

USGS Streamgaging Cooperative Program

FY2004 Request: \$180,000
Reference No: 37762

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Construction

Location: Statewide

Contact: Bob Loeffler

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)269-8625

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This CIP request authorization to accept funds from the private sector, local government and other state agencies, and pass those funds through to USGS as part of its stream gaging coop program. Industry, state and local government often asks, and pays for, the USGS to install and operate a stream gage. The information is usually necessary for resource development, hydroelectric projects, or water supply. If they pay the USGS directly, USGS can't provide matching funds. But if the funding is passed through a state agency, the funds can be matched at 100% by the federal government.

Funding:	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stat Desig	\$180,000	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$220,000	\$230,000	\$1,230,000
Total:	\$180,000	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$220,000	\$230,000	\$1,230,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is a new capital project request. An FY03 RPL for this purpose was approved by LB&A on August 22, 2002 (ADN 10-3-4023) - \$150,000 SDPR.

Project Description/Justification:

This program requires no general funds now or in the future. Funding of this program will come from state and local government; native associations, and the private sector. In many cases gaging is required for a project under federal law, this program allow the funds used for gaging to be matched by the federal government, reducing the cost to the state, local government and the private sector. Because the gaging is done by a federal agency the program and funding must interface with the federal fiscal year. The administration of the pass through money will require a portion of an existing administrative position. No new positions will be required. This is a new program for the DML&W. Funding for the continued program will be required as long as the program exists and the state chooses to provide the service. The USGS will require a state partner for this program to continue in Alaska. The funds received and passed through to USGS must be spent in the same federal fiscal year. Funding to administer the program (overhead) can be charged to the program.

This program has been in the Department of Community & Economic Development, Alaska Energy Authority for years. That Department felt that the program would be better managed under a different state agency that had a more direct association with the USGS, and the gaging data needs of the local governments and private sectors. USGS requested that DNR/DML&W consider taking over the program. The DML&W has a long and beneficial relationship with the USGS.

USGS Streamgaging Cooperative Program**FY2004 Request: \$180,000**
Reference No: 37762

The continuation of this program would benefit the state, local governments, native associations and the private sector by allowing them to participate with USGS in the 100% matching funds provided by the coop program. If the program is not approved the cost of gaging for existing or new projects, where USGS gaging is required, will cost the project developer more as the federal coop matching funds would not be available. Projects now included in this program are: Dorothy Creek Hydro, SE Alaska; Greens Creek Mining, SE Alaska; Falls Creek Hydro, Gustavus; Indian River, Sitka; and the 4 dam pool hydroelectric projects. There are over 20 proposed hydroelectric project sites where gaging will be required in the next 5 years, this program has the potential of saving the developers of those projects (including the state of Alaska) hundreds of thousands of dollars, at no cost to the State of Alaska unless the state is putting up the funds to be matched.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

This project is needed in order to participate in the USGS stream gaging Coop program. If authority to accept funds for pass through purposes to USGS is not approved, many of the resource development projects currently using this program or would use it in the near future would have to bear the burden of funding the gaging at full cost.

Specific Spending Detail:Line Item Expenditures:

Contractual Services \$ 180,000

Line Item Detail Description:

Contractual Services – pass through funds to USGS for gaging. USGS will match funds at 100%.

Project Support:

State agencies, USGS, Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Company, Lake Dorothy Hydro, Inc., Alaska Electric Light & Power Company, 4 Dam Pool Agency, Chugach Electric, Inc., other resources developers and , environmental groups.

Project Opposition:

None known.