

From: Shelley Roberts < >
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Tyler Fortunati <Tyler.Fortunati@deq.idaho.gov>
Cc: Cassandra Lemmons < >; Jerri Henry < >; Courtnie Dawson < >
Subject: couple of questions about fees

Hi Tyler,

Members of our board of directors had a conversation about drinking water fees yesterday and asked a couple of questions I was unable to answer. Can you clarify how DEQ was funded before the drinking water fees were implemented in the 1990s? Also, can you provide more clarification about how the funds raised in the proposed fees will be utilized?

Shelley Roberts, MBA, CPA

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From: Tyler Fortunati
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:46 PM
To: 'Shelley Roberts' < >
Cc: Cassandra Lemmons < >; Jerri Henry < >

< >; Courtnie Dawson < >

Subject: RE: couple of questions about fees

Shelley,

Here's what I can gather on pre-1993 funding, back when DEQ was still a Division of IDHW:

- In SFY93, the drinking water program received approximately \$950,000 from the Water Pollution Control Account.
- In SFY93, the drinking water program received approximately \$685,000 from a federal EPA grant (I assume this is the Public Water System Supervision Grant, which was implemented in 1976).
- The DWSRF did not come into existence until 1996 as part of the SDWA amendments enacted in August of 1996.
- During the 1992 legislative session the legislature directed/informed DEQ and the DWAC that they would need to find/develop an alternative form of funding for the drinking water program (i.e., no more WPCA funding). This is where the initial fee effort was born out of.

Here's a breakdown of how the increased fee funding will be used:

- To replace the funding that currently provided through the DWSRF set-asides. This is an effort to shore up the program's budget and keep it whole. We are not seeking to add additional personnel or operating costs with the funding above and beyond the typical inflationary costs the program experiences on existing personnel and services.
- At a high level, the current DWSRF set-aside funding is used for (this is what the increase in fee costs would be used to cover):
 - Drinking water program, engineering, and support staff personnel time & fringe expenses
 - Funding for statewide rule workshops
 - Contractors:
 - IT developers for web-based applications
 - SDWIS/CMDP contractor to help maintain & update these platforms as well as on-board labs & provide support services
 - Health district contracts

Hopefully this helps. If you need further clarification or additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



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