

## NEWS RELEASE

### Kittitas County Conservation District

2211 W Dolarway Rd, Suite 4

Ellensburg, WA 98926

509-925-3352 ext 207

Email: [a-lael@conserveva.net](mailto:a-lael@conserveva.net)

Web: <http://www.kccd.net>



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Contact: Anna Lael, District Manager

509-925-3352 ext. 207

## November 20, 2020 Application Due Date Announced for RCPP Cost Share Program

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (September 28, 2020) – The Kittitas County Conservation District announces a November 20, 2020 application deadline for the “Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish To Teanaway” Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project. The project can provide assistance with on-farm irrigation system improvements, livestock management practices (fences, watering facilities) and riparian and instream habitat. Funding is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

EQIP is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program through NRCS designed to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners/managers improve irrigation efficiency; reduce soil erosion; improve water quality; and improve fish habitat in priority streams. The contract payment rate pays for a portion of the cost of the contracted conservation practices implemented by the farmer or rancher.

The District is accepting applications immediately. Interested farmers, ranchers or landowners should contact the District at 509-925-3352 or 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg. Although this sign-up is being conducted by the District, all requirements of the EQIP program must still be met. Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and complete all Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements. For more information about those requirements, contact the local NRCS field office at 2211 W Dolarway Road, Suite 6, Ellensburg or 509-925-8585 ext. 115.

This is the fourth and final sign-up for this program. The first three (conducted in 2017, 2018 and 2019) have produced 19 contracts with landowners providing \$2 million to improve irrigation water use efficiency on more than 1,000 acres of cropland in Kittitas County. This funding is available as part of the “Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish To Teanaway” project. The project was one of 88 high impact projects across the country that was approved for funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program in December 2016. For more information, visit the project webpage at <https://www.kccd.net/rcpp>.

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