



Oregon

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Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Ruben E. Ochoa, Director's Office

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G, August 22, 2008
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Update on the Planning Studies Grant Program Established under Senate Bill 1069 (Chapter 13, 2008 Laws), OAR Chapter 690, Division 600

I. Issue Statement

This agenda item is for informational purposes only and provides an update on the grant program established under Senate Bill 1069 (Chapter 13, 2008 Laws) to pay the qualifying costs of planning studies performed to evaluate the feasibility of developing a water conservation, reuse or storage project.

II. Background

Senate Bill 1069, enacted into law by the Oregon Legislature in 2008, became effective on March 5, 2008. SB 1069 directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) to establish a new grant program to pay the qualifying costs of planning studies performed to evaluate the feasibility of developing a water conservation, reuse or storage project. SB 1069 also directs the Department to adopt rules necessary to administer the grant program. The Oregon Water Resources Commission (Commission) adopted rules to administer the grant program on May 30, 2008, and on June 6, 2008 the administrative rules became effective. The 2008 Oregon Legislature also passed Senate Bill 5556, in part, to appropriate \$1,750,000 to the Department for administration and funding of the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program (Program).

Two internal hires, Bob Rice and Kim French, have joined the Department's Administrative Services Division to help manage the Program. Bob Rice has 18 years of experience with the Department, and most recently, served as the Department's Flow Restoration Coordinator. Bob will be responsible for directing activities, processes and protocols of the application review team, presenting information, responding to questions about the Program, providing staff recommendations, reporting Program data, and assuring overall Program coordination. Kim French, who joined the Department in January 2007, has 24 years experience in administrative support. Kim will be responsible for developing forms, coordinating review team activities, organizing presentation materials, sending out standardized communications, and maintaining grant files.

III. Discussion

On July 15, 2008, the Department placed a number of documents pertaining to the Program on the agency's website, including a grant application form, application and evaluation guidance, administrative rules and other general information. The period for submitting applications extends through September 2, 2008.

A number of key Program activities will take place before the Department presents its final funding recommendations for the Commission's consideration at the November 21, 2008 meeting. One of those activities is the appointment by the Director of persons with water supply and planning knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise to serve on an application review team.

The Director has invited the following persons to serve on the application review team:

Department Staff: *Barry Norris, Doug Woodcock, Ivan Gall, George Robison, Bill Fujii, and Ruben Ochoa*

Other State Agencies:

Department of Environmental Quality: *Barbara Sellars*

Economic & Community Development Department: *Jan*

Department of Agriculture: *Ray Jandl*

Department of Fish and Wildlife: *Rick Kepler*

Parks and Recreation Department: *Jan Houck*

Watershed Enhancement Board: *Roger Wood*

On October 1, 2008 the Department will post the recommendations from the application review team on its website for public comment. The public comment period will extend through October 30, 2008. The Department will review the application review team recommendations and public comment on those recommendations to prepare the final funding recommendations that it plans to present to the Commission on November 21, 2008.

IV. Summary

The Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program initiative that resulted in 2008 legislation to establish the Program at the Department, direct the Commission to adopt rules to administer the Program, and provide general revenues to fund the Program. With participation from staff and members of the Rules Advisory Committee, the Department has been able to pursue an aggressive timeline to develop the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Program and be in a position to present final funding recommendations to the Commission at its November 21, 2008 meeting.

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The Grant Process

