

SB-2516.5/13 5th Draft-Capital Appropriations

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3083. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Storm Water Program Development (92000076)

(1)The department must develop a comprehensive, statewide storm water financial assistance program to be implemented no later than the 2015-2017 biennium. The program will provide grants to national pollutant discharge elimination system municipal storm water permit holders for the protection and improvement of statewide water quality and to improve watershed functionality by reducing the transport of toxics and other pollutants through storm water runoff, and by reducing uncontrolled runoff flows.

(2) The department must collaborate with storm water stakeholders to develop the funding criteria for the storm water financial assistance program, and include the new statewide storm water financial assistance program into the department's integrated water quality funding cycle process. The storm water financial assistance program may include, but not be limited to, funding for retrofit capital improvement projects, green storm water infrastructure or low-impact development, research and development components and investments in learning, pass-through funding for local government storm water permit implementation, education and outreach, prioritized watershed basin retrofit strategies, and preconstruction awards solely for the planning and design of either new storm water facilities or a retrofit of existing storm water facilities.