

Irrigation Modernization Funding Recommendations

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Integrated Water Resources Strategy



Flow Restoration



Pivots



Piping



New Wells

Recommended Action:

13.E - Invest in Implementation of Water Resources Projects

Planning, Collaboration, & Investments

Builds partnerships and incentivizes Oregonians to pursue integrated and innovative solutions for complex water challenges and an uncertain water future.



Strategic
Investments



Adaptive
Planning



Cooperative
Partnerships



Accessible
Information



Effective
Coordination

Planning, Collaboration, & Investments



Placed-Based Planning

Plan & identify actions



Feasibility Study Grants

Investigate feasibility

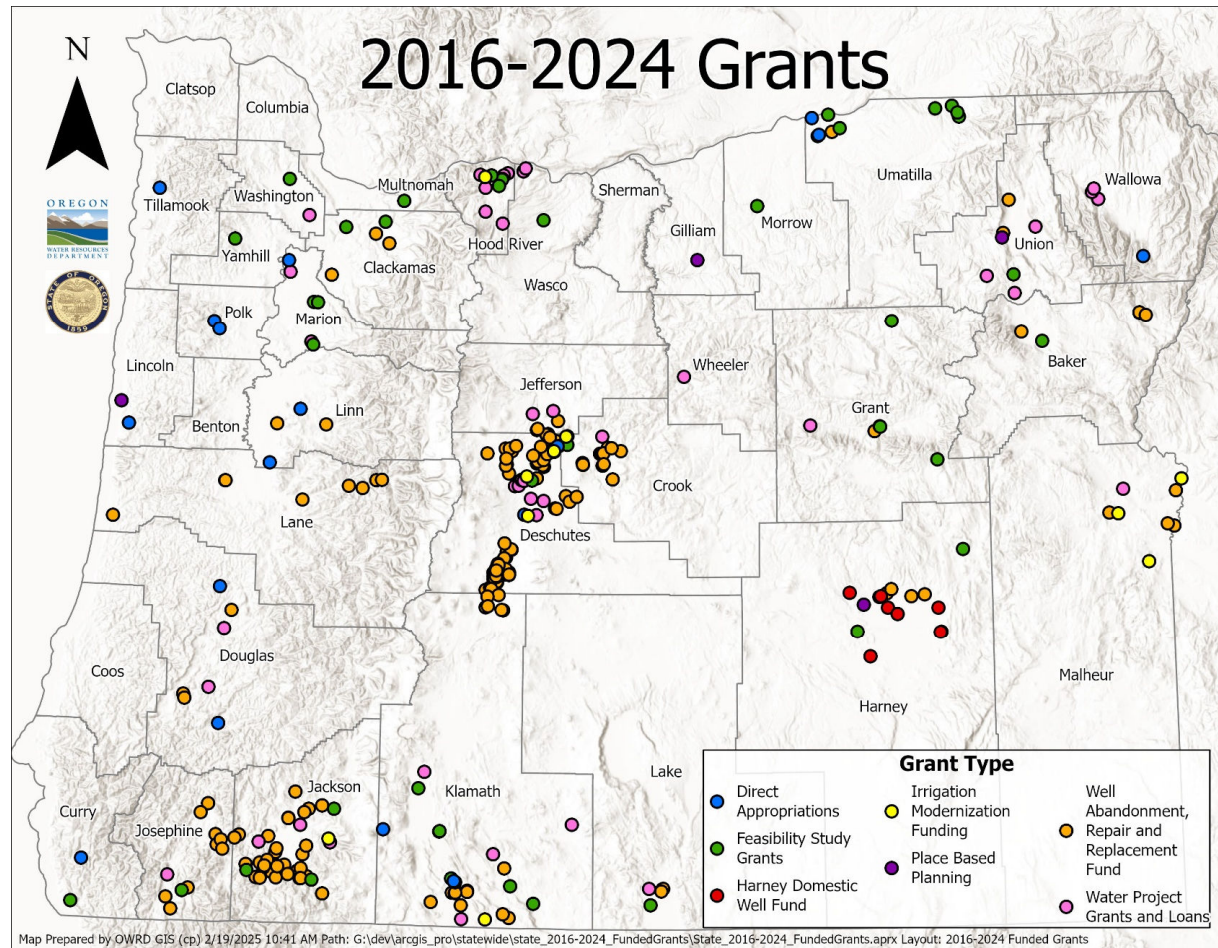


Water Project Grants & Loans

Implement

- Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund
- Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund
- Water Measurement Cost Share Program
- **Irrigation Modernization Funding**
- Direct Appropriations

Funded Grants



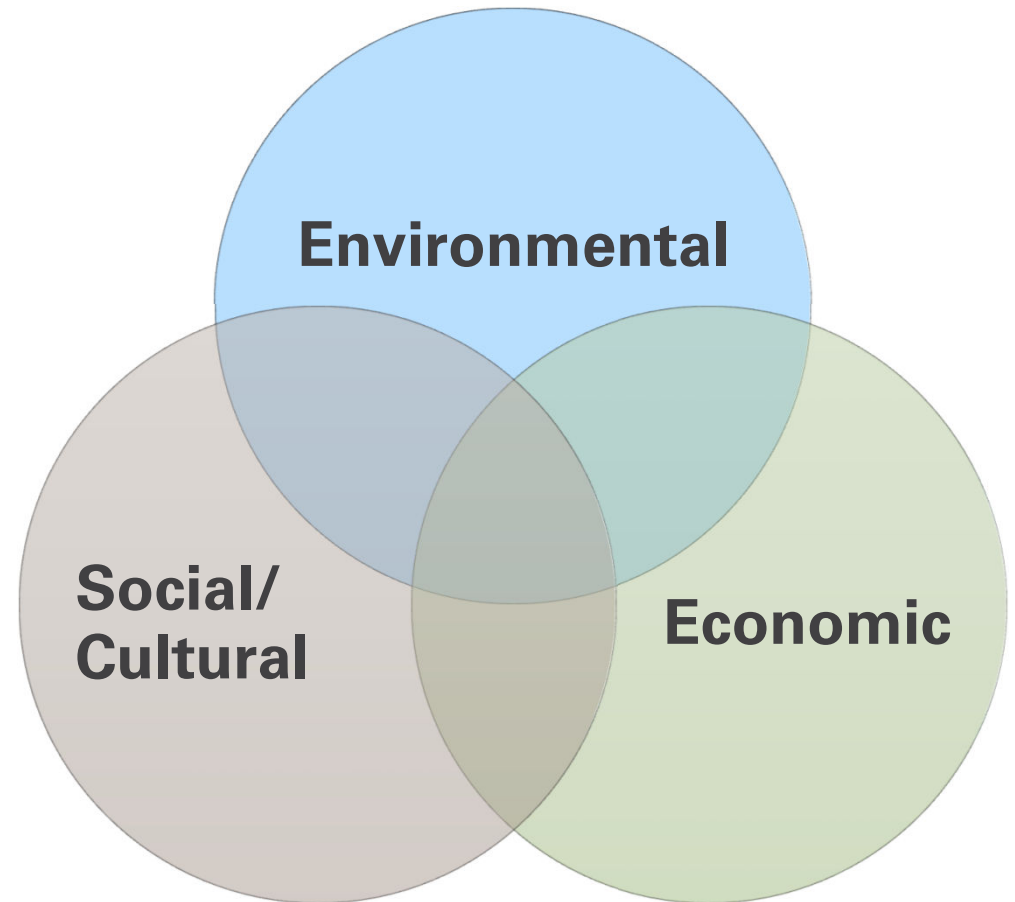
Irrigation Modernization Funding History

- **HB 5030 – One-time \$50M** to Water Supply Development Account to issue grants for **Irrigation Modernization** projects
- Provide **state match** needed to access federal funding available for irrigation modernization projects
- Use **existing grant program (Water Project Grants and Loans)** for efficiency

Irrigation Modernization Funding

Provide funding for Water Supply projects that:

- Improve water use efficiency of irrigation systems on currently irrigated agricultural lands
- Achieve Public Benefits in three categories



Key Differences

Water Project Grants and Loans

Cost match requirement

- 25% required for grants
- In-kind or cash match

Irrigation Modernization

Must have specific Federal match:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Priority to projects that legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with amount required under Allocation of Conserved Water program.

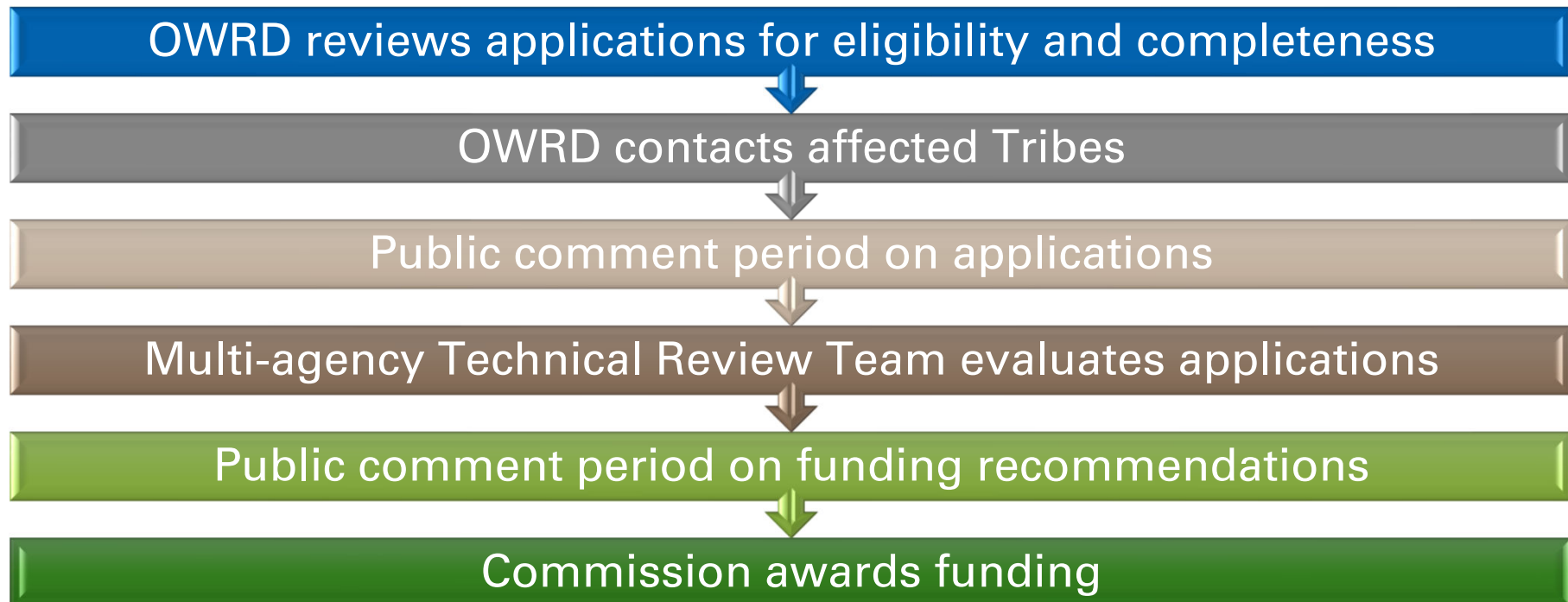
Funding Cycles and Availability

- WPGL and Irrigation Modernization funding cycles run concurrently for efficiency
- Did not run first 2025 WPGL cycle due to insufficient funds
- 2 funding cycles per year

Fund Availability

Funding Program	Currently Available
Water Project Grants & Loans	\$607,529
Irrigation Modernization	\$20,494,551

Review Process



2025 Funding Cycle 1

Application deadline: January 15, 2025

Applications Received	4
Funding Requested	\$16,191,372
Funding Available	\$20,494,551

Comments on Applications

- 60-day public comment period: January 30, 2025 – March 31, 2025
- No Tribal comments received
- No public comments received

Technical Review Team (TRT)



Meet to discuss
applications

Consider Tribal and public
comments

Score applications based
on public benefits

Make funding
recommendation

TRT Scores Public Benefits



Scoring Criteria Updates

Public Benefit	Previous Scoring Scale	Changes to Scoring Scale
Exceptional	12	Score changed to 10
High	6	Score changed to 5
Medium	3	None
Minor	1	May not receive score without supporting evidence or documentation
No benefit	0	Claims of public benefits are unsupported
Minor negative impact	-1	None
Medium negative impact	-3	None

Irrigation Modernization Application Scoring

Three categories of Public Benefits: Economic, Environmental, Social/Cultural	
6	Questions in each public benefit category
60	Available points in each category
20	Potential preference points: legally protected streamflow & collaboration
10	Potential preference points: legally protected streamflow commensurate with amount required in ORS 537.470
210	Total points available

Minimum Category Score

The Department set a minimum category score of “5” to be funded

A category score of “5” signals that the public benefits are more than “Minor”

Each category must meet the minimum score

TRT Funding Recommendations

- TRT ranked projects by greatest public benefit score
- Generated TRT funding recommendation based on the:
 - Public benefit score, and
 - Available funding
- **TRT recommends funding all 4 Irrigation Modernization projects**

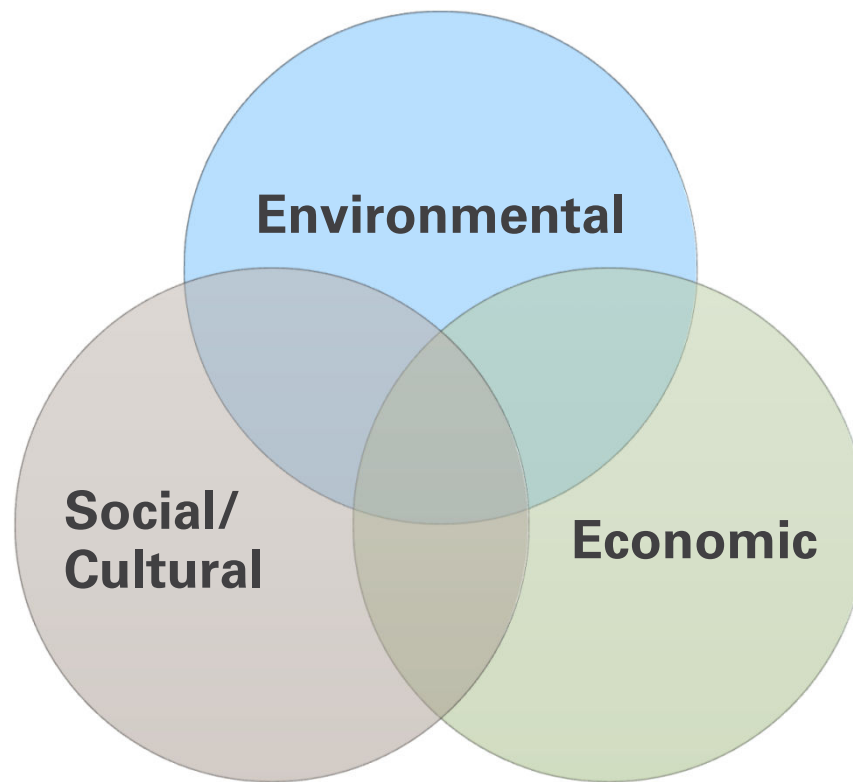
Irrigation Modernization Projects Recommended by TRT

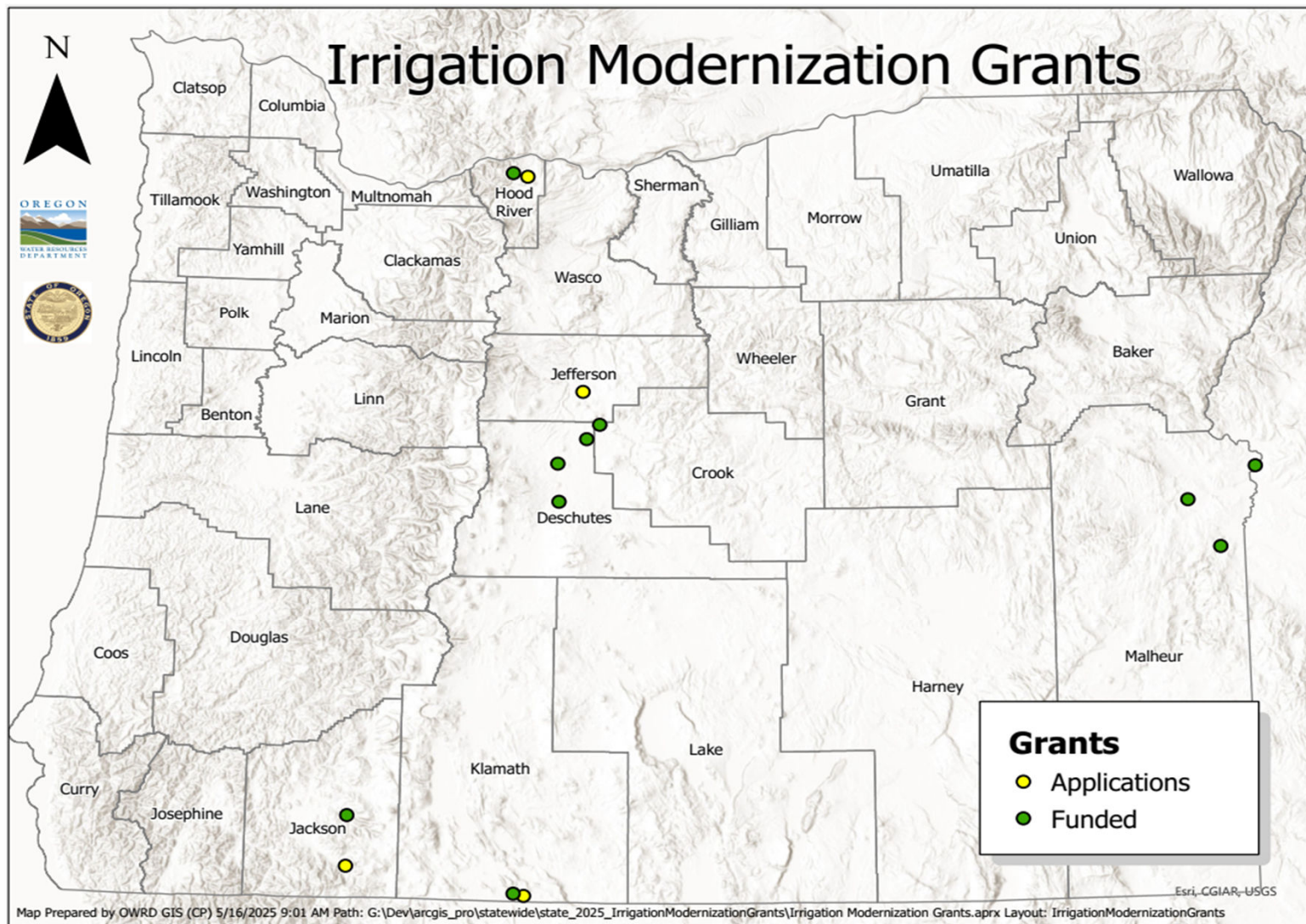
Rank	Project Name	Funding
1	East Fork Piping Project	\$4,942,925
2	North Unit Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Lateral 43, Segment 3	\$2,987,447
3	Klamath Irrigation District D-System Laterals Project	\$4,270,000
4	Eastside Canal Piping Project Phase 1	\$3,991,000
Total		\$16,191,372

Comments on Funding Recommendations

- Public comment period April 18 – May 9, 2025
- No Tribal comments received
- One public comment received in support of the TRT funding recommendations and on the program's required eligibility criteria

Applications Recommended for Funding





East Fork Piping Project

1

Applicant	East Fork Irrigation District
Funding Request	\$4,942,925
Total Cost	\$18,748,700
County	Hood River

East Fork Piping Project

Project Highlights

- Replace ~ 12 miles of leaking pipe; pipe ~ 5 miles of open canal
- Eliminate 23 end spills, open water boxes, add pressure reducing valves and turnouts for patrons
- Legally protect 75 percent (~ 2.4 cfs) of conserved water instream in East Fork Hood River through OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water program
- Twenty-five percent (~ 0.8 cfs) of conserved water would be used to improve water supply reliability for irrigators

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total
Econ	Env	Soc/Cultr	Other	
30	28	31	30	119

NUID Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Lateral 43, Segment 3

2

Applicant	North Unit Irrigation District
Funding Request	\$2,987,447
Total Cost	\$11,969,550
County	Jefferson

NUID Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Lateral 43, Segment 3

Project Highlights

- Enclose portion of Lateral 43, a 7.3-mile open, porous irrigation canal into leak-free HDPE pipe
- Restore 5.3 cfs to Deschutes Basin during non-irrigation season:
 - Release equivalent amount during winter season in Upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir via secondary use right for flow augmentation

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total
Econ	Env	Soc/Cultr	Other	
27	19	24	25	95

Klamath Irrigation District D-System Laterals Project

3

Applicant	Klamath Irrigation District
Funding Request	\$4,270,000
Total Cost	\$19,581,000
County	Klamath

Klamath Irrigation District D-System Laterals Project

Project Highlights

- Replace 11.4 miles of open earthen channels with gravity-fed pipelines and line 1.1 miles of District's D-System
- Project would:
 - Save about 4,021 acre-feet per year
 - Improve water delivery reliability
 - Retain more water in Upper Klamath Lake later in summer
 - Reduce demand for supplemental inputs from Lost River
 - Reduce pumping costs for adjacent districts given decreased spill

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total
Econ	Env	Soc/Cultr	Other	
24	6	21	5	56

Eastside Canal Piping Project Phase 1

4

Applicant	Talent Irrigation District
Funding Request	\$3,991,000
Total Cost	\$4,991,000
County	Jackson

Eastside Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Project Highlights

- Convert first 4,363 feet of open earthen Eastside Canal into 72-inch diameter pipe
- Project would:
 - Save about 437.6 acre-feet per year
 - Improve water delivery reliability
 - Retain more water in Emigrant Lake, extending District's irrigation season during drought
 - Reduce operations and maintenance costs
 - Contribute 25 percent of water savings instream in Emigrant Creek

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total
Econ	Env	Soc/Cultr	Other	
22	6	15	5	48

Funding Award

The Commission shall make the final decision based on (ORS 541.673-677 and OAR 690-093-0100):

- Equal importance of each public benefit category
- Awards based on greatest public benefit
- Best achieve target outcomes (Funding projects of diverse sizes, types and geographic locations)
- Based on changes resulting from project

Commission Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following:

1. Adopt the TRT funding recommendation contained in Table 2 of the staff report to fund four applications for a total award of \$16,191,372.
2. Adopt a modified funding recommendation.
3. Direct the Department to further evaluate the applications and return with a revised recommendation.

Recommendation

The Director recommends Alternative #1

- 1. Adopt the TRT funding recommendation contained in Table 2 of the staff report to fund four applications for a total award of \$16,191,372.**
2. Adopt a modified funding recommendation.
3. Direct the Department to further evaluate the applications and return with a revised recommendation.

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WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

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Additional slides if needed

Water Supply Funding Opportunities

- Business Oregon's Water/Wastewater Financing Program
- OWEB's Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program
- OHA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- DEQ's Water Quality Grants
 - Columbia River Basin Restoration Toxic Reduction Lead Grant
 - Nonprofit Source Implementation 319 Grants
 - Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants
 - Onsite Financial Aid Program