

RCW 90.38.090 Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account.

(1) The Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from direct appropriations from the legislature, moneys directed to the account pursuant to this chapter, or moneys directed to the account from any other sources must be deposited in the account. The account is intended to fund projects using revenues from water service contracts as authorized in this chapter. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only as provided in this section. Interest earned by deposits in the account will be retained in the account.

(2) Expenditures from the account created in this section may be used to assess, plan, and develop projects under the Yakima river basin integrated water resource management plan or for any other actions designed to provide access to new water supplies within the Yakima river basin for both instream and out-of-stream uses, consistent with the integrated plan and the authorities, goals, and objectives set forth in RCW 90.38.060.

(3) (a) Funds may not be expended from the account for the construction of a new storage facility until the department evaluates the following:

(i) Water uses to be served by the facility;

(ii) The quantity of water necessary to meet the needs of those uses;

(iii) The benefits and costs to the state of serving those uses, including short-term and long-term economic, cultural, and environmental effects; and

(iv) Alternative means of supplying water to meet those uses, including the costs of those alternatives and an analysis of the extent to which the long-term water supply needs are able to be met using those alternatives.

(b) The department may rely on studies and information developed through compliance with other state and federal requirements and other sources. The department shall compile its findings and conclusions and provide a summary of the information it reviewed.

(c) Before finalizing its evaluation under the provisions of this subsection, the department shall make the preliminary evaluation available to the public. Public comment may be made to the department within thirty days of the date the preliminary evaluation is made public.

(4) For water supplies developed under the integrated plan to support future municipal and domestic water needs in the Yakima basin, the department shall give preference to other entities in managing water service contracts. Where the department determines that the management of such contracts by other entities is not feasible or suitable, the department may enter into water service contracts with applicants receiving water from the program to recover all or a portion of the cost of developing water supplies made possible with funding from the account created in this section. The department may deny an application if the applicant does not enter into a water service contract. Revenue collected from water service contracts must be deposited into the Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account created in this section. The department may adopt rules describing the methodology as to how charges will be established and direct costs recovered for water supply developed under the Yakima river basin integrated water resource management plan implementation program. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 11 § 6.]