BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Program Funding Pathway for Water Infrastructure Activities

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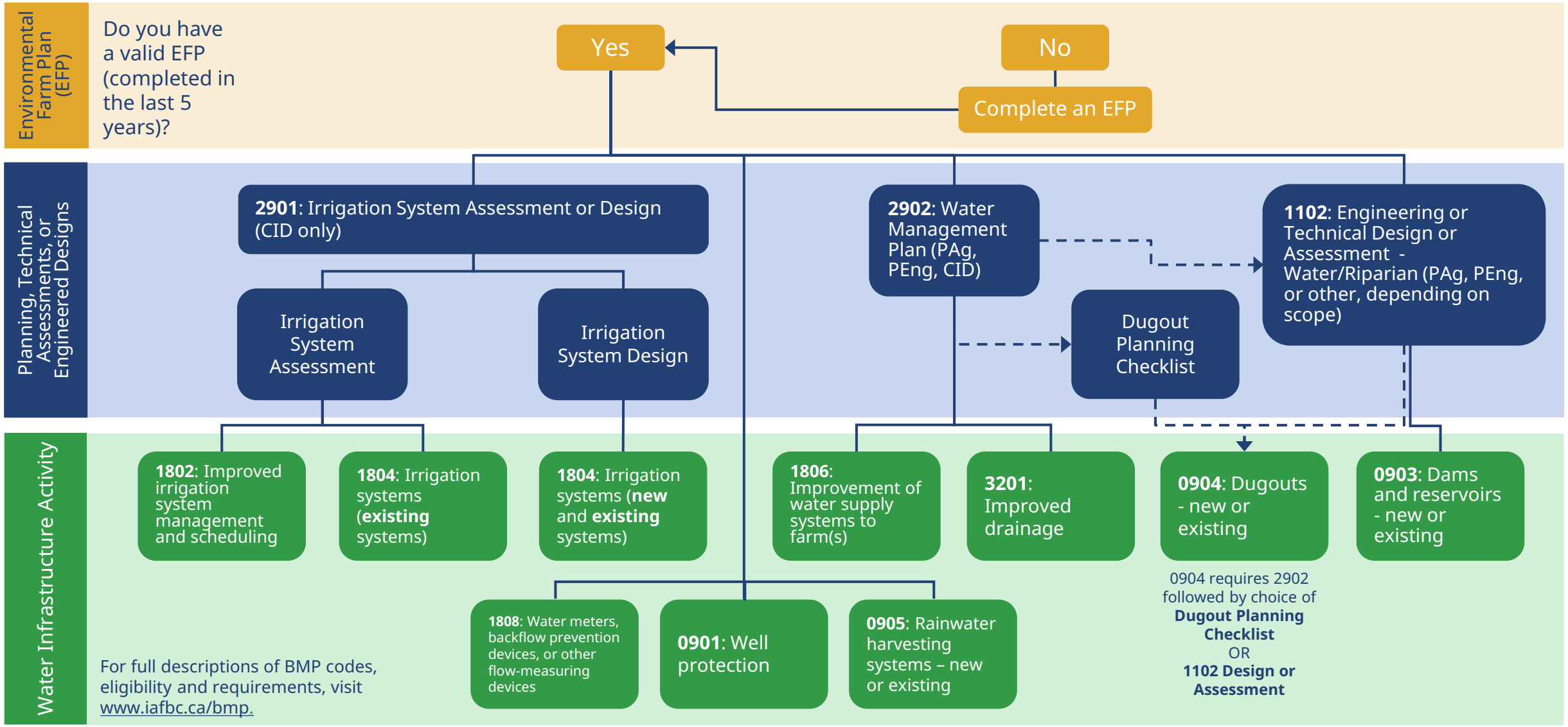

PAg = Professional Agrologist; **PEng** = Professional Engineer; and **CID** = Certified Irrigation Designer

Funding path — — — Alternate funding paths

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Comparison of Water Management Plans and Irrigation System Assessments or Designs

The difference between a Water Management Plan (2902) and an Irrigation System Assessment (2901) may be confusing at times. The table below aims to clarify what each plan covers and what it does not, helping you pursue the right one for your objectives. An Irrigation System Assessment may be completed as a standalone initiative, however, in some case, it may also be included as part of a Water Management Plan.

	Water Management Plan (BMP 2902)	Irrigation System Assessment or Design (BMP 2901)
Funding amount	Up to **$4,500** (100% cost share).	Up to **$3,000** (100% cost share) for Assessment (existing systems) or Design (new and existing systems).
Completed by	Qualified Professional (PAg, PEng, or CID with relevant education & work experience in agricultural water use).	CID only.
Primary goal	Provides a **full-farm overview and plan** for managing all farm water resources (supply, storage, drainage, stormwater, irrigation, licensing requirements) for all agricultural uses. May be used to support a water licence application.	Conducts a **detailed technical evaluation** of an existing irrigation system's performance and efficiency, and provide an action plan for specific improvements or **design of a new irrigation system**.
Irrigation system - general overview	✓ **DOES:** Assess how irrigation fits into the farm's overall water use; identifies general irrigation water sources, types of system, and area irrigated as part of the farm's water inventory.	✓ **DOES:** Start with an inventory and general state of the **specific existing irrigation system** being assessed.
Irrigation system - performance and efficiency assessment	✗ **DOES NOT:** Include detailed testing or analysis of irrigation system components, distribution uniformity, application rates, pressure analysis, or energy use for the irrigation system.	✓ **DOES:** Involve detailed site investigation, component assessment, performance testing (efficiency, uniformity), and analysis of energy consumption for the irrigation system.
Irrigation system – certified design for upgrades or new system	✗ **DOES NOT:** Provide a certified, detailed design layout, material list, or specific operational parameters for upgrading or installing specific irrigation systems or components.	✓ **DOES:** Include a certified design layout, material list, and operation and maintenance requirements for recommended improvements to bring the system up to standard or for new installations.
Farm-wide drainage and stormwater management	✓ **DOES:** Include a Drainage Management Plan, if applicable, to assess existing farm-wide drainage systems (like channels and drain tiles) and stormwater runoff, and suggest improvements and infrastructure.	✗ **DOES NOT:** Focus on farm-wide drainage or stormwater issues unless they directly impact the intake or operation of the specific irrigation system being assessed or designed.
Water storage	✓ **DOES:** Assess existing water storage facilities (such as dugouts) for **all farm water uses** (including livestock) and recommend improvements or new storage.	✗ **DOES NOT:** Assess or recommend improvements for water storage facilities that are not directly part of, or supplying, the specific irrigation system being assessed or designed.
Water licensing	✓ **DOES:** Assess current water licences for the **entire farm property** for all uses and provide an action plan if new licences or amendments are needed for overall water management improvements.	✓ **DOES:** Assess if water supply and water licences are adequate for **crop needs met by the specific irrigation system** and provide an action plan if changes are needed for that system's requirements.

Generative AI (Gemini) was used in the editing of this document.

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