



Department of Environmental Protection

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**Water Management Act Grant
Agency Document #: BWR-2024-01-WMA
Question and Answer Document
September 27, 2023**

Answers to questions asked of MassDEP are shown below. Additionally, please consider reviewing previous grant studies that have been funded. These summaries can be found under Additional Summaries at : <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers> .

Q1. We are under a consent order and we are questioning if the grant could be applicable to manhole and pipe lining that falls within a water source/town well buffer.

A1. Please review Section 3.3 of the RFR (Ineligible Implementation Projects) which states: “Projects undertaken to comply with local or governmental enforcement actions such as State or Federal Administrative Orders or Consent Orders cannot be funded. Projects that are required as mitigation for federal permits are not eligible.” Based on the information provided, it does not appear that the manhole and pipe lining, if required in the consent order, would be eligible.

Q2. We just received a new Water Management Act (WM) Permit with stricter conservation requirements. We do not have anything budgeted to implement those measures (e.g. rebates, bill stuffers / outreach to large users, etc). Would these activities be eligible?

A2. Please review Section 3.2 of the RFR (Eligible Implementation Projects) which states, “All proposed projects focusing on water conservation, loss identification, improved accounting, drought resiliency, rate structure studies and/or billing practices will be considered (examples of eligible Demand Management and Drought Resiliency projects are listed below). However, preference will be given to project proposals that demonstrate cooperation and partnership between (a) two or more communities or water suppliers, or (b) a community or a public water supplier and a non-government organization with the public water supplier as the contract lead. Nevertheless, all proposed projects must provide an appropriate method for quantifying environmental results (e.g., water and cost savings from retrofits, etc.). Eligible Demand Management and Drought Resiliency Projects include, but are not limited to:

- **Rebates for low-flow WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures and Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)-qualified appliances.”**

Based on the information provided, outreach efforts and bill stuffers, without a way to calculate the environmental benefit, would be less likely to be eligible than a rebate program.

Q3. The RFP indicates that water audits are ineligible for funding. I’m wondering if this includes a program that conducts audits of water user facilities to identify opportunities for increased efficiency (as opposed to audits of water supplier systems)?

A3. Section 3.3 of the RFR states “Water Audits, meter repair and replacement, and leak detection projects are not eligible for compensation under the WMA Grant Program. (Note: Please email Jen D’Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov for information on a separate program that funds American Water Works M36 Audits for WMA permittees and registrants.) “Water Audits” refers to AWWA M36 Audits. A program that conducts audits of a category of water users to identify increased efficiency would be eligible for WMA Grant funding.