

Rule Adoption Notice

Water Resources Program

July 2015

Emergency Drought Funding, WAC 173-167

Ecology adopted an emergency drought rule on July 10 that describes how Ecology will allocate relief funding to qualifying public entities. Projects eligible for funding must alleviate hardships arising from current drought conditions.

What is Chapter 173-167 WAC?

This emergency rule establishes a process the Department of Ecology will use to disburse funds appropriated for drought relief. The emergency rule establishes three general categories for funding: municipal water supply, agricultural activities and maintaining instream flows to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

Whom does this rule affect?

Applicants for drought emergency funding must be a public entity, as defined by WAC 173-167-030, which includes:

- Federal, state, or local agencies, political subdivisions, taxing districts, or municipal corporations thereof, and
- Indian tribes, recognized as such by the federal government for participation in the federal land and water conservation program, and which may constitutionally receive grants or loans from the state of Washington.

Qualifying entities must demonstrate undue hardship caused by drought. Funds are available for proposals that timely alleviate the impacts of drought. The rule provides further guidance on how the agency will make funding decisions.

More information For more information visit the Washington Drought 2015 web site. It is updated frequently with the latest drought information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html>

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Appeal Procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.

Important dates:

Effective July 10, 2015
Expires November 7, 2015

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Special accommodations:

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