

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Response to Comments on the  
*Rules and Regulations for the  
Wastewater Treatment Facility Resiliency Fund*  
250-RICR-170-05-2**

November 1, 2019

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has received one comment on the proposed adoption of the Rules and Regulations for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Resiliency Fund (250-RICR-170-05-2). The public comment period began with the public notice on September 23, 2019 and ended at 4:00 pm on October 23, 2019. The comment is available for public review at the RI Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

**Comment #1:**

James Boyd, on behalf of the Coastal Resources Management Council, suggested that Sections 2.6(B)(1) and 2.6(C)(1) should be amended to provide flexibility for other projects that may be eligible for wastewater treatment facility resiliency funds for both small and large projects in addition to the listed examples. The commenter suggests that the Department should allow for maximum flexibility in the types of projects eligible for climate change resiliency grant funding to support a diverse and robust portfolio of projects.

**Response:**

Because elements of the proposed revision by CRMC will better clarify and provide examples of the intent of the regulations, the DEM will adopt the majority of the proposed changes. The Department has elected to limit funding to the four project categories listed in the posted regulation, as those four categories are derived from and consistent with DEM's 2017 study "Implications of Climate Change for RI Wastewater Collection & Treatment Infrastructure." However, we agree the existing language was limiting and our proposed change attains the desired flexibility as pointed out by the commenter.