

**Cooperative Water Resource Program Pass-through to USGS for Stream Gaging Projects**

**FY2021 Request: \$500,000**  
**Reference No: 37762**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation **Project Type:** Water / Sewer / Solid Waste  
**Category:** Natural Resources  
**Location:** Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)  
**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Raquel Solomon-Gross  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to accept funds from the private sector and local governments, and to pass funds through to US Geological Survey (USGS) and US Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of funding agreements for cooperative water resource programs. Industry and local government often request and pay for USGS and NRCS to install equipment to obtain hydrologic data needed for resource development and permitting projects such as mining, hydroelectric, or public water supply. If gaging funding is passed through a state agency, funds can be matched up to 100% by the federal government.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
1108 Stat Desig	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000		\$2,500,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000

<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"/> Ongoing
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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec1 Ch19 SLA2019 P5 L13 SB19 \$500,000  
 Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P7 L24 SB142 \$500,000  
 Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L19 SB119 \$2,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L22 SB18 \$2,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P124 L11 SB160 \$2,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P91 L11 SB46 \$855,000  
 Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P29 L18 SB230 \$805,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

Funding for this program comes from state and local governments, native associations, and the private sector. No allocations of state general funds are included, only the authorization to receive and pass-through funding from non-state sources. The project reflects the amount of authorization necessary to cover the total cost of the existing requests on record.

In many cases, under federal law, stream gaging is required for a development project. The collected information allows permitting agencies to quantify the predicted impacts to streamflow and water

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quality as a consequence of the proposed water use aspects of a project. This program allows 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 a federal agency does the gaging, the program and funding must interface with the federal fiscal year.

The administration of pass-through money requires a small portion of an existing administrative position whose time will be covered by a 5% administrative surcharge added to project billing; no new positions will be required. The USGS and NRCS require a state partner for this program to continue in Alaska. The funds passed through to USGS and NRCS must be received and spent in the same federal fiscal year. The program requires no general funds now or in the future.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water has a longstanding and beneficial relationship with the USGS and NRCS. The continuation of this program benefits the state, local governments, native associations, and the private sector by allowing them to participate with the state, USGS, and NRCS with matching funds provided by the cooperative program. If the program is not approved, the cost of gaging for existing or new projects where USGS and NRCS gaging is required, and the cost to developers will be much higher since the federal cooperative matching funds would not be available.

**What was accomplished with prior funding?**

This program has included high visibility, large scale projects including:

- Northern Star-Pogo;
- Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.;
- Dorothy Creek Hydro, SE Alaska;
- Greens Creek Mining, SE Alaska;
- Falls Creek Hydro, Gustavus;
- Pebble Limited Partnership;
- Soule River Hydro, Hyder;
- Southeast Power Agency.

Each of these projects accommodates multiple gaging stations. This program has the potential of saving developers and the state hundreds of thousands of dollars, at minimal to no cost to the State of Alaska.

**Position Detail**

Full-time Tech Engineer II / Architect II (10-1679), located in Anchorage

**Line Item Detail**

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1000 Personal Services	\$25,000
2000 Travel	
3000 Services	\$475,000
4000 Commodities	
5000 Capital Outlay	

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7000 Grants	
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>