

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 6
 2 INTRODUCED BY M. HOPKINS
 3 BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, OFFICE OF
 4 BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

5
 6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND
 7 LOAN PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
 8 CONSERVATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM;
 9 PRIORITIZING PROJECT GRANTS AND AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS;
 10 PROVIDING FOR COORDINATION OF FUNDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

11
 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13
 14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriations for renewable resource grants.** (1) For the biennium
 15 beginning July 1, 2023, there is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the
 16 natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 up to:

- 17 (a) \$300,000 for emergency projects grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- 18 (b) \$3,500,000 for planning grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- 19 (c) \$500,000 for irrigation development grants to be awarded by the department over the
 20 biennium;
- 21 (d) \$500,000 for watershed grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- 22 (e) \$100,000 for private grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium; and
- 23 (f) \$2,500,000 for nonpoint source pollution reduction grants to be awarded by the department
 24 over the biennium.

25 (2) The amount of \$6,250,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and
 26 conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the
 27 biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department
 28 to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (4), subject to



1 the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant
 2 and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years
 3 2023-2025 Volume 6".

4 (3) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (4) in the following listed
 5 order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must
 6 be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a
 7 grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the
 8 department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may
 9 be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

10 (4) The following are the prioritized infrastructure grant projects:

11 RENEWABLE RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS

| 12 | Applicant/Project | Amount |
|----|---|-----------|
| 13 | Cooke City | |
| 14 | Cooke City Wastewater Treatment and Collection System | \$125,000 |
| 15 | West Yellowstone, Town of | |
| 16 | West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Project | \$125,000 |
| 17 | Red Lodge, City of | |
| 18 | Red Lodge Wastewater System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 19 | Superior, Town of | |
| 20 | Superior Wastewater System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 21 | Choteau, City of | |
| 22 | Choteau Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 23 | Cascade, Town of | |
| 24 | Cascade Wastewater System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 25 | Sand Coulee, Town of | |
| 26 | Sand Coulee Wastewater Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 27 | Kalispell, City of | |
| 28 | Kalispell Morning Star Court Water and Wastewater Improvement Project | \$125,000 |

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | Saco, Town of | |
| 2 | Saco Wastewater System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 3 | Drummond, Town of | |
| 4 | Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade | \$125,000 |
| 5 | Craig County WSD | |
| 6 | Craig Wastewater System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 7 | Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District | |
| 8 | Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District Gallatin Canyon Sewer Project Phase 1.2 | |
| 9 | | \$125,000 |
| 10 | Thompson Falls, City of | |
| 11 | Thompson Falls Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 12 | Corvallis County Sewer District | |
| 13 | Corvallis Wastewater Collection System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 14 | Helena, City of | |
| 15 | Helena Red Mountain Flume Repairs Project #22-05 | \$125,000 |
| 16 | Havre, City of | |
| 17 | Havre Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 18 | Bigfork County Water and Sewer District | |
| 19 | Bigfork County Water and Sewer District West Trunk Sewer Replacement and Collection Basin | |
| 20 | Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 21 | Belt, Town of | |
| 22 | Belt Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 23 | Lincoln County | |
| 24 | Lincoln County Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 25 | Richey, Town of | |
| 26 | Richey Water Main Replacement Phase 2 | \$125,000 |
| 27 | Geraldine, Town of | |
| 28 | Geraldine Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1 | Victor Water and Sewer District | |
| 2 | Victor Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 3 | Forsyth, City of | |
| 4 | Forsyth Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 5 | Townsend, Town of | |
| 6 | Townsend Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 7 | Martinsdale Water and Sewer District | |
| 8 | Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 9 | Twin Bridges, Town of | |
| 10 | Twin Bridges Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 11 | Dodson, Town of | |
| 12 | Dodson Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 13 | Sunburst, Town of | |
| 14 | Sunburst Wastewater Distribution and Treatment Project | \$125,000 |
| 15 | Philipsburg, Town of | |
| 16 | Water Main Replacement Alley between Broadway and Stockton (Duffy-Sansome) | \$125,000 |
| 17 | Missoula, City of | |
| 18 | Missoula Comprehensive Stormwater Plan | \$125,000 |
| 19 | Denton, Town of | |
| 20 | Denton Wastewater System Upgrades Phase 1 | \$125,000 |
| 21 | Dutton, Town of | |
| 22 | Dutton Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 23 | Circle, Town of | |
| 24 | Circle Waterline Replacement Project Phase 4 | \$125,000 |
| 25 | Clancy Water and Sewer District | |
| 26 | Clancy Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 27 | Basin County Water and/or Sewer District | |
| 28 | Basin Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1 | Wolf Point, City of | |
| 2 | Wolf Point Wastewater Project Phase 1 | \$125,000 |
| 3 | Hideaway Community County Water & Sewer District | |
| 4 | Hideaway Court Community Sewer Project (HCCWSD) | \$125,000 |
| 5 | Chester, Town of | |
| 6 | Chester Wastewater Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 7 | Troy, City of | |
| 8 | Troy Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 9 | Lockwood Water and Sewer District | |
| 10 | Lockwood Water and Sewer District Mid Zone Reservoir | \$125,000 |
| 11 | Hot Springs, Town of | |
| 12 | Hot Springs Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 13 | Hingham, Town of | |
| 14 | Hingham Wastewater System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 15 | Chester, Town of | |
| 16 | Chester Water System Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 17 | Shelby, City of | |
| 18 | Shelby Wastewater Improvements Project | \$125,000 |
| 19 | Conrad, City of | |
| 20 | Conrad Storm Water Project | \$125,000 |
| 21 | Absarokee Water and Sewer District | |
| 22 | Absarokee Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 23 | North Cut Bank Glacier County Water and Sewer District | |
| 24 | North Cut Bank Glacier County Wastewater Lift Station Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 25 | Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County Water and Sewer District | |
| 26 | Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County WSD Wastewater System Improvements | |
| 27 | | \$125,000 |
| 28 | Judith Gap, Town of | |

1 Judith Gap Wastewater Water Line and Meter Upgrade Project \$125,000

2 Boulder, City of

3 Boulder Drinking Water System Improvements \$125,000

4 (5) The amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and
5 conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the
6 biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department
7 to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (7), subject to
8 the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant
9 and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years
10 2023-2025 Volume 6".

11 (6) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (7) in the following listed
12 order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must
13 be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a
14 grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the
15 department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may
16 be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

17 (7) The following are the prioritized irrigation grant projects:

18 RENEWABLE RESOURCE IRRIGATION GRANT PROJECTS

| 19 | Applicant/Project | Amount |
|----|--|-----------|
| 20 | Greenfields Irrigation District | |
| 21 | Greenfields Irrigation District Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project | \$125,000 |
| 22 | Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 | |
| 23 | Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 Thomas Point Pumping Plant Rehabilitation | \$125,000 |
| 24 | Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project | |
| 25 | Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Critical Structures Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 26 | Helena Valley Irrigation District | |
| 27 | Helena Valley Irrigation District Regulating Reservoir Preservation & Bypass Project | \$125,000 |
| 28 | Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 2 | |

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1 | Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation Phase 2 | \$125,000 |
| 2 | Pondera County Conservation District | |
| 3 | Pondera County Conservation District Birch Creek Diversion Automation Project | \$125,000 |
| 4 | Madison County | |
| 5 | Madison County Big Hole River Restoration Design and Permitting | \$125,000 |
| 6 | Ruby Valley Conservation District | |
| 7 | Ruby Valley CD Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration Project | \$125,000 |
| 8 | Newlan Creek Water District | |
| 9 | Newlan Creek Water District Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 10 | Savage Irrigation District | |
| 11 | Savage Irrigation District Pump Station Rehabilitation | \$125,000 |
| 12 | Pondera County Conservation District | |
| 13 | Pondera County Conservation District PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation | \$125,000 |
| 14 | East Bench Irrigation District | |
| 15 | East Bench Irrigation District Carter Creek Lining & Headgate Automation | \$125,000 |
| 16 | Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 1 | |
| 17 | Eiker Reach Canal Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 18 | Hill County | |
| 19 | Hill County Beaver Creek Dam Tailwater Channel Restoration | \$125,000 |
| 20 | Granite Conservation District | |
| 21 | Granite Conservation District - Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation | \$125,000 |
| 22 | Blaine County | |
| 23 | Blaine County NCIA North Chinook Reservoir Dam Outlet Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 24 | Paradise Valley Irrigation District | |
| 25 | Paradise Valley Irrigation District Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion Phase 2 | \$125,000 |
| 26 | Huntley Project Irrigation District | |
| 27 | Highline Discharge Pipeline Rehabilitation | \$125,000 |
| 28 | Tin Cup Water and Sewer District | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Tin Cup and Mill Ditch Improvements | \$125,000 |
| 2 | Billings, City of | |
| 3 | Rim Tunnel Rehabilitation Project | \$125,000 |
| 4 | | |

5 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions**
6 **and local governments.** A project sponsor listed under [section 1(4) or section 1(7)] may not receive funds
7 from both the reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan
8 program for the same project during the same biennium.

9
10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Condition of grants.** Disbursement of funds under [section 1] is subject
11 to the following conditions that must be met by the project sponsor:

12 (1) A scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project must be approved by the department of
13 natural resources and conservation. Any changes in scope of work or budget after legislative approval may not
14 change project goals and objectives. Changes in activities that would reduce the public or natural resource
15 benefits as presented in department of natural resources and conservation reports and applicant testimony to
16 the 68th legislature may result in a proportional reduction in the grant amount.

17 (2) The project sponsor shall show satisfactory completion of conditions described in the
18 recommendation section of the project narrative of the program report to the legislature for the biennium ending
19 June 30, 2025, or, in the case of planning grants issued under [section 1(1)(b)], completion of conditions
20 specified at the time of written notification of approved grant authority.

21 (3) The project sponsor must have a fully executed grant agreement with the department.

22 (4) Any other specific requirements considered necessary by the department must be met to
23 accomplish the purpose of the grant as evidenced from the application to the department or from the proposal
24 as presented to the legislature.

25
26 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriations established.** There is appropriated to any entity of state
27 government that receives a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the
28 department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior bienniums are reauthorized for

1 completion of contract work.

2

3 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation. The
4 legislature, pursuant to 85-1-605, approves the renewable resource programs grants listed in [section 1]. The
5 authorization of these grants constitutes a biennial appropriation from the natural resources projects state
6 special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

7

8 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a
9 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

10

11 COORDINATION SECTION. Section 7. Coordination instruction. (1) If both [this act] and an act
12 that provides additional funding for renewable resource grant and loan program grants from a source other than
13 the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 are passed and
14 approved, the projects listed in [section 1(4) and section 1(7) of this act] that do not receive funding from the
15 appropriations in [section 1(2) and section 1(5) of this act] may receive funding from the appropriation in the
16 other act designated for renewable resource grant and loan program grants in the order of completion of the
17 conditions of [section 3 of this act] and to the extent that there is appropriation authority available.

18 (2) Appropriations made in [section 1(1)(a) through (1)(f)] may be adjusted within [section 1(1)(a)
19 through (1)(f)] within the biennium based on demand or emergencies.

20

21 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are
22 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,
23 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

24

25 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

26

- END -