washington’s waters and now represent the largest remaining challenges to achieving clean water in our state. Key to addressing this challenge is having focused nonpoint specialists in the field to implement the state’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Program by identifying pollution sources and working with partners to get fixes on the ground. Ecology is requesting funding to support additional nonpoint water quality positions needed to work with landowners and local governments to promote voluntary compliance, implement best management practices, and support implementation of water quality cleanup plans. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
31. **Safe and Sustainable Groundwater. \$721,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The Sumas-Blaine Aquifer is an international transboundary aquifer jointly managed by British Columbia and Washington State. It is the principal drinking water source for 40,000-45,000 area residents, and over 20 percent of the private drinking water wells exceed the safe drinking water standards for nitrate. For 25 years, Ecology has monitored the aquifer’s health using domestic water supply wells that residents have allowed us to access. Ecology is now requesting funding to install and monitor 30 additional dedicated wells over the next six years to reduce our dependency on access to private domestic wells and improve our ability to monitor the aquifer. A dedicated groundwater well network is necessary to provide continued water quality and quantity information on this valuable resource, which will result in cool, clean groundwater critical to the health of our communities, agricultural economy, and salmon. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
32. **Vessel and Oil Transfer Inspectors. \$789,000, 2.3 FTEs.** Each year, Washington waters see over 5,000 cargo and passenger vessel transits and more than 10 billion gallons of oil moved through over 12,000 oil transfers. These activities create a risk for oil spills that are toxic and pose a significant risk to Washington’s environment, economy, public health, and historical and cultural resources. Ecology regulates and inspects vessels and transfers to prevent spills, but we are currently only able to inspect approximately 13 percent of high-risk vessels and 4.2 percent of oil transfers per year. This request will allow Ecology to conduct approximately 150 additional vessel inspections and 300 more oil transfer inspections per year, which will reduce the risk of spills and related negative impacts. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account and Oil Spill Prevention Account)
33. **Tug Escort Environmental Assessment. \$1,106,000, 1.2 FTEs.** In 2019, the Legislature passed ESHB 1578, which included a portfolio of projects aimed at preventing a catastrophic oil spill in Puget Sound by closing safety gaps related to vessels carrying oil in bulk. The law directs the Board of Pilot commissioners (BPC), in consultation with Ecology, to adopt rules for tug escorts by December 31, 2025. These rules will govern the use of tug

escorts for specific vessel types and sizes in the Rosario Straight and Puget Sound. Under an interagency agreement with BPC, Ecology will lead the rulemaking process to update BPC's tug escort rules. To support this rulemaking, Ecology is requesting funding to conduct an environmental assessment of the impacts of tug escort requirements as required under the State Environmental Policy Act. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

34. **Floodplain Management Grants. \$800,000.** State law (Chapter 86.26 RCW) created the Flood Control Assistance Account (FCAA) and established the FCAA Program. This program funds flood risk reduction activities, including grants and technical assistance to local governments that are used to develop comprehensive flood control management plans and/or invest in small-scale flood damage reduction projects. This request will provide \$800,000 for additional floodplain management grants for the 2023-25 and 2025-27 biennia so our local partners can fully utilize a fund balance of \$1.6 million to help reduce a 12-year backlog of floodplain management plan updates. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Flood Control Assistance Account)
35. **Wetland Mitigation Bank Oversight. \$548,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The Wetlands Mitigation Banking Act (Chapter 90.84 RCW), passed in 1988, identified wetland mitigation banking as an important regulatory tool for providing compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands, and directed Ecology to establish a statewide certification process. These banks provide the option of purchasing credits to offset the unavoidable impacts of a project. They have the potential to increase ecological benefits, save money for project applicants, and make application and permitting processes more efficient. Over the last decade, the number of banks in operation across Washington have doubled, from just seven in 2009-11, to 15 this biennium. At the same time, the number of transactions and complexity associated with these banks has also increased. Ecology is unable to keep up with this growing workload and requests additional staff to improve monitoring and oversight needed to ensure these banks are successful. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
36. **River Migration Mapping for Salmon. \$354,000, 1.2 FTEs.** In support of the Governor's 2021 salmon strategy update, the 2022 supplemental operating budget included a number of budget provisos that directed state agencies to begin working on several discrete but interrelated initiatives to support riparian protection and restoration. As part of that work, Ecology was tasked with identifying a preferred channel migration zone mapping methodology before the end of the 2021-23 biennium. Ecology is now requesting ongoing funding, beginning next biennium, to validate the methodology created, develop a statewide mapping plan, and provide technical assistance to local and Tribal governments looking to use the new standard. This request directly implements priority recommendations and actions in the 2021 Governor's salmon strategy update. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (General Fund – State)

37. **WQ Fee and Loan Tracking Systems. \$468,000, 1.2 FTEs.** Ecology’s Water Quality (WQ) Program manages two fee databases and a loan tracking system that all require ongoing maintenance and integration with our agencywide invoicing system, eHub. The Operator Certification Database tracks fees for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certifications, the Aquarius Database tracks fees for water quality permits, and the eHub loan module calculates invoices for loans. Current WQ Information Technology (IT) staffing and resources are insufficient to maintain the three systems properly, causing a risk that invoicing is inaccurate or delayed. This request will provide additional WQ IT staff and contract support to maintain these necessary systems. (Water Quality Permit Account, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification Account, Water Pollution Control Revolving Administration Account)
38. **Padilla Bay Reserve Stewardship. \$446,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 30 federally designated coastal reserves and the only one in Washington. Ecology owns and operates the 12,000-acre reserve, which includes the Breazeale Environmental Education and Interpretive Center, touch pool and aquarium, and research laboratories, through a cooperative agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Padilla Bay Reserve is a regional leader in coastal ecosystem research and monitoring (including a focus on eelgrass and shellfish). The Reserve works on the front line of invasive species management and control (including green crab) and provides technical assistance and training for hundreds of coastal zone management practitioners across the state. It also provides valuable educational and outdoor experiences for more than 10,000 public visitors and K-12 students who come to the Reserve each year. Ecology is requesting staff resources to provide essential support for maintaining a safe and accessible facility for the public and K-12 communities; assist in controlling invasive species; support environmental and climate education programs and research; and maintain the state facility, grounds, and aquariums in a safe and operable manner. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
39. **EAGL Modernization. \$3,849,000, 7.2 FTEs.** About 70 percent of Ecology’s overall current biennial budget (operating and capital) is passed through to local governments, Tribes, and communities as grants, loans, or contracts for priority environmental and public health projects. The majority of these funds, and all Ecology grants and loans, are managed in Ecology’s Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) system. EAGL resides in the Ecology Data Center, which does not comply with RCW 43.105.375 or the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Policy 184. This request will move EAGL to the private cloud environment hosted by the vendor that supports EAGL. This will bring Ecology into compliance with state law and policy and give us an opportunity to upgrade EAGL to the vendor’s new version of the electronic grants management system. The new version comes with out-of-the-box enhancements that will improve both internal and external end-user experience. (Multiple Funds)

40. **Enterprise Content Management. \$2,386,000, 6.9 FTEs.** In 2021, Ecology completed a legislatively funded Enterprise Content Management (ECM) feasibility study, which determined that Ecology could implement a comprehensive ECM solution using Microsoft 365 (M365). The study recommended a broad and intensive three-year, \$8 million, and 20 FTE effort implementation strategy. This budget request supports a more incremental approach to implementing ECM at Ecology. The primary focus of this request will be to build the foundation for Ecology’s Data Governance Model by first working through our large archive of digital information. Ecology can then begin working on the digitization of its large paper library, which is not included in this request. Step 1 will make progress in a way that is immediately tangible with broad benefits. It will integrate M365 tools and M365 machine learning to develop efficient storage and retrieval of administrative or environmental information, reduce time to complete records requests, avoid compliance penalties, and build core expertise in data management and governance at Ecology. Ecology will begin with the Human Resources Office to develop core expertise, and as the team learns and refines its processes, progress through each program within Ecology, prioritizing those that have the largest records requests. We will use information and experience to address other administrative and environmental content management areas in the future. (Multiple Funds)

Capital

9/20/2022 \$ in thousands

		2023-25 Biennium Budget Request 9/20/2022			
		SBCA	MTCA ¹	Other	Total
Prevent and Reduce Toxic Threats and Pollution					
1	Protect Investments in Cleanup Remedies		4,450		4,450
2	Remedial Action Grant Program		115,111		115,111
3	Reducing Diesel Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Toxic Emissions		15,632		15,632
4	Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative			11,400	11,400
5	Affordable Housing Cleanup Grant Program		12,259		12,259
6	Clean Up Toxic Sites – Puget Sound		7,455		7,455
7	PFAS Contaminated Drinking Water	17,215			17,215
8	Reducing Toxic Wood Stove Emissions		4,144		4,144
9	ASARCO Everett Smelter Plume Cleanup		7,679		7,679
10	Product Replacement Program		6,500		6,500
11	Swift Creek Natural Asbestos Flood Control and Cleanup	11,984			11,984
12	Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative		950		950
13	Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention			1,000	1,000
Protect and Manage Our State's Waters					
14	Water Pollution Control Revolving Program			635,000	635,000
15	Centennial Clean Water Program	40,000	40,000		80,000
16	Floodplains by Design	70,392			70,392
17	Stormwater Financial Assistance Program		68,000		68,000
18	Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	47,500		1,500	49,000
19	Yakima River Basin Water Supply	49,000			49,000
20	Chehalis Basin Strategy	70,000			70,000
21	Streamflow Restoration Program			40,000	40,000
22	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation	3,246			3,246
23	State Match - Water Pollution Control Revolving Program			35,000	35,000
24	Stormwater Public Private Partnerships		3,000		3,000
25	Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program			16,700	16,700
26	Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds			12,000	12,000
27	Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plants Grant Program			1,700	1,700
28	Freshwater Algae Grant Program			750	750
Facility Related					
29	Product Testing Laboratory Construction	16,111			16,111
30	Zosel Dam Preservation	5,549			5,549
31	Elevator Restorations at Ecology Facilities	4,263			4,263
Total Capital Budget		335,260	285,180	755,050	1,375,490

¹ Model Toxics Control Capital (23N-1) and Stormwater (23R-1) Accounts.

Protecting the Environment | Ensuring Public Health | Supporting Economic Growth & Jobs

As the state's lead environmental agency, Ecology's mission is to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations, while valuing and supporting Washington's economic success. We're tackling challenges that are unique to our times and require us to take a broad and holistic approach to our work that focuses on not only *what* we do, but also *how* we do it.

Ecology's strategic goals are to:

- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
- Reduce and prepare for climate change impacts.
- Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution.
- Protect and manage our state's waters.

Our agency's deep commitment to environmental justice is tied to each of our strategic goals and guides the way we work to accomplish those goals.

Ecology's 2023-25 biennial capital budget request reflects an economy that is largely recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to help support our communities during this time, while continuing to protect environmental and public health through a focus on equity and environmental justice. These requests will provide economic benefits to the state by creating 3,367 private sector jobs during the next two years (based on OFM estimates) and pass through over a billion dollars in new project funding to local communities.

Ecology's 2023-25 biennial capital budget request totals \$1.38 billion. These requests are supported primarily by dedicated environmental funds, federal funds, or state bonds for projects that:

- Promote local economic development through cleaning up contaminated sites for redevelopment.
- Improve water quality.
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Deliver water for fish, farms, and people.
- Address local environmental and public health priorities.
- Protect, restore, and enhance state owned facilities.
- Create jobs.

The following summarizes each budget item for Ecology. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section.

New Capital Projects

Prevent and Reduce Toxic Threats and Pollution

- 1. Protect Investments in Cleanup Remedies. \$4,450,000.** At Superfund-financed sites, or when Washington assumes liability for a cleanup, the state has financial responsibility for cleanup costs. When the Environmental Protection Agency cleans up a site in Washington, the state enters into a State Superfund Contract. It binds Washington to pay for 10 percent of the cleanup construction costs and 100 percent of the long-term operation and maintenance costs of the cleanup remedy. When Washington assumes responsibility for a cleanup site – like after a bankruptcy, or when a site is orphaned or abandoned – protecting the remedy requires ongoing investment. This request will provide funding to meet legal requirements, protect public investments in cleanup, and protect human health and the environment from remedy failure. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
- 2. Remedial Action Grant Program. \$115,111,000.** Ecology manages the Remedial Action Grant (RAG) Program to help local governments clean up contaminated sites in Washington. This request will fund pass-through grants for ready-to-proceed projects for the 2023-25 biennium. RAGs support cleanup at contaminated industrial sites that affect the air, land, and water resources of the state and the continued cleanup of Puget Sound. This grant funding will protect public and environmental health, create jobs, promote economic growth through the redevelopment of contaminated properties, and leverage local match funding for this work. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
- 3. Reducing Diesel Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Toxic Emissions. \$15,632,000.** Transportation is the largest source of climate pollution in Washington, accounting for nearly half of all GHG emissions in the state. An Ecology air pollution cancer risk study shows that diesel exhaust is responsible for 70 percent of Washington’s airborne cancer risk (<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/0802032.html>). Diesel exhaust puts healthy people at greater risk for respiratory disease and worsens the health of people with asthma, heart, and lung disease. Tens of thousands of older, high-polluting diesel vehicles and pieces of equipment operate in Washington each year. For the 2023-25 biennium, the primary focus for this pass-through grant program will be to scrap and replace diesel school buses with zero emission buses. In addition to school bus replacement, pass-through grant funding will continue to support installation of idle reduction technology, diesel engine replacement, and other diesel vehicle replacement, especially in disproportionately impacted communities. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

4. **Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative. \$11,400,000.** Under section 3 of the Climate Commitment Act, RCW 70A.65.020 requires Ecology to take actions to reduce criteria air pollutant emissions in identified overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. These include emissions from both stationary and mobile/other impacting sources. To help meet these reduction requirements, Ecology is requesting funding to establish and implement a new grant program to incentivize the reduction of emissions from mobile and other impacting sources, which current data indicates are the major cause of criteria air pollution in many communities. The emission sources addressed through this grant program may include dust, outdoor burning, solvent use, and non-road vehicles. Based on discussions with stakeholders, Ecology plans to design the requested grant program structure and projects in coordination with the identified overburdened communities. (Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account)
5. **Affordable Housing Cleanup Grant Program. 12,259,000.** Washington is in dire need of affordable housing across the state. The 2019 Annual Report of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-AHAB-Annual-Report.pdf>) notes that housing supply and affordability affect all Washington communities, and rent prices are growing faster than low and middle incomes. A key factor is land availability. Whether in an urban or rural setting, contamination or suspicion of contamination drives up the costs of housing development. This request will fund brownfield site cleanups by public, nonprofit, or private developers proposing to redevelop the sites for affordable housing. Funding this program will invest in a social good (housing) beyond the traditional economic good of brownfield redevelopment for commercial and industrial purposes. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
6. **Clean Up Toxic Sites - Puget Sound. \$7,455,000.** A significant source of pollution to Puget Sound is contaminated sites around the basin and its shorelines. Ecology has been identifying and cleaning up contaminated sites in the Puget Sound basin for many years. This emphasis on bay-wide cleanup in the Sound and surrounding areas has highlighted a valuable link between toxic site cleanup and habitat restoration. This request for \$7.46 million will support projects that integrate shoreline habitat restoration opportunities with cleanup projects to protect public and environmental health, create jobs, and promote economic development. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
7. **PFAS Contaminated Drinking Water. 17, 215,000.** Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of over 4,700 synthetic organic chemicals used in consumer and industrial applications, including cookware, carpets, and food packaging. One common PFAS use is in certain types of firefighting foam used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, airports, and others. They have become a serious public health concern, and

- they are known to remain in the environment for a long time. The extent of the impact of PFAS compounds in Washington’s environment is an emerging issue. This request will provide funding for projects in the Lower Issaquah Valley, where community water supplies are contaminated with PFAS. (State Building Construction Account)
8. **Reducing Toxic Wood Stove Emissions. 4,144,000.** Smoke from wood-burning stoves causes asthma, lung disease, heart disease, stroke, and premature death. The Wood Smoke Reduction Grant Program reduces emissions from old, high-polluting wood stoves in communities facing significant public health threats from wood smoke. Funds will be used to replace uncertified wood-burning home heating devices with cleaner home heating options and deploy cleaner burning emission control solutions. Priority will be given to communities at high risk of violating national ambient air quality standards to prevent violations and avoid significant economic, environmental, and public health consequences. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
 9. **ASARCO Everett Smelter Plume Cleanup. \$7,679,000.** This request will accelerate cleanup work related to the ASARCO smelter site in the City of Everett, which operated from 1894 to 1912. The smelter released arsenic, lead, and other contamination into the air that subsequently contaminated the city’s residential soil, groundwater, and industrial areas adjacent to the Snohomish River. Without cleanup, these sites pose threats to public health, the environment, groundwater, and fish and wildlife resources. Cleaning up these sites will protect public and environmental health, create jobs, and promote economic growth. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account.)
 10. **Product Replacement Program. \$6,500,000.** Removing toxic chemicals from consumer products before they cause environmental harm is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to help protect Washington’s environment, economy, and public health. Ecology’s Product Replacement Program is an innovative collaboration with local government partners to provide financial incentives to Washington businesses to remove or replace some of the worst of these chemicals through technology and infrastructure upgrades, best management practices, disposal programs, and the use of safer chemicals. Requested funding will pay to replace machinery and/or make building improvements, which will produce long-term benefits for both the businesses and the public. This assistance avoids costly cleanups, improves the viability of the affected businesses, and protects the environment by reducing human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
 11. **Swift Creek Natural Asbestos Flood Control and Cleanup. \$11,984,000.** For approximately 80 years, an extensive, slow-moving landslide on the slopes of Sumas Mountain has carried

large volumes of natural debris into Swift Creek and its floodplain east of Everson. The material, contaminated with naturally occurring asbestos and heavy metals, fills the stream channel, causing serious flooding and sediment deposits in surrounding settled and agricultural areas. Ecology has received \$8.4 million in previous funding to support a state commitment to Whatcom County to resolve this chronic threat to public safety, property, human health, and the environment. The requested funding will continue the design, construction, and maintenance of a series of flood control and sediment management measures to reduce these threats. (State Building Construction Account)

12. **Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative. \$950,000.** There are properties in Eastern Washington contaminated with hazardous wastes that have been abandoned or have owners unwilling or unable to pay for site investigation and cleanup. Without cleanup, these sites pose threats to public health, the environment, groundwater, and fish and wildlife resources. Cleaning up these sites protects public and environmental health, creates jobs, and promotes economic growth as the sites are redeveloped. This funding will continue the initiative to have a statewide cleanup program by making investments outside of the Puget Sound Basin and Western Washington. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
13. **Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention. \$1,000,000.** Illegally dumped tires in Washington continue to pose public health and environmental threats. Tire piles pose risks for highly toxic fires, pollutant leaching, and runoff and provide habitat for mosquitoes and other disease carriers. Ecology is requesting \$1 million to continue preventing and removing waste tire piles and provide enforcement and education on tire storage and hauling regulations. (Waste Tire Removal Account)

Protect and Manage Our State's Waters

14. **Water Pollution Control Revolving Program. \$635,000,000.** Congress established the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) under Title VI of the federal Clean Water Act to capitalize state-run, low-interest loan programs to finance water quality facilities and activities. The Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (CWSRF), established under Chapter 90.50A RCW, implemented the loan program to provide low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts, and recognized Tribes for high-priority water quality projects statewide. Ecology is requesting \$635 million in appropriation to continue essential work through this loan program. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Water Pollution Control Revolving Account)
15. **Centennial Clean Water Program. \$80,000,000.** This request for \$80 million for Ecology's Centennial Clean Water Program will provide grants to public entities to finance the construction of water pollution control facilities and implement nonpoint pollution control activities. Ecology distributes the funds through a statewide competitive rating and ranking

- process. Grant recipients are public entities that use the funds to address high priority statewide water quality needs. The work done by public entities using these funds is an integral and essential part of the state's strategy to reduce pollution and protect our marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources. The Centennial Clean Water Program is a critical program for meeting the clean water needs for small, disadvantaged communities. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (State Building Construction Account and Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
16. **Floodplains by Design. \$70,392,000.** According to the state's 2018 Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment (<https://www.insurance.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/2018-hazard-inventory-vulnerability-assessment.pdf>, page 235), "the costs of flood damages exceed the cost of all other natural hazards." Since 1980, flooding has caused more than \$2 billion in damages to the state, with highly populated areas in Western Washington severely impacted. In the past, solutions to flooding problems were often out of sync with other ecosystem protection or restoration activities. The Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program uses an integrated approach to manage our state's flood-prone areas. Floodplains by Design grants provide funding that combine flood-hazard reduction actions with salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and other community benefits. The program is a public-private partnership between Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Puget Sound Partnership. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (State Building Construction Account)
 17. **Stormwater Financial Assistance Program. \$68,000,000.** Ecology's Stormwater Financial Assistance Program provides grants to public entities to finance stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas throughout the state. Funding will be awarded through an integrated, competitive rating and ranking process to ensure projects provide good water quality value and address problems from existing urban development. This request for \$68 million will fund work accomplished by local governments to help reduce toxics and other pollution from entering our waterways and protect our marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account)
 18. **Columbia River Water Supply Development Program. \$49,000,000.** Ecology is requesting \$49 million in new appropriation authority to continue implementing the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program (Chapter 90.90 RCW). This request will fund projects that are in various stages of completion and provide the Office of Columbia River with resources needed to make substantial progress in the 2023-25 biennium. Specifically, these funds will provide an alternative to groundwater for agricultural users in the Odessa Subarea aquifer; deliver new sources of water for pending water right applications; develop new, uninterruptible water supply for those presently subject to interruption during times of drought or low flows; develop new municipal, domestic, industrial, and irrigation water throughout the Columbia River basin; and, place one-third of these new

- water supplies in-stream to meet the flow needs of fish, wildlife, and recreational users. With this investment, Ecology will help meet priority needs of the water users in the Columbia River basin. (State Building Construction Account, Columbia River Basin Water Supply Revenue Recovery Account)
19. **Yakima River Basin Water Supply. \$49,000,000.** Current water resources infrastructure, programs, and policies in the Yakima River Basin are unable to consistently meet the basin’s environmental and economic demands, including supporting aquatic resources, fish and wildlife habitat, dry-year irrigation, and municipal water supplies. A diverse set of local stakeholders developed the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan to provide a comprehensive, long-term water resources and habitat improvement program to address this situation. Ecology is requesting \$49 million in the 2023-25 biennium to continue implementing this program in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and local stakeholders. This program will support the regional economy and protect the environment. (State Building Construction Account)
 20. **Chehalis Basin Strategy. \$70,000,000.** Six of the largest recorded floods in Washington State during the last 30 years have occurred in the Chehalis River Basin. Habitat for salmon and other aquatic species has been severely degraded, and climate change is making both flood and fish problems worse. Without aggressive action, the best available science predicts that, by the late 21st century, thousands of homes in the basin will be at risk, increased flooding will close U.S. Interstate 5 more often, communities will experience up to \$3.5 billion in flood-related damages, and the survival of the basin's spring-run Chinook salmon populations will be imperiled. At the direction of the Legislature, a diverse set of stakeholders overseen by the Chehalis Basin Board and supported by Ecology’s Office of Chehalis Basin are developing a comprehensive, long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy to reduce flood-related damage, restore aquatic habitat for salmon and other native species, and provide other public benefits. Ecology is requesting \$70 million to continue implementing the Strategy in cooperation with local, Tribal, and state partners. (State Building Construction Account)
 21. **Streamflow Restoration Program. \$40,000,000.** Ecology is requesting \$40 million in new appropriation authority to continue implementing the Streamflow Restoration Program under Chapter 90.94 RCW. This law, enacted in 2018, provides \$300 million in bond authorization over 15 years to support local watershed planning and projects that will improve instream flows statewide. With this request, Ecology will deliver additional water supplies to improve instream flows for fish and wildlife. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Bond Account, Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Taxable Bond Account)
 22. **Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation. \$3,246,000.** The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation manages conservation improvements required by the Sunnyside Division

- Water Rights Settlement Agreement in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication (State of Washington, Department of Ecology vs. James J. Acquavella, et al). These are multi-year projects, and Ecology is requesting additional funding to cover the required state match of 17.5 percent of total project costs for the next several biennia. The Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Phase 2 project cost is estimated at \$80 million, and Ecology's cost share is \$14 million over an 11 to 15 year construction period. This request includes \$3.25 million for Phase IIE to continue the construction schedule for the state's share of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project in the 2023-25 biennium. (State Building Construction Account)
23. **State Match - Water Pollution Control Revolving Program. \$35,000,000.** Congress established the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) under Title VI of the federal Clean Water Act to capitalize state-run, low-interest loan programs to finance water quality facilities and activities. The Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Account (CWSRF), established under Chapter 90.50A RCW, implemented the loan program to provide low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts, and recognized Tribes for high-priority water quality projects statewide. Ecology is requesting \$35 million from the State Taxable Building Construction Account for the funds needed for the state match to the \$200 million anticipated federal capitalization (\$22 million) grant and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) stimulus (\$13 million). Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (State Taxable Building Construction Account)
24. **Stormwater Public Private Partnerships. \$3,000,000.** Stormwater runoff affects water quality and harms aquatic life and salmon. Ecology's Stormwater Community Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) program is building the capacity of local governments to develop and manage CBP3s that achieve stormwater quality goals and improve the quality of life in communities across the state. In Phase I of this project, Ecology is working in partnership with the Association of Washington Cities and the Department of Commerce to recruit and manage a qualified consultant(s) with experience developing CBP3s. In this second phase, Ecology and our partners will provide technical assistance and funding through a competitive grant process to help between eight and 12 communities through the assessment and development process described in the Department of Commerce publication "Is a Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Right for your Community? A Guide for Washington State." Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account)
25. **Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program. \$16,700,000.** Urban stormwater is a significant source of water pollution and can be a public health concern. When mixed with domestic and industrial wastewater in combined sewers, stormwater can also contribute to combined sewer overflows during heavy storm events. Many communities often face financial challenges trying to correct these issues, given the costs to construct, operate, and maintain the infrastructure. Ecology is requesting \$16.7 million

in available federal funds for use in the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program. This program provides funding for critical stormwater infrastructure projects in communities to address water pollution and combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (General Fund-Federal)

26. **Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds. \$12,000,000.** The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provides financing to protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, or ecological value. Coastal wetlands make up less than 10 percent of the nation’s land area, but support a wealth of plant and animal resources. Washington’s coastal areas support a high percentage of threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and migrating and wintering waterfowl. Ecology administers the pass through of these federal grants to other state and local government entities. Ecology requests \$12 million in federal capital appropriation authority for the 2023-25 biennium in case we are successful in receiving additional grants. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (General Fund-Federal)
27. **Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plants Grant Program. \$1,700,000.** The Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plant Program (AIP) provides financial and technical assistance to local and state governments, Tribes, and special purpose districts to reduce the propagation of freshwater aquatic invasive plants and to manage the problems these plants cause. Ecology is requesting \$1.7 million for continued funding of the AIP, which will result in treating more lakes and reducing the impact of these plants on the lakes and streams in our communities. It includes elements for public education, technical assistance, and grants. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Account)
28. **Freshwater Algae Grant Program. \$750,000.** The Freshwater Algae Program provides financial and technical assistance to local and state governments, Tribes, and special purpose districts to prevent and control excessive freshwater cyanobacteria, often referred to as blue-green algae. These algae can create toxic conditions with potential harm to people, wildlife, livestock, and pets. This program includes elements for public education, technical assistance, a toxicity-testing program, and pass-through grants that address toxic fresh-water blooms. An annual one-dollar license fee assessed to boat owners provides funding for pass-through grants that address algae growth in freshwaters of Washington. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (Aquatic Algae Control Account)

Facility Related

29. **Product Testing Laboratory Construction. \$16,111,000.** Washington State is a national leader in consumer protection. Ecology’s Product Testing Team uses cutting edge science

to test for toxics in consumer products available for retail or online sale. This science helps support regulatory actions against products and manufacturers not in compliance with state laws. Ecology received funding in the 2021-23 operating budget to expand its Product Testing Team and conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a laboratory in the basement space of Ecology’s Lacey Headquarters Building for the analysis of consumer products. This request implements the recommendations of the study to construct the needed laboratory. (State Building Construction Account)

30. **Zosel Dam Preservation. \$5,549,000.** Zosel Dam is a critical piece of state infrastructure owned and operated by Ecology under the authority of RCW 43.21A.450. Ecology is requesting funding to conduct a series of repair projects at the dam to ensure proper operation and long-term protection of this asset. Based on a contracted engineering assessment completed in December 2020, this request will support several projects at the facility, including the immediate repair of electrical and gate systems to eliminate deficiencies in the structure. These investments will help ensure the dam is functioning properly to better protect public safety at the dam site and downstream. (State Building Construction Account)

31. **Elevator Restorations at Ecology Facilities. \$4,263,000.** The elevators serving Ecology’s Lacey Headquarters Building, Eastern Regional Office, and Padilla Bay Reserve have, or are on the verge of, exceeding their rated life expectancy and need to be modernized. Obsolescence has become an issue, as the circuit boards, relays, and other replacement parts are no longer available, and the elevators are requiring attention that far exceeds regular maintenance. This is significantly driving up the cost of keeping these elevators reliable and operational. This request will provide the funding needed to restore a total of seven elevators in Lacey, two in Spokane, and one at Padilla Bay. (State Building Construction Account)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6985 or email at valerie.pearson@ecy.wa.gov or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.