



2013 Flood Recovery Erosion Control Program

Program Guide Document - Revised October 2013

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Introduction and Background

As a result of the 2013 flood, significant erosion damage was sustained on many of the river and stream banks across Alberta. The magnitude of erosion damage is such that it has altered the landscape and is, in some cases, threatening provincial, municipal, residential or commercial infrastructure. While in most cases the challenge will be to stabilize the system in its new location, remediation or mitigation of the eroded areas may also be critical to protect this infrastructure. On August 9, 2013, the Government of Alberta (GOA) responded by dedicating funding to help restore these damaged and at risk lands in flood affected communities. The Government of Alberta originally committed was \$20 million in immediate financial support to help fund some immediate critical erosion control priorities:

- Canmore (Cougar Creek);
- Exshaw (Exshaw Creek and Jura Creek);
- Lac Des Arc (Bow River);
- Calgary (Bow River);
- Crowsnest Pass (Lyons Creek);
- Highwood River (Upstream of High River);
- Sheep River (Turner Valley to Okotoks - including Threepoint Creek);
- Bragg Creek (Elbow River).

The 2013 Flood Recovery Erosion Control (FREC) Program was originally designed to fund these critical projects and other erosion control priorities arising as a result of the 2013 flood events. The program has since been expanded to include some local flood control and community mitigation projects and additional funding (a total of \$116 million) has been allocated to the program. The focus of the program remains on projects that can be completed by 2015. It is acknowledged that additional and more extensive recommendations on community flood mitigation may be forthcoming from the Premier's Advisory Panel and that there is likely a need for an on-going community mitigation program. It is also acknowledged that pre-existing erosion control infrastructure continues to be eligible for compensation under the existing Disaster Recovery Program (DRP).

This program has been developed with consideration to the four essential elements of recovery, as described in the Provincial Recovery Framework:

People – To ensure the right resources are available to support the overall physical, mental and social well-being of communities, municipalities, First Nations, families and individual Albertans affected by the floods.

Economy – To nurture an environment that supports the rehabilitation of and reinvestment in disrupted economies and businesses.

Reconstruction – To enable the safe and orderly restoration of flood damaged infrastructure within the affected areas.

Environment – To protect and re-establish the environment to a healthy state and mitigate long-term environmental effects and risks.

Program Eligibility

The FREC Program is available to applicants in Alberta who meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicant is a Municipality or First Nation that declared a local state of emergency during the 2013 floods;
- Applicant sustained significant flood and erosion damage during the 2013 Alberta flood events (for example the list of GOA identified priorities above);
- Applicant's proposed erosion or flood control project is required to achieve GOA's objective of minimizing existing risk to public safety and/or critical infrastructure;
- Applicant's proposed erosion or flood control project is an immediate priority because of on-going erosion and/or imminent susceptibility to 2014 spring run-off; and
- Applicant's proposed erosion or flood control project is not eligible for DRP funding.
- Applicant's project will be complete by 2015 (Note: Priority is given to projects that can be complete by Spring 2014)

Funding

Funding (\$116 million) has been allocated for immediate erosion control for municipal and First Nations' priorities to protect existing infrastructure and residential developments. The program envisions a cost-shared grant agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Applicant, whereby the Government of Alberta covers 100 per cent of costs on the first \$2 million, and 75 per cent of costs over and above that first \$2 million. Proposed projects will be eligible for funding with respect to:

- engineering assessments,
- cost benefit studies, and
- construction costs.

The additional funding allocated to support this program allows municipalities and other affected communities' (including First Nations) access to funding in support of their flood recovery efforts. Please note: This program is intended to address the critical priorities of an affected community or municipality. A long-term funding program is envisioned to fund priority erosion control and community flood mitigation projects for all communities, province wide.

Initial assessments (engineering and cost benefit) must be completed prior to the grant application. If the grant application is not accepted, the program will cover any costs for these initial assessments according to the funding structure stated above, once an expression of interest has been approved.

For erosion control and community flood mitigation projects to be considered for funding under this program, grant applications must be submitted no later than January 31, 2014 and all works constructed under the program must be completed by December 31, 2015. As stated above, funding is provided for proactive erosion control and community flood mitigation projects only.

Roles and Responsibilities

The program will be led and administered by Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD). The Department will provide advice and support to applicants, as required. An applicant's key contact will be their ESRD Flood Recovery Coordinator.

Applicants will be responsible for the management of the projects including:

- project scoping;
- submission of an expression of interest;
- engineering and cost benefit assessments;
- submission of applications for grant funding;
- obtaining all appropriate authorizations required to conduct the work; and
- construction of required works.

Completed projects will be owned by the applicant – all future operation and maintenance of the works will be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Decisions on the eligibility and prioritization of projects will be made by a project review committee. Final project and grant approval will be determined by the Minister, or delegate.

Project Criteria

All proposed erosion control and community flood mitigation projects must meet all of the following criteria:

- Project provides erosion and community flood protection to existing infrastructure, including residential and business areas;
- The Program is intended to address structural solutions only; however, non-structural options may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Project is supported by engineering and cost benefit assessments;
- Projects to improve future development opportunities in high risk areas will be not considered;
- Project represents the highest priorities of the applicant to meet immediate erosion and flood issues; and
- Project is to repair erosion and flood damage from the 2013 flood, prevent future erosion or flooding at the eroded site or complement existing erosion or flood protection infrastructure (Note: it is expected that pre-existing structures are covered by DRP)

Process

Phase 1 Participating in the Program

Step 1 Expression of Interest

In order to get a clear understanding of all the potential priority projects within Municipalities or First Nations who declared a State of Local Emergency, we are asking them to supply the Department with an expression of interest in the program as soon as possible.

The following information is requested in an expression of interest:

1. A list of potential projects to be considered, ranked in order of local priority.
2. Any information regarding individual project's eligibility for DRP funding.
3. A brief description of the project(s), location, area to be protected from erosion and/or flooding, waterway involved, and any other additional information that may help form a basic understanding of candidate project(s).

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development will facilitate a quick review of these expressions of interest and, on a first come first serve basis, provide approval to proceed with grant application development on candidate projects. This approval also commits Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to funding engineering and cost benefit assessments to a limit of \$50,000 per project

Phase 2 Facilitating Grant Approval

Step 2 Initial Project Assessment

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development regional staff will contact Applicants that submitted an expression of interest to discuss project scope, assist with the prioritization of projects and eligibility for funding under this program. The Applicant will be advised whether to initiate the development of a grant application and to proceed with preliminary engineering and cost benefit assessments. It is important supported projects move through the grant application process quickly.

Step 3 Preliminary Engineering Report

A preliminary engineering report will be required by the department to formally identify a project, determine its technical and economic feasibility, determine its potential benefits and impacts, and assess its eligibility for cost-sharing under this program.

The Applicant will submit a grant application to the Department by January 31, 2014, using the attached application form, and including the preliminary engineering and cost benefit report. The Department's grant review committee will review the application and report to determine if all relevant issues have been addressed and if sufficient information is present to make a decision. The committee will make its decision based on whether the project meets the program eligibility criteria, is eligible for cost-sharing under this program, and is a priority.

Step 4 Funding Approval

If a project is accepted for funding under the 2013 Flood Recovery Erosion Flood Control Program, the Department and the Applicant will enter into a grant agreement. The agreement will outline the terms and conditions applicable to the funding, including cost-sharing as appropriate.

Grants to Applicants for eligible projects may consist of up to 100% of the construction and engineering costs of the project up to a maximum of \$2 million per Applicant. Costs above \$2 million will be funded 75 per cent by the provincial government and 25 per cent by the Applicant. Note: The cost of the preliminary engineering report is considered part of the overall cost of the project.

Phase 3 Delivering the Project**Step 5 Construction**

The Applicant shall obtain the necessary regulatory approvals and agreements prior to commencing construction of the project. Regulatory approvals and agreements include (but are not limited to) those required by provincial and federal governments, utility and resource companies, and other landowners.

If appropriate, projects approved for funding under this program may obtain required authorizations from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development using the expedited authorization process. More information may be obtained at: <http://environment.alberta.ca/04229.html>

The Applicant is responsible for the construction of an approved project within the framework of the grant agreement and regulatory authorizations. Department staff can provide advice to the Applicant regarding the development of a Terms of Reference for the selection of engineering consultants who would carry out the detailed design, develop contract documents and perform the construction management for the project.

The Applicant shall inform Department staff of the progress of construction of the project, as per the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Step 6 Completion

The Applicant shall inform Environment and Sustainable Resource Development staff of a project's completion and provide a project completion certificate. The Applicant will also be required to provide:

- information, as required, so the Department may determine whether the local authority has complied with the conditions of the grant; and a financial report.

Appendix 1

2013 Flood Recovery Erosion Control Program Grant Application Form

Purpose

The purpose of the 2013 FRECP Grant is to support projects that will provide immediate erosion protection for areas impacted by the 2013 flood event.

Reporting Requirements

If the grant is approved in whole or in part, the Applicant agrees:

- To enter into an agreement with Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to meet all requirements.
- To recognize the contribution of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development’s funding.
- The grant shall be used only for the purposes for which the grant application was approved.
- If the original application has been varied by the Minister, the grant will be used only for those varied purposes.

Freedom of Information

The Applicant acknowledges that the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act applies to all information and records provided by the Applicant to the Minister and to any information and records which are in the custody or under the control of the Minister.

Applicant Information

Application is hereby made to the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (hereinafter called the “Minister”) for Grant pursuant of the Environment Grant Regulation, A.R. 182/2000 [refer also to the Designation and Transfer of Responsibility Regulation, Section 21(6)].

Organization Name:		
Address: (Indicate Street No./P.O. Box, City/Town or Others and Postal Code)		
Name of Representative or Contact:		
Phone #:	Fax #:	E-mail:

Was project(s) reviewed for Disaster Relief Program eligibility? Yes No Other

Description of project(s), include location (map attached). If more space is required, please use attachment.

Summary of cost/benefit assessment for the project(s), include copy of assessment received.

Has Water Act Approval been applied for, or is application in preparation? Yes No

Estimated Start Date(s): _____ **Estimated Completion Date(s):** _____

Estimated Eligible Cost of Project(s): _____

If you are applying for multiple projects, please rank the priority of each project accordingly and include the (general) legal land location.

Priority #1: _____
 Legal Land Location: _____

Priority #2: _____
 Legal Land Location: _____

Priority #3: _____
 Legal Land Location: _____

Priority #4: _____
 Legal Land Location: _____

Priority #5: _____
 Legal Land Location: _____

Have you included your supporting documentation?

- Map of Project Area
- Engineering Assessments for Cost/Benefit Assessment
- Any other information that will benefit the decision-making process

Signature:	Name:	Date:
Organization:		