Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-0900
Fax (503) 986-0904

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G, November 21, 2019
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Water Project Grants and Loans: Funding Recommendations and Awards

I. Introduction

This report describes the multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) evaluation process, public comments received, and the Department's funding recommendations for the 2019 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The Commission will be asked to award funding.

II. Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Project Grants and Loans funding opportunity, which provides funding for water projects that have economic, social, and environmental public benefits. After adoption of rules in June 2015, the Commission awarded nine grants totaling $8,891,118 in May 2016. In 2017, the Commission awarded four grants totaling $6,282,232. In 2018, the Commission awarded eight grants totaling $6,297,755. Recommended Action 13.E of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy calls for investing in implementation of water resources projects.

There is approximately $10,233,991 in unobligated funds currently available for the Commission to award during this cycle. An additional $15 million in grant funds was authorized during the 2019 legislative session and will be available once the lottery backed bonds are sold in the spring of 2021.

The 2019 application deadline was April 26, 2019. The Department received fourteen complete applications requesting a total of $12,341,262 in grant funding, with individual grant requests ranging from $155,106 to $2,250,000. See Attachment 1 for a list of all complete applications received.

III. Grant Application Review Process

After the application deadline, all applications were reviewed for eligibility and completeness. The Department solicited written comments on complete applications during a 60-day public comment period from May 17, 2019 through July 16, 2019. During this first comment period, the

Department received comments from thirty individuals and organizations addressing three of the applications. See Attachment 2 for a compilation of the comments received.

A multi-agency TRT evaluated the applications and developed funding recommendations for the Commission. The TRT consisted of staff from the Department, as well as Regional Solutions, and the Departments of Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, Business Development, and Agriculture. See Attachment 1 for the TRT project ranking and funding recommendations.

The Department contacted affected Indian tribes directly to solicit comments on complete applications where project work would be conducted on lands where the tribe may have an interest. Affected tribes were invited to serve as members of the TRT, submit comments for consideration by the TRT, or if later in the process, for consideration by the Department and Commission. During the 2019 funding cycle, the Department did not receive any comments from tribes.

In response to input and observations regarding the past scoring, the Department improved the scoring process during the 2019 funding cycle. The TRT met to discuss the public benefits of each project and considered the public comments. Instead of conducting the scoring after the meeting, the TRT scored applications during the meeting. Scoring was based on the potential economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits described in the applications and the comments received. The process change afforded the TRT the opportunity to further discuss the merits of the project proposals where needed and ensure consistent application of the evaluation criteria.

A maximum score of 30 points is available in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project can receive up to 10 additional preference points – up to five points each for legally protecting water instream and for collaboration (both listed in the "Other" category). The maximum public benefit score is 100 points. See Attachment 3 for the public benefit scoring criteria, and Attachment 4 for the Department's *Guidance on the Evaluation of Public Benefits*.

The Department calculated a combined public benefit score for each project and prepared a draft ranking in order of greatest public benefit. The TRT then reviewed the draft ranking and made a final funding recommendation. See Attachment 5 for all complete applications received and the TRT project ranking, evaluation summaries, and funding recommendations.

The TRT rankings and recommendations were published on the Department's website and distributed on the Water Resources Development Program's list serve for a 30-day public comment period, which took place from August 27 through September 26. During the second comment period, the Department received comments from seven individuals and organizations addressing three applications, as well as providing general program-related comments. See Attachment 6 for the public comments received.

The comments provided on the projects consisted of letters supporting the project proposal. Comments were received on 1) the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well project, 2) The Upper Phillips Fish Passage and Irrigation efficiency Project, and 3) the Canal Avenue Water Infrastructure Project.

The Department carefully evaluated the comments to determine if new information was provided that would require re-evaluating the funding recommendation. Upon review, no new information was submitted requiring a re-evaluation by the TRT.

IV. 2019 Funding Award Recommendations

Based on the TRT ranking, public comments, and staff review, the Department recommends funding the top four of the fourteen applications (Table 1). This funding recommendation takes into account the availability of funds and statutory provisions to review applications annually. If approved by the Commission, Department staff will work with recipients to develop grant agreements. Release of grant funds is contingent on applicants obtaining all applicable local, state, and federal permits and regulatory approvals, as well as meeting match fund requirements.

Table 1. 2019 Funding Recommendations (all grants)

Project Name	*Project Type*	*Grant Funding Request*	*Total Cost of Project*	*Funding Recommendation*
Upper Philips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project	Conservation	$983,290	$1,357,267	$983,290
Calapooya Creek Conservation Project	Water Infrastructure Conservation, Flow Restoration & Protection	$155,106	$206,808	$155,106
Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2	Water Infrastructure	$671,724	$906,910	$671,724
City of Chiloquin New Well and Meter Replacement Project	Water Infrastructure	$661,000	$4,025,500	$661,000
Total		**$2,471,120**	**$6,496,485**	**$2,471,120**

V. Summary

The funding recommendation includes the applications that demonstrated the greatest public benefits. As recommended, this would result in four grant awards totaling $2,471,120. This would leave approximately $7,762,871 currently available funding for the 2020 funding cycle. An additional $15 million in grant funds will be available once the lottery backed bonds are sold in the spring of 2021.

VI. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Adopt the funding recommendation contained in Table 1 of this report to fund four applications for a total award of $2,471,120.
2. Adopt a modified funding recommendation.
3. Direct the Department to further evaluate the applications and return with a revised recommendation.

VII. Recommendation

The Director recommends Alternative 1, to adopt the staff funding recommendations contained in Table 1 of this report to fund four applications for a total award of $2,471,120.

Attachments:

1. TRT Ranking and Funding Recommendation
2. Public Comments on Applications
3. Excerpt from Division 93 Rules on Scoring
4. Guidance on the Evaluation of Public Benefits
5. Funding Recommendation and Application Evaluation Summaries
6. Public Comments Received on the TRT Funding Recommendation

Kim Fritz-Ogren, Manager, Water Resources Development Program
503-986-0873

Becky Williams, Grant Program Coordinator
503-986-0869

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Technical Review Team Ranking

Water Project Grants and Loans – 2019 Funding Cycle

The Department solicited grant and loan applications through April 26, 2019. During that time the Department received 14 complete applications requesting over $12 million in project implementation funds. The Technical Review Team (TRT), a multi-agency technical review team, reviewed, scored, and ranked each application. The TRT scoring criteria was based upon the Guidance on Evaluation of Public Benefits document. The rank and score is based on the combined public benefit score for the public benefits as described in the project application. An application could score up to 30 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 10 additional preference points; up to 5 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 5 points for collaboration (these are listed in the "Other" category). There is a maximum public benefit score of 100 points.

Below is the TRT application ranking and funding recommendation for the 2019 funding cycle of Water Project Grants and Loans. The four applications in Table 1 are recommended for funding by the TRT. These represent the projects with the greatest public benefits as evaluated by the TRT. The applications in Table 2 are not recommended for funding at this time. While all of the applications demonstrated some measure of public benefit, the projects in Table 2 are not recommended for funding due to insufficient public benefit demonstrated in the application, and/or other reviewer concerns about project implementation. The TRT determined that, as submitted, applications ranked 5 through 14 did not demonstrate sufficient public benefits to justify funding at this time. While the proposed projects associated with those applications may have public benefits, as submitted, the applications did not demonstrate or support those benefits consistent with the criteria identified in the *Guidance on Evaluation of Public Benefits* document.

Table 1. Applications Recommended for Funding

TRT Rank	2019 Funding Cycle Application	*Funding Request	Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total Score
			Economic	Environmental	Social/ Cultural	Other	
1	Upper Phillips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project	$983,290	17	17	15	7.5	**56.5**
2	Calapooya Creek Conservation Project	$155,106	21	15	13	5.5	**54.5**
3	Mosier Deep Water Supply Well 2	$671,724	13	14	17	3.5	**47.5**
4	Chiloquin New Well And Meter Replacement Project	$661,000	17	7	13.5	1	**38.5**
	TOTAL	**$2,471,120**					

Table 2. Applications Not Recommended for Funding At This Time

TRT Rank	2019 Funding Cycle Application	*Funding Request	Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown				Total Score
			Economic	Environmental	Social/ Cultural	Other	
5	Prineville Airport Area ASR Project	$1,800,000	16.5	4.5	12.5	4	**37.5**
6	Smith Ditch Water Delivery Improvement	$590,902	16.5	5	11	3	**35.5**
7	Canal Avenue Water Infrastructure Project	$1,500,000	16.5	0.5	14.5	0	**31.5**
8	Highland Ditch Piping Project	$2,250,000	13.5	6	7.5	2.5	**29.5**
9	Ladera Piping Project	$207,408	9.5	6	6.5	4	**26**
10	Madras Downtown Distribution Main Replacement Project	$900,000	11	1.5	10	1	**23.5**
11	North Plains Water Reservoir 2 and Pump Station	$1,250,000	9	2	10.5	1	**22.5**
12	Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District Automation Spillways	$200,851	10	1	3.5	0	**14.5**
13	Quail Ridge Irrigation Renovation and Conservation Project	$884,981	6.5	0	7	0	**13.5**
14	Stanfield Irrigation District Efficiency Project	$286,000	5	1	2	0	**8**
	TOTAL	**$9,870,142**					

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Water Project Grants and Loans

Public Comments Received
2019 Funding Cycle Applications

Document Description

The Department received 14 complete applications for the 2019 funding cycle of Water Project Grants and Loans. Public comment on the applications was accepted from May 17, 2019 through July 16, 2019. Administrative rule [OAR 690-093-0090(1)(c)] identifies that the Technical Review Team (TRT) considers comments from applicants and the public. The purpose of this document is to provide the TRT with the comments received during the public comment period. Public comments on 2019 funding applications are in the order and page number listed below.

Contents

Canal Avenue Water Project

Public Comments

From: George Longden
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Rogue Community College grant request
Date: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 7:21:16 PM

I am writing in support of the grant request made by RCC to enable the Redwood campus to connect to the city water system. Both the city of Grants Pass and the college will benefit from this development. RCC is a vital part of the Grants Pass community and provides quality educational services to residents of the city and county. With the water system connection further expansion and development of the Redwood campus can proceed and provide enhanced services to the students RCC serves. I ask that you look favorably on funding this grant request. Thank you for the services you provide to assist with development in Oregon's rural communities.

George Longden, MSW

Grants Pass & Josephine County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1995 NW Vine Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 476-7717
www.grantspasschamber.org

June 24, 2019

Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College

To whom it may concern:

As President & CEO of the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the Rogue Community College Canal Avenue Water Project.

This grant proposal is important for our community to grow and expand. These funds will assist with the costs of installing a pump station along Highway 199 to transport city water to Rogue Community College Redwood Campus.

Rogue Community College is essential to our community as they provide the training and continued education to produce quality individuals to enter and continue in the workforce. In Josephine County, we continue to have a need for a skilled workforce.

We hope you will fund this project. This will not only help Rogue Community College Redwood Campus expand, but also help our city and county. Continued education is important to our community and workforce.

Sincerely,

Josie Molloy
President & CEO
Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce

June 28, 2019

Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer St., NE, Ste. A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Coordinator

This is a note in support of Rogue Community College's (RCC) state grant application to obtain funding for connections to the city of Grants Pass water system.

Providing reliable & safe city water to the college is a positive project. Not only does RCC serve students by preparing them for work & for added college degrees, but the college also pumps thousands & thousands of dollars back into local & state economic systems.

As noted in the application, expansion of science facilities (& likely renovation of the old, very well used facilities) is a major reason for the water needs. A cadre of excellent science faculty provide instruction.

RECEIVED
JUL 01 2019
OWRD

Quality science instruction needs modern, state-of-the-art facilities if students are to maximize their learning. Students + staff also need adequate room + lab stations to perform the experiments that prepare them for future upper-division work or on-the-job performance expectations.

It is definitely time to supplement the old wells + storage tanks that were set up for the Job Corps back in the 1960s. Please lend your support to this grant application.

Sincerely,

J Marie Mueller
6456 Roberts Dr, SE
Salem, OR 97306
cromueller33@gmail.com
503-990-7645

My husband, my son, my daughter, my son-in-law (and his sister), + I all studied at RCC.

From: Laura Magstadt
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Ave Water Project/Rogue Community College proposal
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:43:13 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of the Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College proposal. As a Registered Nurse who lives and works in this community, I truly value the benefit that Rogue Community College brings to our community through their commitment to training future health care professionals. The new science building will be an outstanding addition to the Redwood Campus and is an important aspect of the college's long term plan. Given RCC's location and the size of the campus, having appropriate access to water is critically important now and into the future.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Laura Magstadt RN, MSN

Williams, OR

OGREN Kim L * WRD

From: Greg Roe <gregroe@begreat4kids.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:20 AM
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Street Water Project, and Rogue Community College

Hello,

My name is Greg Roe and I'm the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley. I would like to write an email of support for Rogue Community College's Canal Street Water Project. This is a VERY important project in our community. Rogue Community College is the only institution of higher education in our impoverished community and our area depends heavily on them to lift our community out of poverty. At the Boys & Girls Clubs, we rely on Rogue Community College to provide educational opportunities for our low income youth. They also help the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley with Career Tech programming. This grant will allow them to expand their programming to their students and community partners. At this point they can't grow because of lack of water.

This project is also important for the safety of RCC administration, students, faculty, and neighbors. RCC is located in a wooded area that is prone to forest fires. In the last couple of years, forest fires have ravished our area and we have been overcome by smoke. This project will help protect RCC and the community. You will be hard pressed to find another project that is more important from a public safety standpoint.

Thank you for consideration and please fund this vitally important project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-659-1376. I would be honored to talk with you more about this project.

--
Greg Roe, Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley
203 S.E. 9th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541- 916-4209

From: Frank Kukla
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 5:17:43 PM

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing you this email to encourage each of you to support the Canal Avenue Water Project for Rogue Community College.

As a member of the RCC Foundation Board of Directors, I know first-hand how important the Redwood campus of RCC is to Southern Oregon. It will help immensely to have this project approved and completed as RCC moves forward with timely improvements and new facilities on campus.

The educational and training opportunities available through Rogue Community College make a huge impact in the quality of life for so many citizens the area.

Best,

Frank Kukla, Jr.

From: Cheryl Johnson
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College - Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 9:13:06 AM

To the Members of the Technical Review Team,

I am writing regarding the proposed project for the Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College. I strongly support this project and encourage funding of this grant request.

As a resident of Josephine County, I know the value that RCC brings to our community. As the only campus offering on-site higher education in Josephine County, the Redwood Campus is critical to the residents of Grants Pass and rural Josephine County. Through their academic offerings and vocational programs, students are offered the opportunity to attain an advanced degree, and potentially transfer to a 4-year college or university; or to complete a vocational education certificate and be job-ready to contribute to their future success in our community.

This project will allow the campus to connect to city water; which will make way for future expansion and growth of the Grants Pass campus. In addition, with this pumping station, residents on the west side of Grants Pass will benefit. In every sense, this project is a win-win for the city of Grants Pass and the residents of Josephine County.

I appreciate your consideration, and urge you to fund this grant request.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Johnson
O'Brien, OR

From:	Kirk Kolb
To:	WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject:	Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College - Public Comment
Date:	Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7:52:18 AM

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of the Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College proposed project. RCC is an invaluable partner for Grants Pass School District. This project is very important in the expansion projects scheduled for RCC with the construction of a new science building. We have future hopes of more high school students attending RCC's Redwood Campus as part of their high school experience and these projects can only strengthen future opportunities. We know early college experiences will help steer students toward post-secondary experiences and persistence in completing post-secondary degrees and certificates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirk T. Kolb
Superintendent
Grants Pass SD #7
725 NE Dean Drive
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-474-5700

"Fostering Hope, Engagement, and Resiliency for the Community of Grants Pass"

From: Basker, Judy
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project/Rogue Community College
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:04:59 AM

Dear Committee,

I write to support the Canal Avenue Water Project for Rogue Community College.

As head of the RCC Foundation, I know first hand how important the Redwood campus of RCC is to all of Southern Oregon. It will help tremendously to have this project approved and completed as we move forward with upgrades on campus for timely improved and new facilities.

The educational and training opportunities available through Rogue Community College make a huge difference in the quality of most of the citizens of the area.

I also own a home located within one mile of The Redwood Campus, and as a citizen of Josephine County I know the value of the lovely college grounds.

Very truly yours,

Judy Basker

Judith "Judy" Basker, JD
Executive Director
Rogue Community College Foundation
3345 Redwood Highway
Grants Pass, OR 97527

jbasker@roguecc.edu
541 956-7291 W
503 930-7327 C

www.rccfoundation.org

From:	Gomez, Eric
To:	WRD_DL_waterprojects
Cc:	Lagorio, Grant
Subject:	Rogue Community College grant application for water supply construction
Date:	Monday, July 15, 2019 11:50:42 AM
Importance:	High

Greetings,

I am writing you in support of the Rogue Community College grant request to fund a large water supply construction project. The project will benefit the entire area if it is completed. I have listed some points to consider below:

- Rogue Community College (RCC) has always operated on its own water system, which is provided by private wells and water holding tanks. The system is limited to 100,000 gallons of water and doesn't meet fire codes for any new construction. Due to the urban growth boundary change, RCC has been mandated to connect to the Grants Pass city's water system or bring their private system up to meet current fire code before it can expand with any new construction, especially the new science building.

- RCC is unable to meet the fire code water requirements with its private system and doesn't have the funding for the connection to the Grants Pass City system, which includes the addition of a pumping station as well as the piping to bring the water to the RCC campus. Therefore, RCC is applying for a grant from the Oregon Water Resources Department to help pay for the connection.

- Nearly all of the structures on the RCC Redwood campus are wooden, posing the risk of total destruction of the campus in the case of a fire. This would in turn pose an extended interruption of service to our students, who are working hard to better their lives by obtaining a degree to qualify them for better jobs, as well as loss of employment for our many faculty and staff members. This would have an overall negative impact on our local economy in southern Oregon.

- Connection to the City water system would provide the benefit of a limitless amount of water at higher pressures with which to fight fires, and local hydrants would supply tanker trucks with a ready source for refills. This service would benefit not only RCC but increase firefighting resources for protection of surrounding forests and neighborhoods. The status quo is potentially disastrous, especially in light of the increase in frequency and size of wildfires in our region in recent years.

- Connection to the Grants Pass City water system may also result in additional city services including city police services /coverage being made available to the RCC Redwood campus. This would be a huge safety benefit for staff, students, and the immediate areas surrounding

the Redwood campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Gomez
Maintenance Custodian
RCC Facilities Department
Table Rock Campus

From: Hurst, James
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:20:42 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of grant approval for Rogue Community College grant request for the Canal Avenue Water Project. RCC has always operated on its own water system, which is provided by private wells and water holding tanks. The system is limited to 100,000 gallons of water and doesn't meet fire codes for any new construction. Due to the urban growth boundary change, RCC has been mandated to connect to the city's water system or bring their private system up to meet current fire code before it can expand with any new construction, especially the new science building.

However, RCC is unable to meet the fire code's water requirements with its private system and doesn't have the funding for the connection to the City's system, which includes the addition of a pumping station as well as the piping to bring the water to the RCC campus. Therefore, RCC is applying for a grant from the Oregon Water Resources Department to help pay for the connection. Nearly all of the structures on the Redwood campus are wooden, posing the risk of total destruction of the campus in the case of a fire. This would in turn pose an extended interruption of service to our students, who are working hard to better their lives by obtaining a degree to qualify them for better jobs, as well as loss of employment for our many faculty and staff members. This would have an overall negative impact on our local economy.

Connection to the City water system would provide the benefit of a limitless amount of water at higher pressures with which to fight fires, and local hydrants would supply tanker trucks with a ready source for refills. This service would benefit not only RCC but increase firefighting resources for protection of surrounding forests and neighborhoods. The status quo is potentially disastrous, especially in light of the increase in frequency and size of wildfires in our region in recent years.

I urge you to support RCC's request in light of the amazing work in transforming our community and the reasons stated above.

Thank You,

James Hurst
Facilities Maintenance
Rogue Community College
Table Rock Campus
(541)245-7919
7800 Pacfic Ave.
White City, Or 97503-1060

From: Lee, Jeanne
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Cc: Lagorio, Grant
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:11:15 PM

Greetings,

I am writing in support of Rogue Community College's request for a grant to assist us in connecting to the Grants Pass City water supply. We are planning to use bond funds to construct a new science building within the next few years to provide updated and expanded educational opportunities for our students, and we are being required to connect to city water in order to meet fire codes for new construction.

Not only would this connection enable us to meet the needs of our students, we face a more immediate potential need for the additional water resources. Our current water sources would likely not be sufficient to protect our campus in case of wildfire, and since most of our buildings are wooden, an uncontrolled fire would be devastating. The loss of this resource would cause an extended interruption of service to thousands of students pursuing educations to improve their futures, as well as causing loss of employment for several hundred faculty and staff members. This in turn would negatively impact our area's already struggling economy.

Additionally, access to the city water supply for local fire hydrants would help protect not only Redwood Campus in case of fire, but surrounding forested lands and neighborhoods as well.

Obtaining adequate funding for basic operations is always a challenge for community colleges, and despite the value the water connection will ultimately provide, this additional financial burden is beyond our reach. Please consider helping us to fund this vital project.

Thank you,

Jeanne Lee
Facilities Office Coordinator
Rogue Community College
3345 Redwood Hwy
Grants Pass, OR 97527
541-956-7333
jlee@roguecc.edu

Hello,

As an employee of Rogue Community College and an Oregonian, the RCC water project would greatly help expand students access to higher education. With the new Science building being planned which is part of a bond project approved by voters in 2016 came a need for additional water service to the Redwood campus.

Being in Southern Oregon we know that fires can happen in an instant and RCC currently stores two towers of well water for fire suppression. However, with the new science building coming in the close future that additional water services are necessary.

To promote the economic growth of the Rogue Valley through RCC programs, to protecting the forest area that surrounds the Rogue Community College Redwood campus the additional water service is crucial for future growth.

Thank you,

Nicole Longoria
RCC Admission Coach
541-245-7722
RCC
Rogue Community College

From: Lagorio, Grant
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Rogue Community College
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 10:51:55 AM

Please help us pay for the water project on the Redwood Campus. Our water infrastructure is not capable of meeting current code needs for expansion or fighting fires.
Thank you for considering,
Grant Lagorio

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Murphy, Cat
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Support for RCC Redwood Campus water project
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 12:26:03 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support Rogue Community College's request for grant funding for the Redwood Campus hook up to the Grants Pass city water supply. RCC has its own water system through private wells and water holding tanks but it doesn't meet current fire codes for any new construction so the College needs help funding to connect to the city which includes adding a pumping station and water pipes. There are huge benefits of RCC having connection to the City water system such:

- providing a limitless amount of high pressure water to help fight fires and protect surrounding forests and neighborhoods
- capability to protect RCC property which makes up for nearly all wooden buildings, so RCC may continue to serve the community
- protect the safety and well-being of students working hard to better their lives through the pursuit of getting a degree & skills for better jobs, and the community at large who often the campus as a place to exercise
- safe-guarding against the loss of faculty and staff employment should a fire break out on campus

Thank you for taking the time to read this email letter and for your consideration of RCC's grant request.

Cat Murphy
Facilities Office Coordinator | Rogue Community College
541-956-7333

RCC is closed all Fridays from July 5 – September 6, 2019.

From: Daniel Rodriguez
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Canal Avenue Water Project
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:19:28 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request your consideration for funding the grant to the "Canal Avenue Water Project".
The funding will help to increase water supply which will be necessary in case of a fire. We have seen an increase in fire activity in the past few years.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and the safety of students and employees at RCC.

Daniel Rodriguez
Local resident
541-450-3435

July 16, 2019

Oregon Water Resources Department

725 Summer St. NE Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

Subject: CANAL AVENUE WATER PROJECT

Dear Grant Program Coordinator:

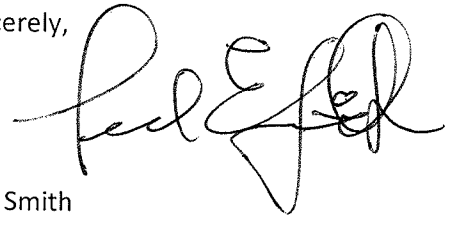
Rogue Community College (R.C.C.), where I work, is trying to get a grant to be able to hook up to the City of Grants Pass water system. This will require the addition of a pumping station and the necessary pipe to connect into the existing system at R.C.C. The chief reason for this is to be able to add additional buildings to the campus as needed. Because R.C.C. does not meet the required regulations for fire protection, as required by Grants Pass city regulations, the college will need the city's water. This has to do with the capacity of our two water tanks at 190,000 gallons with only half being reserved for our fire suppression systems— the sprinklers in our Gym or the fire hydrants peppered throughout our campus.

I have the unique position at R.C.C., along with my duties as being the lead for our Grounds/Landscape Department, of having the job of monitoring our water system daily. We use chlorine for our disinfectant and so I'm checking those levels, along with the amount of water pumped out of our three wells. Keeping up with our use of water, both for potable water and irrigation uses is very important. During our dry, hot summers I have to balance our irrigation use to keep the available water for potable use and the half tank for possible fire suppression. It can take very little to draw the tanks down, such as stuck toilets, water line leaks, faulty irrigation valves that won't close, or emergency fire fighters drawing water from our fire hydrant system.

In closing, I believe that Rogue Community College and the surrounding community will greatly profit from the tie-in to the city water supply for the college. R.C.C. lies between the suburb-to-forest-interface in Josephine County and would be the perfect spot for trucks to resupply their water tanks in case of fires, or for fire suppression in our surrounding woods, in case of wildfires nearby. The college is made up of wooden buildings and would have a higher risk of catching on fire from errant embers. Hooking into the city water supply would greatly increase our chances, in case of fires, to save our school's buildings, as well as our neighbor's houses.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Ted Smith

Ladera Piping Project

Public Comments

RESOURCE SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

office 102 state street . hood river . oregon . 97031 *telephone* 541.716.6085 *website* www.fcasolutions.org

July 16, 2019

Oregon Water Resources Department
Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Comment on the Water Project Grants and Loans, Ladera Piping Project

Becky Williams,

This letter expresses Farmers Conservation Alliance's (FCA's) support for Arnold Irrigation District's Ladera Piping Project.

FCA has been actively working with Arnold Irrigation District to help the district modernize its infrastructure in a manner that benefits both agriculture and the environment. The Ladera Piping Project will help the district to meet both of these goals.

The Ladera Piping Project will eliminate 1.12 cfs of water loss and permanently protect 1.0 cfs in the Deschutes River through Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The project aligns with the community's long-term goals to restore streamflow to the Deschutes River and the goals expected to be included in forthcoming Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, the project would reduce energy use by reducing on-farm pumping, reduce Arnold Irrigation District's operations and maintenance costs, and improve public safety by eliminating a section of open lateral.

Arnold Irrigation District is currently working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and FCA to develop a Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment that assesses opportunities to modernize a larger portion of the District. The Ladera Piping Project will complement the infrastructure improvements under consideration through this large-scale effort.

This project aligns with long-term community goals and, when complete, will yield agricultural and environmental benefits. Investments by OWRD in the Ladera Piping Project would accelerate the implementation of the project and the realization of these benefits, and FCA fully supports these investments.

Sincerely,

Julie Davies O'Shea
Executive Director

Sent: 5/2/2019
Subject: Preliminary Investigative Report for the
Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project

I oppose the plans to pipe the Arnold Irrigation main canal for the following reasons:

- Local ecology is insufficiently considered.
- The plan does not address aquifer recharge.
- The plan does not address impacts on the wider community.
- The plan does not adequately consider alternatives.

Local ecology is insufficiently considered

The goal of returning water to the Deschutes River during winter low flow is worthwhile. However the spotted frog is not the only animal that lives here, it's an indicator species. The Arnold canal is a life stream for uncounted deer, ducks, geese, birds, squirrels, mice, even cougars and insects. They all live in and on the plants that thrive along the canal. The plan says affected wildlife are "habitat generalists or edge species with the ability to adapt" which means Arnold Irrigation expects them go somewhere else. They should be able to travel through and/or live here as they have for over 100 years.

Aquifer recharge

Water lost from the canal due to leakage goes into the ground where it is available for return to the Deschutes River via springs and seepage, withdrawal from wells or as groundwater. The effects of aquifer recharge are required to be addressed and piping as proposed by the plan does not do this.

Wider Community Benefits

The plan narrowly considers benefits to patrons of Arnold Irrigation while ignoring local residents and property owners who live along the canal. The plan expects ranchers to save 1 Million kwh/yr for pumping, at $0.11/kwh this amounts to $111,000 per year. The plan lists total piping costs at over $92 million, Group 3 at over $25 million. There are 352 properties along the Group 3 canal valued at over $91million (Deschutes County market value appraisal) which will lose cultural and scenic value, property values will reflect that. Spending large amounts of taxpayer money for limited benefit while depriving residents of something of greater value is wrong.

Consideration of Alternatives

The plan needs to consider lining. Regulatory bodies (NCRS and OWRD) recognize lining as a viable alternative to piping but the plan does not, citing economic and safety concerns. There is no support for these concerns.

In recent central Oregon history (20+ years) there have been 3 documented deaths in canals (2 in the North Unit and 1 in COID) and 1 injury (rollover car near Prineville). There have been none in Arnold Canals.

The plan concludes that lining has increased maintenance costs and does not last as long as piping without presenting any evidence. Studies show that test sections require little maintenance and have long life (R-02-03 CANAL-LINING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT YEAR 10 FINAL REPORT). The plan offers no cost/benefit analysis for lining.

Conclusion

I recognize that piping may be an allowed use of the easements/ROW for Arnold Irrigation and that helping to fix the mess irrigation diversions have made of the Deschutes River is worthwhile. However the 6.8cfs, 3.4% of Deschutes winter flow volume, returned to the river by piping Group 3 through the Deschutes River Woods community does not justify the impacts mentioned above.

However, if the canal is lined, ranchers will get more water, the Deschutes River will get more water, local plants and wildlife will have their habitat preserved and residents will be able to enjoy the quiet peace of their property as they have known it.

Geoff Reynolds
19078 Choctaw Rd.,
Bend OR 97702

Cc: Natural Resources Conservation Service; Oregon Water Resources Department; Deschutes County Commissioners; Farmers Conservation Alliance; Oregon Senator Knopp; Oregon Representative Zika; US Senator Wyden; US Representative Walden

Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 Project

Public Comments

OGREN Kim L * WRD

From: Margaret Albright <smorder@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2019 6:12 PM
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Support for Mosier deep water well grant

Hello Oregon Water Resources Department, I am writing to you to support the grant for Mosier to have a second deep water well. My husband and I love our house in Mosier. I grew up in Tigard and my husband grew up in Madras, Oregon. Mosier is the perfect balance of the lush, green of my youth and the dry, arid climate of my husband's. We are so happy to see local businesses opening in Mosier and the small town community supporting them, along with those coming to town to enjoy the gorgeous Columbia River Gorge.

The water supply is very important for our daily lives and to the community. The second deep water well is much needed. Thank you for having a grant program to help such projects as Mosier's move forward.

Regards,
Margaret Albright
1100 Asher Street, PO Box 132
Mosier, Oregon 97040

June 13, 2019

Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am writing in support of the funding for the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 grant application. I live in the City of Mosier and I want to continue living here during my retirement years. Availability of home drinking water is a big concern for this community. This project will take one of the largest irrigation water users out of the same water aquifer as the City well. Thus, it would help ensure my continued drinking water supply. I don't want to move any time soon, and I don't want to have increased water bills. An improved supply of water for Mosier would help those two things remain a reality.

Thank you. Again, I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Regards,

Mary Lou Perry

Mary Lou Perry
Mosier City resident

om@mowinet.com

OGREN Kim L * WRD

From: Megan Pingree <meganpingree@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:33 AM
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

Three years ago, I bought a beautiful 15 acre piece of land at 1200' elevation, about 5 miles SE of Mosier, off the Seven Mile Hill Rd (aka State Rd) with the intention to steward the property with the help of my children and grandchildren. Although any "irrigating" that gets done takes the form of stand-there-with-a-hose-in-hand, it quickly became apparent that my 500'+ deep well is not up to even that minimal task. I have since buried a 1700 gal cistern underground so that there's a reserve of water for routine bathing, occasional selective plant watering, and (most importantly) some fire suppression.

My hope is that your funding of the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 will eventually allow my well to re-charge more quickly, providing more robust water security. And even if it does nothing for my own personal supply, anything that can help out my farming and residential neighbors, including the city of Mosier, would significantly improve the community's experience of sustainability and well-being (pun intended).

Sincerely,
Megan Pingree
1860 Paradise Ridge Rd
Mosier, OR

OGREN Kim L * WRD

From: Heide Smith <heide.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 10:16 AM
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2

Root Rd, Mosier

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

We are 20 year Mosier valley residents and property owners with a residential well, surrounded by orchards that are using lots of water leading to water shortages and dry wells for several of our neighbors.

Mosier has experienced serious well level declines. This problem is very important to us and to our community. We need to ensure a sustainable water supply in the Mosier Valley. Key to this project is balancing the water needs of irrigators of our surrounding orchards with those of us residential users.

We urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Regards,

Heide and Kurt Smith

July 10, 2019

Becky Williams
Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Becky:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) application to drill the second of two deep irrigation wells in the Mosier Creek Basin that will remove the two largest users of groundwater in the Mosier Creek watershed, as part of the overall strategy to arrest groundwater level declines. The content of this letter also is intended to supplement the SWCD's application with additional information regarding the environmental benefit of the project. During our review of the recent application, we noted that applicants (SWCD and Wade Root) are not aware of some recent developments in understanding the connection between Mosier Creek and the uppermost aquifers of the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG) that host the existing Root well that the project proposes to replace; this letter provides information that helps quantify the benefit to streamflow in Mosier Creek that could be achieved by increasing baseflow with the requested grant funding to move the pumping to a deeper, unconnected aquifer.

Concept of Baseflow

Baseflow is a hydrologic term for the flow in a stream that is typically contributed by groundwater discharge, in absence of precipitation runoff and releases from reservoirs or other surface water bodies. Groundwater discharge to streams is controlled by the elevation difference (gradient) between the groundwater level elevation in the aquifer and the elevation of the aquifer exposed in the streambed. Groundwater discharge is the primary (and often the only) source of flow in most undammed streams in the Pacific Northwest during the late summer months, and therefore plays a critical role in the health of the stream ecosystem by providing a constant input of cool water for fish and other aquatic organisms.

Groundwater/Surface Water Connection in Mosier Creek

Groundwater / surface water connection in the Mosier Creek basin has been known for decades. As Groundwater levels have declined in the Mosier basin (Fig. 1), baseflow to Mosier Creek has also declined as evidenced by multiple studies.

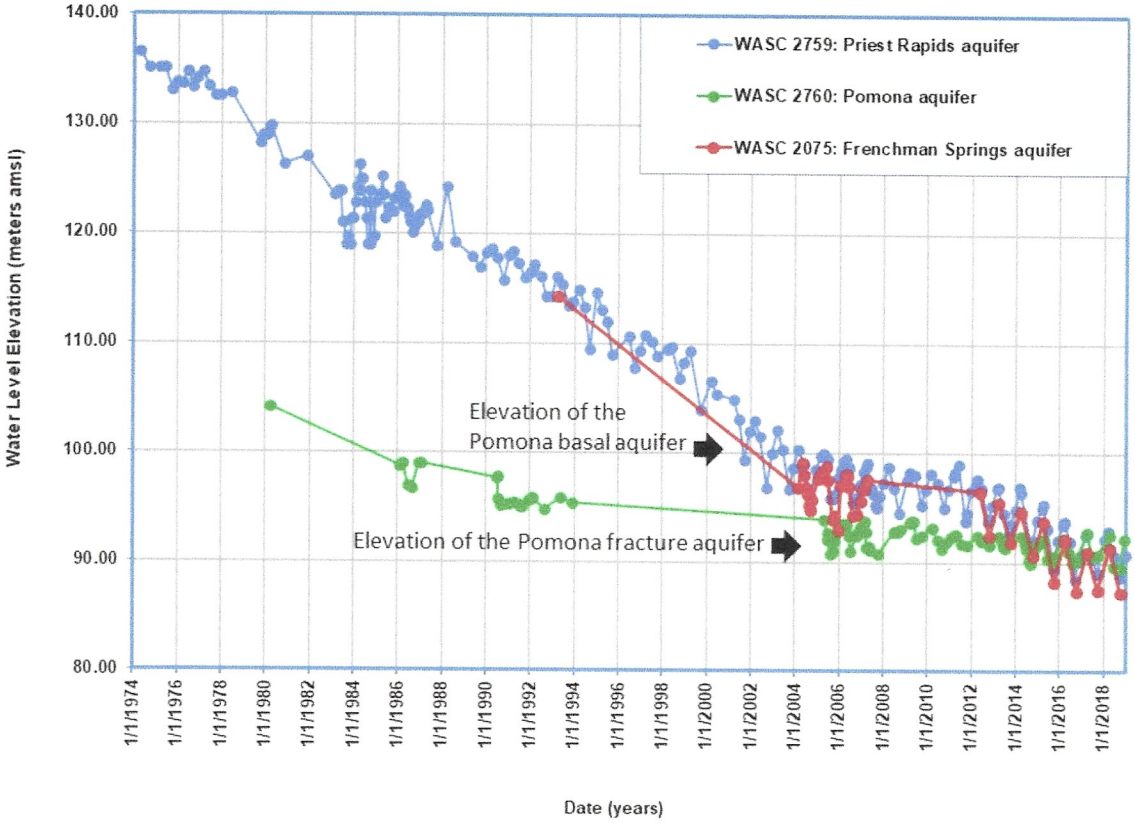


Figure 1. Hydrographs for select wells in the Pomona, Priest Rapids, and Frenchman Springs aquifers showing total decline, changes of decline rates, and common equilibrium elevations. Data for these wells are available online at the Oregon Water Resources Department website. The descriptor WASC is county abbreviation attached to each well number.

The interaction between Mosier Creek and the CRBG aquifers was first observed by Newcomb (1969). Stream measurements at that time indicated that Mosier Creek was gaining flow from the CRBG aquifers below the confluence with West Fork Mosier Creek. However, the Newcomb data (two measuring points below the West Fork) spanned an area where the Pomona and Priest Rapids aquifers of the CRBG and younger units are incised by Mosier Creek as diagrammatically illustrated in figure 2.

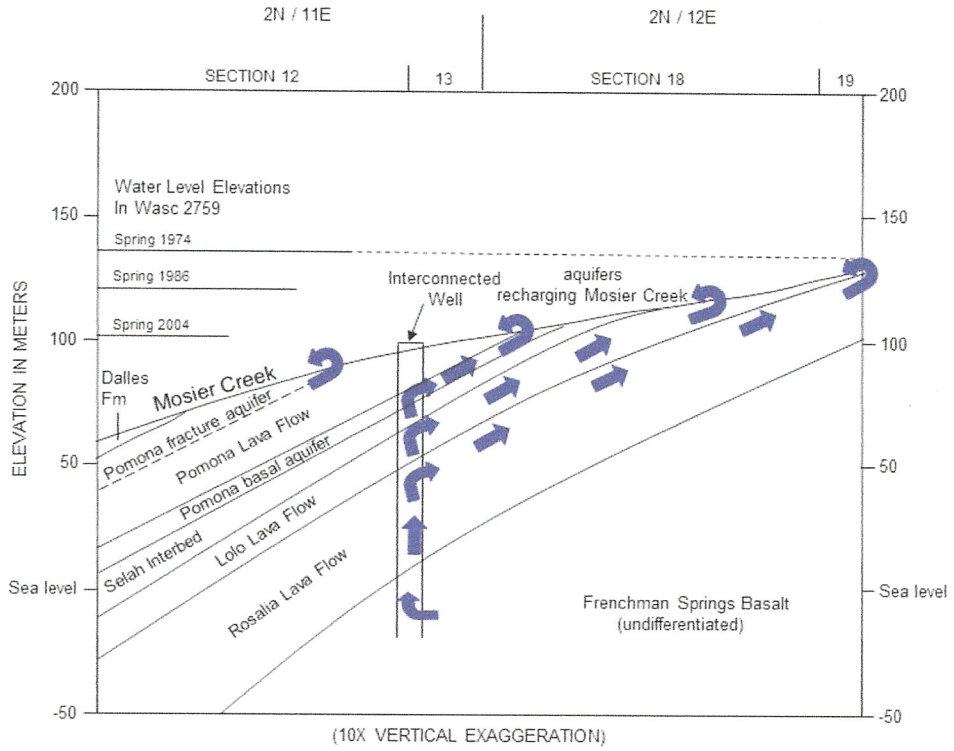


Figure 2. Profile along Mosier Creek showing the hydraulic head elevation in WASC 2759 and resulting interactions through an idealized well and between aquifer units and Mosier Creek in 1974. Figure also shows changes to hydraulic head elevations in WASC 2759 between 1974, 1986, and 2004. Profile trends north-northwest for 4.0 km (modified from Lite, 2013).

Subsequent stream measurements made in August 1986 (Lite and Grondin, 1988) found the same reach to be losing or gaining water depending on location across various boundaries between CRBG lava flows (Fig. 3). Specifically, stream flow gains in a reach that is now known to encompass the boundary between the Lolo unit (upper Priest Rapids Member) and the Pomona Member in Mosier Creek. A gain of 0.51 CFS (0.014 m^3/s) in Mosier Creek in sec 18, T 2 N., R 12 E., seen in that same data, was due to discharge from the Pomona basal aquifer (Lite and Grondin, 1988).

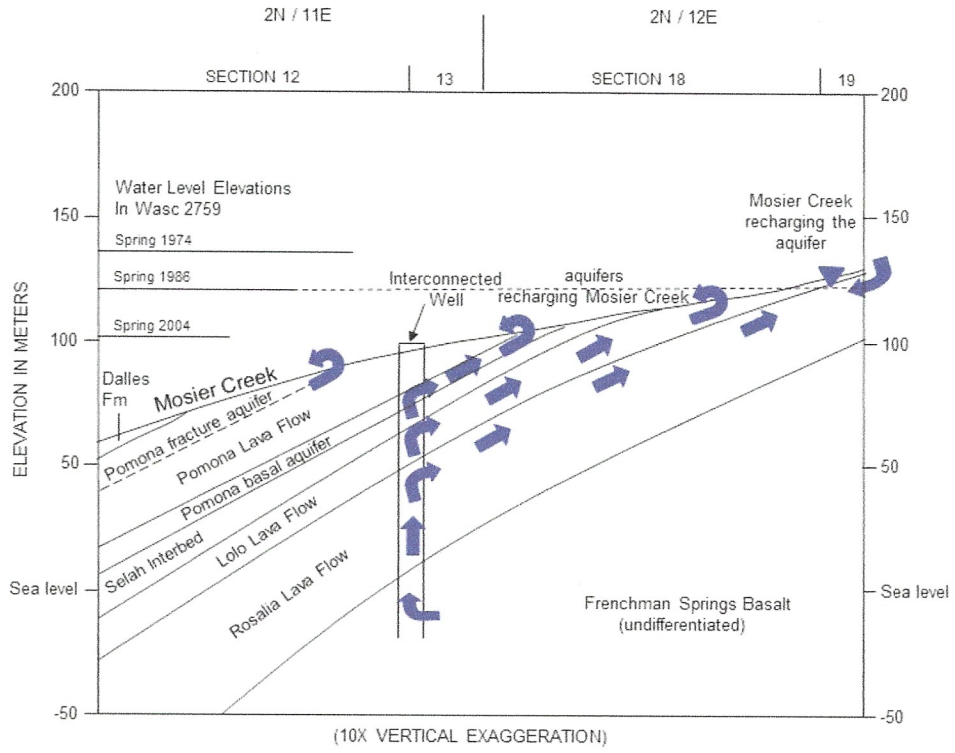


Figure 3. Profile along Mosier Creek showing the hydraulic head elevation in WASC 2759 and resulting interactions through an idealized well and between aquifer units and Mosier Creek in 1986. Figure also shows changes to hydraulic head elevations in WASC 2759 between 1974, 1986, and 2004. Profile trends north-northwest for 4.0 km (modified from Lite, 2013).

The USGS measured stream flow across the same reach in Mosier Creek three times during summer and fall in 2005–06 (Burns et al., 2012). Two measurements showed a gain of 0.06 CFS and 0.19 CFS in July 2005 and August 2006, respectively, and a loss of 0.05 CFS in September 2006. The slight gains and losses measured by the USGS are near or within the range of measurement error (Fig. 4). Taken at face value, however, the measurements may be showing an influence from local groundwater pumping.

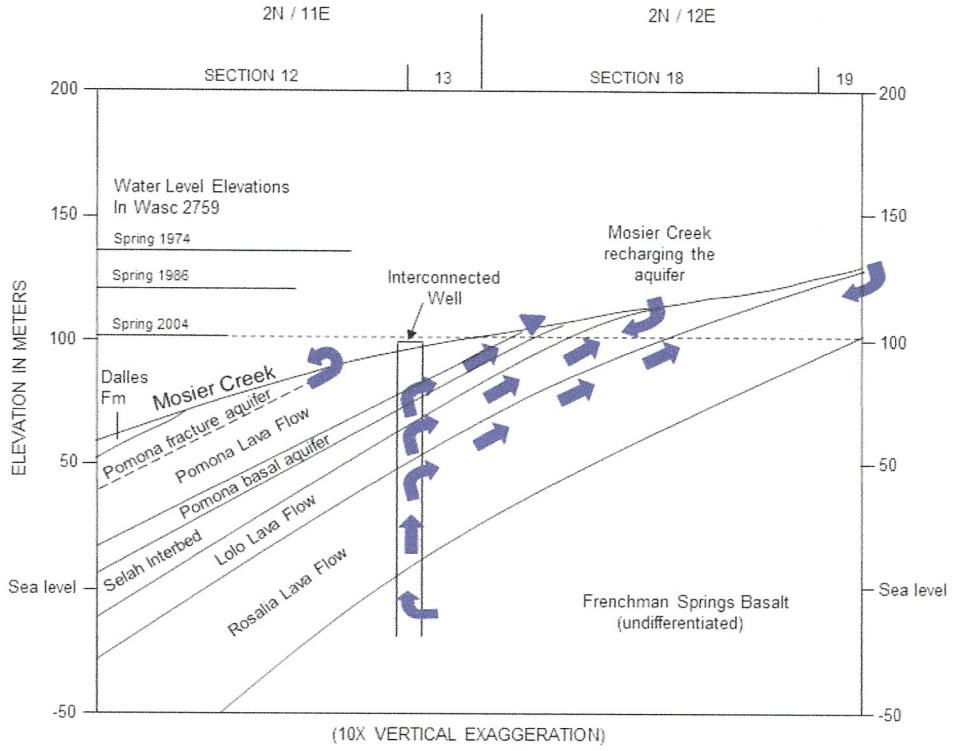


Figure 4. Profile along Mosier Creek showing the hydraulic head elevation in WASC 2759 and resulting interactions through an idealized well and between aquifer units and Mosier Creek in 2004. Figure also shows changes to hydraulic head elevations in WASC 2759 between 1974, 1986, and 2004. Profile trends north-northwest for 4.0 km (modified from Lite, 2013).

More recently, research has shown that the groundwater / surface water interaction in Mosier Creek and groundwater-level declines in the area are incontrovertibly connected. Lite (2013) observed that the decline trend on hydrographs for wells in the lower part of the watershed showed the hydraulic head in the Priest Rapids and upper Frenchman Springs aquifers had a change in slope (see Fig 1) at the same approximate elevation (100 meters amsl) of where the Pomona and Lolo aquifers are exposed in Mosier Creek, and were converging towards the hydraulic head elevation of the Pomona aquifer. He concluded that the elevation of where the Pomona and Lolo aquifers are in contact with Mosier Creek also acts as the base level for hydraulic heads in deeper aquifers because the deep aquifers are interconnected to the shallower Pomona and Priest Rapids aquifers in some commingled wells. Thesis work by Cullen Jones at Portland State University later substantiated Lite's conclusions about groundwater / surface water interaction in Mosier Creek (Jones, 2016).

Baseflow Losses from Groundwater Pumping

To test the potential acute influence of groundwater pumping and groundwater discharge on stream flow in Mosier Creek, in 2012 a stream gage was installed downstream of the Pomona – Priest Rapids boundary to augment an existing (USGS) gage located just upstream of the boundary. Together, the two gages are used to estimate the exchange of water between the stream and the Pomona and Priest Rapids aquifers across the contact. Two observation wells were subsequently constructed near the lower gage site in 2015 to monitor changes in hydraulic head in the Pomona and Lolo (Priest Rapids) aquifers at the lower gage location. Preliminary results (Lite and LaMarche, 2014) indicate the changes in water exchanged between the stream and the aquifers parallel variations in groundwater-level elevations (drawdown and recovery) from seasonal pumping of local irrigation wells (Fig. 5). Specifically, the stream switches from gaining to losing (or vice versa) across the contact at about the time the groundwater elevation drops below (or rises above) the basalt flow contact elevation. Additionally, the maximum loss of baseflow across the reach in connection with the basalt aquifers occurs at a similar time as the maximum drawdown from pumping in the aquifers. Groundwater level drawdowns in the Pomona and Priest Rapids aquifers caused approximately 40 percent loss of the base flow in this reach (<1 cfs) of Mosier Creek during 2012 and 2013. Some temporal differences between the stream/aquifer exchange and groundwater levels occur at a subweekly time scale, but those may be attributed to differences in well proximities and individual well pumping schedules.

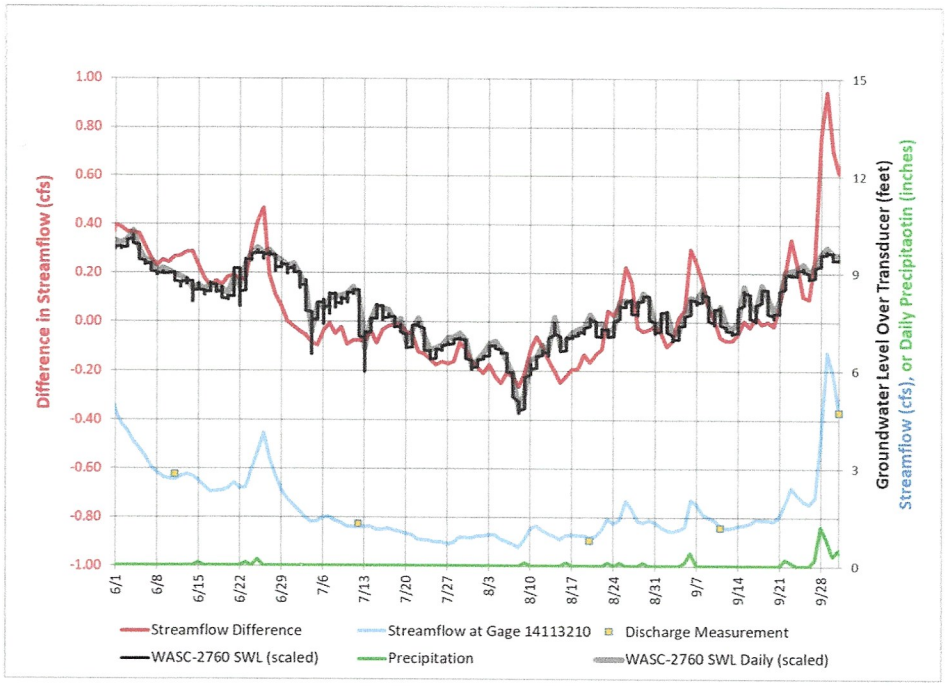


Figure 5. Graph showing comparison of trends between water-level change in the Pomona aquifer (WASC 2760), stream flow difference between stream gages (negative values represent losses), stream flow at the lower gage, and daily precipitation in 2013.

Conclusions

Recent investigations of groundwater/surface water interactions between the shallowest basalt aquifers and Mosier Creek demonstrate that seasonal pumping causes the loss of as much as 40% of the baseflow (approximately ½ cfs) in Mosier Creek during seasonal low flow periods. The requested grant funds will be used (with required match from Wade Root) to drill an irrigation well into a recently identified deeper aquifer to replace an existing shallow irrigation well that currently seasonally pumps the largest volume of groundwater from the Pomona aquifer, one of the two shallow basalt aquifers into which Mosier Creek loses water during the summer pumping season.

Replacement of the Root well, in conjunction with the recent replacement of the Molesworth Priest Rapids irrigation well, is anticipated to provide measurable benefit to baseflow to Mosier Creek during summer low flow periods. Improved baseflow conditions and higher related stage levels will provide the following environmental benefits:

- Support the natural hydrograph of Mosier Creek by reducing losses to the aquifers and restoring flows during seasonal low flow periods.
- Sustain floodplain storage for longer periods through the summer baseflow period. Higher flows and related higher stage levels will maintain floodplain storage where alluvial sediments within the Mosier Creek drainage are present
- Sustain riparian habitat and reduce stream temperatures. Higher stage levels and sustained floodplain storage will help sustain riparian habitat and, reduce stream temperatures by increasing return of cool groundwater and maintaining shade trees along the stream.

These environmental benefits are advantageous to cold water aquatic life such as native cutthroat trout above Mosier Creek falls, and listed steelhead and coho salmon that spawn between the falls and the Columbia River (Clark and Loop, 2002).

Thank you for your consideration of our comments

Sincerely,

Walter Burt, RG
Hydrogeologist

Kenneth E. Lite, Jr., RG
Hydrogeologist

References

Burns, E.R., Morgan, D.S., Lee, K.K., Haynes, J.V., and Conlon, T.D., 2012, Evaluation of Long-Term Water-Level Declines in Basalt Aquifers near Mosier, Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5002, 134 p.

Clark, J.S. and Loop, S., 2002, Mosier Watershed Assessment, Prepared for Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District for Mosier Watershed Council, 48p.

Jones, C.B., 2016, Groundwater – Surface Water Interactions near Mosier, Oregon [M.S. thesis]: Portland, Oregon, Portland State University, 170 p.

Lite, K.E., and Grondin, G.H., 1988, Hydrogeology of the basalt aquifers near Mosier, Oregon: A groundwater resource assessment: Oregon Water Resources Department Groundwater Report no.33, 119 p.

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Lite, K.E., and LaMarche, J. L., 2014, Investigating groundwater / surface water interaction in Columbia River Basalt near Mosier, Oregon [abs.]: Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 46, no. 6, p. 482.

Newcomb, R.C., 1969, Effect of tectonic structure on the occurrence of ground water in the Basalt of the Columbia River Group of The Dalles area, Oregon and Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 383-C, 33 p.

From: Kristen McNall
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Support funding Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 6:22:23 PM

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

The Mosier community has experienced serious water level declines in our aquifers over the past decades. In order to sustain our economy and our community we require reliable water sources. Fortunately we have shown that it is possible to develop a new deeper aquifer in our region. By moving large irrigators to this deeper aquifer, we are able to maintain a sustainable supply for other users of the upper aquifers including the City of Mosier, rural landowners, and smaller irrigators. However, drilling these deep wells is extremely technically challenging and expensive. Fortunately our local Soil and Water Conservation District, along with Oregon Water Resources Department staff, has acquired the knowledge necessary to successfully drill into this new deeper aquifer.

Mosier is extraordinarily fortunate to have two large irrigators, both of whom hold senior water rights in upper aquifers, who are willing to spend significant money to partner in developing new deeper wells. The fact is, these landowners could rely on their senior water rights but our community would suffer the consequences. Thus, we are applying for funding to construct the second deep well.

I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Regards,

Kristen McNall

Mosier Watershed Council Co-Chair

From: TIFFANY CLARKIN
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: RCC Water Project
Date: Friday, July 12, 2019 12:50:52 PM

I'm writing to say that I feel the water annexation project for Rogue Community College would be a great thing for the community and the college as a whole. The valley is growing and fire suppression as well as clean water is needed for the college which serves many training to join the workforce in the community. Please support the grant to fund this project.

Tiffany Clarkin

From: Bryce Molesworth
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Support for Mosier Deep Well #2
Date: Saturday, July 13, 2019 10:49:59 AM

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am writing to support funding the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

I partnered with OWRD and Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to drill the first Deep Water Supply Well. Unfortunately, that project was extremely technically challenging and thus significantly more expensive than anyone had predicted. Thus, the SWCD and Wade Root are applying for funds to construct the second Deep Water Supply Well.

Without water, Mosier would dry up and blow away. By participating in drilling the first Deep Water Supply Well, I have helped to ensure the sustainability and reliability of the water supply to the entire valley. By moving my irrigation supply needs to this new deeper aquifer, I have relieved pressure on the upper aquifers for both the City of Mosier as well as other rural landowners and smaller irrigators. Our family spent almost a quarter of a million dollars on this project. We would hate to have this investment in our community be insufficient to sustain Mosier's water supply and way of life. Completing the project requires a second deep well for Wade's orchard.

Like me, Wade has a senior water right with a good well. However, like me he is committed sustaining the water supply in our community. As orchardists, we have worked hard to conserve water by using modern irrigation technology. We have each been active in the Mosier Watershed Council for many years, working to put in place a special well construction standard and fix existing commingling wells.

The Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 is a crucial part of the puzzle to ensuring the sustainability of Mosier's water supply. I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Regards,

Bryce Molesworth
Mosier Watershed Council Co-Chair

From: Misty Walker
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Mosier
Date: Thursday, June 06, 2019 3:23:31 PM

Dear Oregon Water resources department,

I am writing because Mosier has experienced serious well level declines. This problem is very important to me and my community. I hope to live here and contribute to our small town's growth for the foreseeable future. It's a very special place for so many...

I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Depp Water supply Well #2. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Misty Stern
Mosier Resident

From: Ronalie Milne
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Grant Program Coordinator
Date: Friday, June 07, 2019 3:02:13 PM

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am writing because Mosier, Oregon has experienced serious well level declines. This problem is very important to me and to our community. All residents in Mosier, and for miles around Mosier depend on the watersheds and our individual wells remaining viable. I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Regards,
Ronalie Milne

Mosier Valley resident

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

515 E 2nd St • The Dalles, OR 97058
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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

June 5, 2019

Oregon Water Resources Department
ATTN: Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Mosier Deep Water Supply Wells Project

To Whom it May Concern,

Wasco County Economic Development Commission strongly supports the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District in their application to OWRD for support addressing commingling wells in the Mosier area.

This project is essential to securing the economic future of the Mosier area. Groundwater levels have declined over 200 feet in the last 40 years. Studies by the USGS and OWRD show that commingling aquifers account for 80-90% of the decline in groundwater. The Mosier community has been working on a three-part plan that includes conservation, repair of commingling wells, and development of new sources of water to alleviate draw down of the main aquifers used in the valley.

Completion of the Mosier Deep Water Supply Wells project is the next step that needs to be taken on this effort. Aquifer declines have depressed real estate transactions, directly threatened irrigated agriculture, and negatively impacted the City of Mosier's water source. Addressing these issues is critical to support a strong local economy, successful agricultural producers, and a healthy watershed. This project will have a significant impact on both productive farm land and the City's resiliency.

The Wasco County EDC is a body made up of representatives throughout Wasco County and is focused on supporting community capacity and job creation. During its 2018 Community Enhancement Projects process, the EDC ranked the Mosier Deep Water Supply Wells project as the #2 priority project out of 31 submitted from throughout Wasco County. The project continues to be a high priority for our County.

The Wasco County Economic Development Commission highly recommends funding this grant proposal for completion of the Mosier Deep Water Supply Wells and thanks the Review Committee for their consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ursprung
Chair
Wasco County Economic Development Commission

Excerpt from Division 93 Rules on Scoring
Water Project Grants and Loans

OAR 690-093-0090

Scoring and Ranking; funding decisions

(1) The primary elements in the process of scoring and ranking of applications include the following:
- (a) Initial review for completeness by the Department;
- (b) Public comment;
- (c) The Technical Review Team conducts the initial scoring and ranking for the projects, considers comments from applicants and the public and makes loan and grant funding recommendations to the Commission; and
- (d) The Commission determines the final scoring and ranking of projects, provides for additional public comment, and makes the final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account.

(2) The Technical Review Team scoring methodology shall rank applications based upon the public benefits of the project and additional considerations set forth in ORS 541.677 subsection (1)(b), (1)(d) and (1)(e). The Technical Review Team shall use a score sheet provided by the Department. Each of the three public benefit categories shall be given equal importance in the evaluation and will have scoring sublevels including but not limited to the following:
- (a) The evaluation of economic benefits for a project based on the changes in economic conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) Job creation or retention;
  - (B) Increases in economic activity;
  - (C) Increases in efficiency or innovation;
  - (D) Enhancement of infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses;
  - (E) Enhanced economic value associated with tourism or recreational or commercial fishing, with fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes or with other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water in-stream; and
  - (F) Increases in irrigated land for agriculture.
- (b) The evaluation of environmental benefits for a project based on the changes in environmental conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) A measurable improvement in protected streamflows that:
    - (i) Supports the natural hydrograph;
    - (ii) Improves floodplain function;
    - (iii) Supports state or federally listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
    - (iv) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; or
    - (v) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife;
  - (B) A measurable improvement in groundwater levels that enhances environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas;
  - (C) A measurable improvement in the quality of surface water or groundwater;
  - (D) Water conservation;
  - (E) Increased ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts; and
  - (F) Improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed.
- (c) The evaluation of the social or cultural benefits for a project based on the changes in social or cultural conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) The promotion of public health and safety and of local food systems;
  - (B) A measurable improvement in conditions for members of minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes;
  - (C) The promotion of recreation and scenic values;

(D) Contribution to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state;
(E) The promotion of state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes; and
(F) The promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

(3) Scoring sublevels shall have a numeric point scale that accounts for positive and negative effects of the project. Sublevel scores shall be summed to a public benefit category level. The Department shall set a minimum score for the application to proceed.

(4) The Technical Review Team will use the total score from the score sheet provided by the Department to rank all applications and make loan and grant funding recommendations to the Commission.

(5) The Commission shall determine the final scoring and ranking of projects and make the final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account based on criteria in OAR 690-093-0100.

(6) The Department shall document the ranking of all applications and make the application ranking publicly available after the funding decisions by the Commission have been published.

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

WATER PROJECT GRANTS AND LOANS

GUIDANCE ON THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

January 2019

Attachment 4

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Water Project Grants and Loans
Guidance on the Evaluation of Public Benefits

Overview of Application Review Process

After receiving an application for a Water Project Grant or Loan, the Oregon Water Resources Department reviews the application to ensure it is complete. Complete applications are posted online for a 60-day public comment period. Next, an inter-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) reviews the public comments and evaluates the applications based on demonstration of economic, environmental and social/cultural public benefits. The TRT then develops a project ranking, which is posted for a 30-day public comment period. Finally, the Department presents the TRT ranking, public comments, and funding recommendations to the Water Resources Commission for a funding decision.

Overview of Application Scoring

When evaluating an application, the TRT examines public benefits in three categories: economic, environmental, and social/cultural. A project must provide some benefit in each of the three categories in order to be eligible for funding. Each category contains six specific public benefits for a total of 18 possible public benefits. A project is not required to score points in each of the 18 public benefits, but projects that provide the greatest public benefit have the best chance of receiving funding.

When applicants describe the project's public benefits in their application, they should include a description of the conditions prior to and following project implementation, and clearly demonstrate the extent to which the project will provide public benefits, and, if applicable, how it will improve conditions. When possible, applicants should quantify the project's public benefits. The TRT will only consider public benefits derived from the tasks and project scope contained within the application and the likelihood of achieving those benefit. Public benefits related to future phases of the project (beyond the scope of the project) or unrelated activities will not be considered in public benefit scores and should not be included in the application. Likewise public benefits related to past activities will not be considered.

When making a funding decision, the Water Resources Commission (Commission) considers: 1) the public benefits as evaluated by the TRT; 2) public comments received on the TRT ranking; and 3) funding projects of diverse sizes, types and geographic locations. As outlined in statute, the Commission also considers three preferences: 1) a preference for partnerships and collaborative projects; 2) a preference for projects that provide a measurable improvement in protected streamflow, if a project proposes to divert water; and 3) a preference for projects that provide a measurable increased efficiency of water use, if a project proposes to increase efficiency.

Document Purpose

This document provides an overview of each of the public benefits, describes how the TRT will score the benefits, and provides recommendations for what information an application should include when describing a project's public benefits.

Contact

If you have any questions about the evaluation of public benefits, please contact us by email at WRD_DL_waterprojects@oregon.gov or by phone at 503-986-0869.

Seven-Point Scale Used in Evaluation of Public Benefits

Each of the public benefits will be graded on a seven-point scale (see below).

Highest	Project is likely to yield exceptional benefits, of unusually high standard or quality; results supported with data, professional opinion, narrative of qualified person(s), or other acceptable documentation
	Project is likely to yield significant benefits; results supported with data, professional opinion, narrative of qualified person(s), or other acceptable documentation
	Project is likely to yield moderate benefits; results supported with data, professional opinion, narrative of qualified person(s), or other acceptable documentation
	Project is likely to yield minor benefits; results supported with data, professional opinion, narrative of qualified person(s), or other acceptable documentation
	Project is likely to yield trace benefits; or project claims of benefits are unsupported / unquantified.
	No benefits likely.
Lowest	Project is likely to have negative effects in this category.

Category 1. Economic benefits

The evaluation of economic benefits of a project is based on the change in economic conditions expected to result from the project and demonstrated in the application.

1a. Does the project create or retain jobs?

Job creation means the project would result in new jobs. Retention means the project would prevent the loss of jobs. Job creation and retention benefits may include direct effects within the organization that owns or operates the project, or it may include indirect effects on retail customers or consumers of the project. Temporary jobs resulting from project implementation will not receive as high of a score as permanent job creation or retention.

Application tip: Quantify the number and identify the type of jobs to be created or retained as a result of the project. Describe the value of the increase or retention of jobs to the local economy.

5	*Exceptional* increases in job creation or retention
4	*Significant* increases
3	*Moderate* increases
2	*Minor* or short-term increases
1	*Trace* increases *OR* benefit claims are unsupported or unquantified
0	Job creation or retention is *unlikely*
-1	*Losses or decreases* in jobs

1b. Does the project increase economic activity?

Economic activity is associated with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Such economic activity could occur within one or more entities/businesses and includes an increase in production, gross sales, or net revenue compared to the year preceding project completion. It also includes but is not limited to the arrival of new firms, renewed contracts, and increased orders.

Application tip: Include information citing economic development plans or other economic activity which would be made possible or supported by the proposed project. If the proposed project protects or maintains current economic activity, demonstrate the degree to which economic activity would decline if the proposed project were not completed and why.

5	*Exceptional (five or more years)* increase in economic activity
4	*Significant (three to four years)* increase
3	*Moderate* (*one to two years)* increase
2	*Minor, short-term (less than one year)* increase
1	*Trace* increase *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Increased economic activity *not likely* to occur
-1	*Losses or decreases* in economic activity

1c. Does the project increase efficiency or innovation?

Increase in efficiency means the project would make improvements in performance or functionality resulting in less effort or waste. Increase in innovation means that new, creative solutions and ideas would be implemented. Examples of increases in efficiency and innovation include water system efficiencies such as system redundancy (back-up, inter-ties), eliminating leakage, innovative production techniques, energy savings (e.g., the energy required to move, treat, or heat water), and time savings.

5	*Exceptional* increase in efficiency or innovation
4	*Significant* increases
3	*Moderate* increases
2	*Minor* increases
1	*Trace* increases *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Increased efficiency or innovation not likely
-1	*Decreases* in efficiency or innovation

1d. Does the project enhance infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses?

Enhancement of infrastructure, including municipal infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands and other lands means that the value, effectiveness, or reliability of such infrastructure or lands would increase as a result of project implementation. This includes an increase in the re-sale or rental value of the land or improvements, including: maintained, repaired, or upgraded infrastructure; maintained or buffered riparian areas; and maintained or improved soils.

5	*Exceptional* enhancements of infrastructure or land
4	*Significant* enhancements
3	*Moderate* enhancements
2	*Minor* enhancements
1	*Trace* enhancements *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Enhancements *not likely*
-1	Infrastructure or lands that are *degraded or removed from productive uses*

1e. Does the project enhance the economic value associated with: tourism, recreation, fishing (recreational or commercial), fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream?

Examples of enhancement of these economic values include increases in: daily park fees, tour guide revenues, boat or gear rentals, fishing licenses, or hospitality and lodging.

5	*Exceptional* increased value of tourism, recreation, fishing, fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream
4	*Significant* increased value
3	*Moderate* increased value
2	*Minor* increased value
1	*Trace* increased value *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Enhanced values *not likely*
-1	Decrease in the economic value of tourism, recreation, fishing, fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream

1f. Does the project result in increases in irrigated land for agriculture?

Increases in irrigated land for agriculture mean that the numbers of acres (acreage) to be irrigated after project completion would be greater than what could previously be irrigated or that the productivity of current irrigated land would increase. Acreage can include lands that were never historically in production or lands that were historically in production but were taken out of production as a result of insufficient water supply.

Application tip: Highlight the amount of land currently in production in the area, identify the quantity of additional acreage to be irrigated, and calculate the percentage increase in irrigated acreage that would result from the project. Cite scientific articles, reports, or studies and estimate the percentage increase in irrigated crop productivity.

5	*20 percent or more increase* in irrigated acreage or productivity
4	*15-19 percent* increase
3	*10-14 percent* increase
2	*5-9 percent* increase
1	1-4 percent increase *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Increased irrigated land *not likely*
-1	*Decreases* irrigated land for agriculture

Category 2. Environmental benefits

The evaluation of the environmental benefits of a project is based on the change in environmental conditions expected to result from the project and demonstrated in the application.

2a. Does the project result in measurable improvements in protected streamflows?

Protected streamflow means water that remains in or is released into the natural channel *and* is legally protected by the State in order to achieve one or more of the following:

(A) Supports the natural hydrograph;
(B) Improves floodplain function;
(C) Supports state- or federally-listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
(D) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; **or**
(E) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife.

*Application tip: To score in this category an application **must** describe the legal means by which water would be protected by the State, as well as the quality, timing, duration or other value this streamflow would contribute. The application must also describe how the legally protected water will achieve (A) through (E) listed above (e.g., how water transferred instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water program will support, enhance, or improve riparian habitat for wildlife and the extent to which that water will achieve that benefit).*

5	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *exceptional* achievement in each criteria (A) through (E)
4	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *significant* achievement in a combination of criteria (A) through (E)
3	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *moderate* achievement in a combination of (A) through (E)
2	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *minor* achievement in a combination of (A) through (E)
1	*Trace amounts* of streamflow are protected instream *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Improvements in protected streamflow *unlikely OR streamflow would not be legally protected by the State*
-1	*Decreases* protected streamflow (e.g., proposes to reverse an instream lease)

2b. Does the project result in measurable improvements in groundwater levels that enhance environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas?

Measurable improvements in groundwater levels mean that groundwater declines would be reduced or eliminated and/or groundwater levels would increase. Stabilization or improvements in groundwater levels could come from aquifer storage and recovery, artificial recharge projects, natural recharge, or discontinued / reduced groundwater use.

Application tip: Cite and use quantitative measurements to indicate current levels and method and frequency that improvements would be measured. If applicable, indicate if these improvements would occur in groundwater restricted area.

5	*Exceptional* improvements in groundwater levels
4	*Significant* improvements
3	*Moderate* improvements
2	*Minor* improvements
1	*Trace* improvements *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Improved groundwater levels *not likely*
-1	Groundwater declines

2c. Does the project result in measurable improvements in the quality of surface water or groundwater?

Water quality parameters include but are not limited to: temperature, dissolved oxygen, contaminated sediments, toxic substances, bacteria, or nutrients. Improvements could result from a higher quality of water discharged to surface water or injected into groundwater, or from increased flow, or from treatment or filtration of water already in the environment, or removal of a known contaminant.

Application tip: Any improvement must be measurable or quantifiable. One must be able to measure or determine the change in quality before and after project implementation. Cite and use currently available baseline water quality data. Include the water quality monitoring proposal for the post project completion period.

5	*Exceptional* improvements in water quality
4	*Significant* improvements
3	*Moderate* improvements
2	*Minor* improvements
1	*Trace* improvements *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Improved water quality *not likely*
-1	*Decreases* in water quality

2d. Does the project result in water conservation?

Water conservation is reducing water use to achieve the same outcomes by modifying the technology or method of diverting, transporting, applying, or recovering water.

Application tip: Identify the quantity of water reduction, by comparing what water would be needed to accomplish the task after project completion with what was previously used to achieve the same task.

5	*31 percent or more* reduction in water use to achieve the same outcomes
4	*21-30 percent* reduction
3	*11-20 percent* reduction
2	*1-10 percent* reduction
1	Trace (<1 percent) reduction *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Water conservation *not likely*
-1	*Additional water used* to achieve the same outcomes (e.g., sacrificing water efficiency for energy/pumping efficiency)

2e. Does the project increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts?

Ecosystem resiliency to climate change means increasing the ecosystems ability to adapt to changes in climate or positively respond to the impacts of climate change. This includes: increasing streamflow during critical months, increasing natural storage (e.g., wetlands, upland meadows), decreasing water temperature during critical months, protecting or enhancing cold-water habitat, restoring floodplain connectivity and backwater habitats, restoring stream buffers, decreasing coastal erosion and inundation, or decreasing risk of drought, fire, plant disease, or invasive species outbreak.

5	*Exceptional* improvements in ecosystem resiliency to climate change
4	*Significant* improvements
3	*Moderate* improvements
2	*Minor* improvements
1	*Trace* improvements *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Improvements in ecosystem resiliency to climate change *not likely*
-1	*Decreases* in ecosystem resiliency to climate change

2f. Does the project address limiting ecological factors in the project watershed?

A limiting ecological factor is an environmental condition that limits the growth, abundance, or distribution of an organism or a population of organisms in the project watershed. Examples of limiting factors may include, but are not limited to: barriers to fish passage, lack of high quality habitat for sensitive, threatened and endangered species, low water quality, or low streamflow.

Application tip: To score in this category an application must include citation of public reports, peer reviewed scientific studies, or other substantiating documentation from a state or federal agency to verify the limiting ecological factor's presence in the watershed.

5	*Exceptional* progress towards removing limiting ecological factors
4	*Significant* progress
3	*Moderate* progress
2	*Minor* progress
1	*Trace* progress *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	*Not likely* to address limiting ecological factors in the project watershed *OR documentation verifying limiting ecological factor not included in the application*
-1	*Exacerbates* limiting ecological factors in the project watershed

Category 3. Social or Cultural benefits

The evaluation of the social/cultural benefits of a project is based on the change in social or cultural conditions expected to result from the project and demonstrated in the application.

3a. Does the project promote public health, public safety, and local food systems?

This public benefit includes: protection of drinking water sources, repair of septic systems/field, maintenance and repair of other water infrastructure, treatment and protection of drinking water itself, improved emergency response and advisory systems (e.g., WARN network, fish consumption advisories, water contact advisories, etc.), improved or protected water quality for human consumption and human contact (e.g., removal or prevention of toxics, contaminants of concern, bacteria), and the promotion of self-reliant and resilient food networks that connect food producers and food consumers in the same geographic region.

5	*Exceptional* promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems
4	*Significant* promotion
3	*Moderate* promotion
2	*Minor* promotion
1	*Trace* promotion *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems *not likely*
-1	*Degrades* public health, public safety or local food systems

3b. Does the project improve conditions for Oregon's environmental justice communities (e.g., minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities, or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes)?

Environmental justice communities in Oregon are minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities, or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes.

Application tip: Identify which of those communities would benefit from the project and quantify these benefits. Demonstrate that project-siting decisions have been examined and approved by affected landowners and affected environmental justice communities.

5	*Exceptional* measurable improvements in conditions for environmental justice communities, and environmental justice communities were engaged in the process of developing projects
4	*Significant* improvements and environmental justice communities were consulted or provided meaningful opportunity to engage
3	*Moderate* improvements and environmental justice communities were provided meaningful opportunity to engage
2	*Minor* improvements
1	*Trace* improvements; *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Improved conditions *not likely*
-1	Worsen conditions for environmental justice communities

3c. Does the project promote recreation and scenic values?

Recreation and scenic values include recreational fishing, motorized boating, non-motorized boating, other forms of water-based recreation, swimming, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, hiking, photography, and aesthetic values. To promote those values means the project would improve the quality of or access to the examples identified.

Application tip: Evidence to support this benefit can be provided in the form of qualitative information, which may include interviews, professional opinion, or surveys.

5	*Exceptional* promotion of recreation or scenic values
4	*Significant* promotion
3	*Moderate* promotion
2	*Minor* promotion
1	*Trace* promotion *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Benefit to recreation and scenic values *not likely*
-1	Detracts from recreation and scenic values

3d. Does this project contribute to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state?

Contributing to the body of scientific data means collecting new scientific information ***and*** making it available to the public. For example, data could be collected from water quality or habitat monitoring; groundwater studies or other investigations; new stream gages; or new monitoring wells. Contributions could also come from conducting a Seasonally Varying Flow analysis. Collection of scientific data is not sufficient to achieve this public benefit---the data must be made publicly available.

Application tip: Describe the equipment and/or methods that would be used and whether the data would be made available to the public. Note how the new data supplies information of particular significance to the project area that is not already required or monitored .

5	*Exceptional* contributions of new data to the body of scientific data publicly available in the state
4	*Significant* contributions
3	*Moderate* contributions
2	*Minor* contributions
1	*Trace* contributions *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Contribution *not likely*
-1	N/A

3e. Does this project promote state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes?

A state or local priority is one that is identified in a plan, strategy, or study such as Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, a place-based integrated water resources plan, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, state and local water quality plans, species and habitat conservation or recovery plans/strategies, forestry plans, regional solutions priorities, local economic development plans, state or local hazard mitigation plans, etc. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains a list of native fish species: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/crp/freshwater.asp.

5	*Exceptional* role supporting a state or local priority
4	*Significant* role
3	*Moderate* role
2	*Minor* role
1	*Very minor* role *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	No promotion of state or local priorities
-1	Runs counter to state or local priorities

3f. Does this project promote collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

Collaborative basin planning efforts incorporate public processes that are transparent and inclusive of diverse interests.

Application tip: Demonstration of a collaborative planning effort may include publicly noticed meetings, posting agendas and decisions so they were publicly available, the inclusion of multiple types of water users represented in the process (e.g., instream interests, agricultural, municipal, domestic and industrial users), evidence that the project is supported by the community, and evidence that the project was identified in a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan or another collaboratively developed strategic plan.

5	*Exceptional:* Project was identified in a collaboratively developed plan that is supported by all basin interests and where the public had meaningful opportunities to provide input
4	*Significant:* Project was identified by a collaborative group that includes representation of multiple interests and where the public had meaningful opportunities to provide input
3	*Moderate:* An effort was made to engage and elicit input from the public
2	*Minor*: The project promotes the goals of a collaborative basin planning effort
1	Claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
0	Stakeholders with differing perspectives were *not informed nor consulted* about the project
-1	Stakeholders with differing perspectives were *excluded* during project development

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Evaluation Summaries – 2019 Funding Cycle

August 27, 2019

Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits. The 2019 application deadline was April 26, 2019. The Department received 14 complete applications requesting a total of $12,341,262 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the 2019 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) provided comments on each application, scored applications based on the criteria identified within the Guidance on the Evaluation of Public Benefits, and made a funding recommendation for the Water Resources Commission (Commission) based on that evaluation and available funds. The following evaluation summaries highlight TRT comments gathered by the Department during the application evaluation process, and are prepared for the Commission's consideration and review. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grant Program Coordinator to request a review meeting and receive additional evaluation feedback. The evaluation summaries are listed in order of the TRT ranking.

The evaluation summary includes a combined public benefit score, which the TRT used to rank proposed projects. A table is also provided that shows a breakdown of the application score by category. An application could score up to 30 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 10 additional preference points; up to 5 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 5 points for collaboration (these are listed in the "Other" category). There is a maximum public benefit score of 100 points.

Next Steps

The Department is soliciting public comment on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation through 5:00 pm on September 26, 2019. Information on how to submit a public comment is available here. Public comments submitted on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation will be presented to the Commission who will make a funding decision. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 21-22, 2019.

More Information

If you have questions please contact Grant Program Coordinator, Becky Williams, at 503.986.0869 or WRD_DL_waterprojects@oregon.gov.

2019 Applications

Upper Philips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

County: Jackson

Funding Requested: $983,290 Grant

Total Project Cost: $1,357,267

Project Summary: The Little Applegate River Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project would restore fish passage by creating a bypass channel around the Upper Philips Dam, install a new fish screen, and improve irrigation efficiency with a water savings of over 85% through piping 1.8 miles of irrigation ditch with 18-inch diameter PVC-pipe in order to provide water to 11 small-farms and residences in Jackson County within the Rogue River Basin. The project is anticipated to improve irrigation infrastructure, improve agricultural production, allow production of additional acres, improve water quality, and enhance fish passage and instream flows for Endangered Species Act-listed and State-listed species including coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. The project proposes to dedicate conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 56.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
17	17	15	7.5

Economic: The proposed project outcomes anticipate that jobs would be either retained or created, ranging from short-term construction to longer-term agricultural related jobs. Improvements to crop productivity on currently difficult to irrigate acreage is anticipated as a result of improved reliability of the water supply. The application could be improved with additional details to support anticipated improvements to the recreational industry.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 75 percent of the conserved water instream. The project proposes to remove a fish passage barrier that is a high priority removal for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proposed fish passage and screening improvements are likely to improve the ability of Endangered Species Act-listed fish to utilize the high quality upstream habitat. Enhancements to water quality are also likely due to decreased run-off entering the streams.

Social/Cultural: The project is a result of collaborative basin planning efforts. Outcomes of the proposed project include promotion of local food systems by improved water security for small local farms. The application could be improved with supporting information regarding efforts to engage traditionally underserved communities and to provide them an opportunity for meaningful input.

Calapooya Creek Conservation Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Green Valley Farm and Logistics, LLC

County: Douglas

Funding Requested: $155,106 Grant

Total Project Cost: $206,808

Project Summary: The proposed project would convert approximately 80 acres of a 96-acre water right from hand-line irrigation, cattle and hay production; to approximately 60 acres of agricultural crops utlizing water efficient drip lines; improving water management and crop productivity on privately owned Calapooya creekside land in Douglas County. The project would improve instream flows for Endangered Species Act listed species; winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, coho and Fall Chinook in the Calapooya Creek by legally protecting approximately 0.48 cfs instream, through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program. Collaboration with the CREP program in a multi-year plan would help restore the natural ecosystem of the river bank riparian areas and water quality of the Calapooya Creek through the removal of invasive plants, replanting of native shrubs, trees and bird box installations.

By switching from cattle and hay production to agricultural crops and utilizing climate smart farming practices, greenhouse gas emissions and further bank erosion are anticipated to decrease. Additionally, anticipated project outcomes would directly address identified instream needs and result in the eventual lowering the temperature of the creekside from the replanting of riparian areas, a reduction in fertilizer runoff, and salmon habitat restoration. Finally, by using the Green Valley property as a demonstration farm, in school programs such as Oakland High School's Future Farmers of America, students would be actively engaged in learning about water conservation techniques and promoting future local efforts.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 54.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
21	15	13	5.5

Economic: The addition of multiple full-time positions are anticipated based on the proposed irrigation system improvements and transferring operations to a higher value agricultural crop. The infrastructure improvement proposed is likely to facilitate an innovative economic development opportunity for the viability of a small agricultural enterprise. The application could be improved with supporting information regarding the role of this project in improving local agricultural tourism.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of conserved water instream. The proposed project would serve as an incremental step to improving riparian areas through Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program work in the watershed and improving base flows through streamflow restoration. The project would likely achieve improved water quality due to the removal of cattle from the riparian and channel area, though the benefit could have been better quantified.

(continued)

The application could be improved with information to describe collaborative plans for water quality monitoring. The applicant is advised to consult with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the planned fish screens. The review team did not concur that benefits to groundwater levels due to improvements in soil moisture would be achieved.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project anticipates opportunities being created with the local high school to act as a demonstration farm for educational programs. The application provided supporting information to describe local support and partnerships, and efforts to promote local and state priorities. The application could have been improved by providing environmental justice communities with opportunities to engage in the process of project development.

Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Wasco County SWCD and Wade Root

County: Wasco

Funding Requested: $671,724 Grant

Total Project Cost: $906,910

Project Summary: This project would complete construction of the second of two deep wells, which would result in removal of the two largest irrigators from the compromised aquifers in the Mosier Groundwater Withdrawal Area, with anticipated reductions in withdrawals from the upper Columbia River Basalt (CRB) aquifers by between 660 and 990 acre feet per year. Completion of this project is anticipated to increase the long-term availability of the groundwater supply for Mosier's vital agricultural community and for the community at large, with the potential to also benefit water quantity and quality in Mosier Creek. These actions along with other ongoing efforts are anticipated to stabilize and eventually reverse the groundwater declines experienced in the Mosier area.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 47.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
13	14	17	3.5

Economic: The proposed project provided clear and supporting information to describe the retention of jobs and contribution to local economic activity as anticipated outcomes. The proposed project has the potential to benefit water availability for junior water users which otherwise may face a negative economic impact.

Environmental: Anticipated project outcomes include stabilization of groundwater level declines and potential benefits to surface water flows in Mosier Creek as supported with expert opinion during the public comment period. The proposed project claims of improvements to water quality were not well supported and would benefit from additional information.

Social/Cultural: Removal of the groundwater user from the primary aquifer is likely to improve current water security for domestic well users in the area and alleviate the need to truck in water. The proposed project provided substantial information of collaborative basin planning efforts and evidence of support from community members. The application would be improved with engagement of environmental justice communities.

Other Notes: The proposed project is ready to be implemented and has demonstrated feasibility.

City of Chiloquin New Well and Meter Replacement Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Chiloquin

County: Klamath

Funding Requested: $661,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $4,025,500

Project Summary: The main goal of the proposed project includes the relocation of the City of Chiloquin's water supply well from 1,000 feet to 1.2 miles from the Williamson River (tributary to Klamath Lake). The project infrastructure would include a new well, well house, 8,000 feet of buried 10-inch PVC pipe and new water meters throughout the City. Relocating the well is anticipated to reduce the groundwater effects on surface water in the Williamson River, enhancing instream flows for the endangered Lost River and Shortnose Suckers. Additionally, new water meters throughout the City would assist City public works employees in managing water distribution to reduce wasteful water use and accurately account for water use.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 38.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
17	7	13.5	1

Economic: The application clearly identified and supported the project's significance to maintaining the economic viability of the city and its impact to job retention. The project anticipates system efficiency improvements and based on the proposed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to automate daily water measurements at the new well. Additionally, automatic meter reading capability is anticipated to improve operational efficiency and reduce staff time.

Environmental: The project anticipates reducing water usage as a result of the added leak detection functions and from restructuring water rates to a conservation based rate structure. As a result of relocating the City's water supply well there is potential positive benefit to the Williamson River. The application would be improved by supporting claims of improved water quality with additional details and information.

Social/Cultural: The Klamath tribes were engaged in discussion regarding potential water solutions and have provided support for the proposed project. A reliable water supply is anticipated to provide benefits to the City's largely low income population. The application could be improved with a proposal to contribute to potential scientific data gathered as a result of the project.

Prineville Airport Area Aquifer - ASR Project ASR Well #1

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Prineville

County: Crook

Funding Requested: $1,800,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $12,235,572

Project Summary: The proposed grant application project is to construct the City's dedicated Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) injection and recovery Well #1 and 2,500 feet of conveyance piping to connect the well to the City's system, which is part of the City's larger overall ASR Program. The City's dedicated ASR Well #1 is located near the Crook County Airport within the Lower Crooked River Basin, and if funded would be scheduled for construction in 2020 and would represent the culmination of several years of extensive efforts by the City to implement the ASR feasibility and implementation planning. This dedicated ASR well is anticipated to play a key role in the City's overall ASR Program by allowing the annual storage of an additional 261 MG of water (801 AFY) that would be used to meet the City's growing peak summertime water demands, and in turn encourage economic development in the region and ease peak demand stress on existing water sources.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 37.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
16.5	4.5	12.5	4

Economic: An outcome of the proposed project is an enhancement to the City's water infrastructure by providing additional water storage capability. The application describes the ability to attract business development as an important anticipated outcome of proposed project's increased water supply. The application could be improved with supporting information to document the water demand for future business development.

Environmental: The review team noted that the described environmental benefits, such as those resulting from the release of mitigation water, were not a direct result of this project and that only part of the mitigation water would be related to this project. Additionally, the mitigation would not be expected to produce an overall instream benefit. The application could be improved with considering the potential for water conservation measures.

Social/Cultural: A strength of the project proposal is an anticipated improvement to emergency management capability. The application provided documentation of support from multiple groups of diverse interests. The application could have been improved by providing information to support improved conditions for the rural community with employment opportunities.

Smith Ditch Water Delivery Improvement

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

County: Baker

Funding Requested: $590,902 Grant

Total Project Cost: $799,152

Project Summary: The proposed project would pipe the most troublesome section of the ditch with the goal of conserving water and protecting the ditch from future breaches into Baker City which could result in the loss of the ability to use the ditch and irrigate 2,230 acres of agricultural land. A 3,550-foot section of open ditch would be replaced with 48-inch DR 41HDPE fusion welded pipe that would be installed in the existing ditch for all but one portion of the project area. The pipeline, access hatches, vents, and water user withdrawal pipes would be installed per design. Regular flow measurements to determine the exact ditch loss would be conducted in the year leading up to the pipeline installation and the project proposes to legally protect 100% of the live flow amount (estimated currently at 0.53 cfs) permanently instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 35.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
16.5	5	11	3

Economic: A strength of the application was to effectively demonstrate the anticipated economic impact of the project on the local community. The project outcomes for agricultural job retention were well documented and supported. Additionally, the proposal clearly describes the potential for improvement in system efficiency for the identified section of the ditch.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the water conserved instream through the piping effort. Though the project proposes protecting the conserved water instream, the application would be improved by clarifying which water right would be used and its priority date. The review team commented that without this additional detail the potential benefit to the system are unsupported. Additionally, information quantifying the current live flow of the stream would provide more information to explain how this project would benefit the ecosystem. Engagement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife may provide information regarding other system improvements which could be incorporated into the project.

Social/Cultural: The application provided clear supporting information regarding the risk of the ditch's failure and likely improvement to public safety due to the proposed project. The door–to-door contacts with the community provided a clear description of the outreach work conducted in preparation of the funding application. Information provided regarding improvements for bull trout as evidence of supporting the Oregon Conservation Strategy do not appear to be substantiated given their presence upstream of the project location.

Canal Avenue Water Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Rogue Community College

County: Josephine

Funding Requested: $1,500,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $2,000,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would connect Rogue Community College's (RCC) Redwood Campus to the City of Grants Pass water system on Canal Avenue via 1,500 linear feet of pipe and construct a booster pump station for both domestic supply and fire mitigation. This water infrastructure would serve a new science building and provide water to existing RCC facilities on the Redwood Campus. The project would significantly increase the amount of water available to fight fire at the heavily wooded 84 acre RCC Redwood Campus, as the college is currently classified by the Oregon Health Authority as a Small Water System and is not connected to the City's water infrastructure. Water available for firefighting is limited to the current water stores of approximately 200,000 gallons. The connection of RCC to the city's water system is a critical step to protect the college and begin the process of being annexed into the City which is needed to support further campus growth.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 31.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
16.5	0.5	14.5	0

Economic: The anticipated outcome to provide capacity for the campus to expand and add a science building is a strength of the proposed project. The proposed campus expansion would support economic activity due to retaining and increasing the student population. The proposed water infrastructure project would improve the efficiency of fire response times. The application would have been improved with system efficiency opportunities or watersmart infrastructure as a potential project detail.

Environmental: The proposed project would provide few anticipated environmental benefits. Localized improvements to groundwater levels may be an outcome of the project's proposal to tie into the City of Grants Pass water system. The application would be improved with assessing opportunities for environmental benefits in the proposed project details.

Social/Cultural: A strength of the proposal is the anticipated improvements to public safety through more efficient firefighting capacity for both the campus and nearby residential properties in the heavily forested area. Many public comment letters substantiated a high level of support from the local community. While the proposal may preserve the scenic value of the campus with greater firefighting capacity, the project did not propose changes to promote access to or improving the recreational value of the campus.

Highland Ditch Piping Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Badger Improvement District

County: Wasco

Funding Requested: $2,250,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $3,000,000

Project Summary: This proposed project would pipe roughly 14,000 ft. of irrigation ditch with a 30-inch PVC or HDPE pipe. The current open ditch is in steep terrain, and surrounded by the Badger Creek Wilderness Area in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The ditch is difficult to access and repair and is subject to possible washout due to debris filling the ditch. As this ditch is the main supply of irrigation water to farmers in the area, a ditch failure would threaten the economic stability of agriculture in the area. Additionally, installing a pipe would help prevent washouts which would negatively affect fish habitat in Badger Creek due to large amounts of dirt and debris filling the creek. The project proposes to legally protect up to 0.5 cfs of conserved water in Badger Creek through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program, and improve the overall efficiency of Badger Improvement District's irrigation system.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 29.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
13.5	6	7.5	2.5

Economic: The application indicates that an outcome of the proposed project may be the change from hay and grazing to fruit crops of a higher economic yield. Additionally, long-term permanent jobs are anticipated as a result of the agricultural changes made possible by the proposed project. Additional information for potential irrigation efficiencies to support innovative system improvements would have strengthened the proposed project.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 50 percent of the conserved water instream. The application could be improved by dedicating a larger percent of the conserved water instream, and by considering approaches for dedicating more ecologically impactful amounts of water instream. Additionally, clarifying the priority date of the instream water right would help explain the seniority of the protected water allowing reviewers to understand the benefit of the protected water. A potential project outcome is that natural springs could discharge into Badger Creek instead of the existing pipeline.

Social/Cultural: An improvement to public health and safety is an anticipated outcome of the proposed project based on the potential for failure of the ditch in steep terrain. As a low income area, the application would be improved with supporting details to describe the potential benefits of improved conditions which may result from the proposed project. Additional information to describe how this project promotes state and local priorities would improve the project proposal. Generally, the review team noted that the application would be improved with more information and evidence to support potential project benefits.

Ladera Piping Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Arnold Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $207,408 Grant

Total Project Cost: $314,548

Project Summary: The proposed project area is comprised of an approximate 7,090 linear feet of the Ladera Lateral open canal commencing at the diversion from the Arnold Canal. The overall goals are to conserve water through system improvements in this high water loss region of Central Oregon. System piping is the primary method proposed. First Arnold Irrigation District (AID) would excavate the canal and bed the canal with reject dirt mixture. The project, as proposed, would then excavate and build wing walls, a head weir box, and transition boxes within the proposed project boundary. Three Sisters Irrigation District would contribute by providing pipe welding assistance. After the pipe is laid, backfilling, grading and reseeding would be conducted. AID would then install all hardware for weir boxes and delivery gates. The project proposes to improve stream flows by returning a portion of the conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 26

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
9.5	6	6.5	4

Economic: The improvement to system efficiencies is an anticipated outcome of the proposed project. The application was supported with the information provided in an attached seepage loss study. The application would benefit with additional detail regarding job creation and retention. The review team noted that the application could be improved with specific information rather than generalized claims.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 89 percent of the water conserved instream through the piping effort. This water would benefit conditions for various Sensitive Threatened and Endangered species that are water limited in the river. The review team noted that the application could be improved with more detail regarding how this project would achieve environmental benefits beyond generalized observations.

Social/Cultural: The application describes the reduced liability due to piping a currently open ditch system. A more detailed explanation describing the anticipated improvements to public safety would improve the project benefits. A description of any efforts made to engage in collaborative basin planning would explain the contribution of this project in supporting those larger efforts.

Madras Downtown Distribution Main Replacement Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Madras

County: Jefferson

Funding Requested: $900,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $1,200,000

Project Summary: The proposed project, identified as a priority in the City's 2015 water master plan, would replace approximately 2,200 linear feet of existing undersized (4-inch and 6-inch) municipal water distribution mainline with a new 12-inch distribution main. This is anticipated to reduce water main loss, improve efficiency in the delivery system, and provide adequate flows and pressures to increase fire flow capability for fire safety to the downtown commercial area of Madras. In addition, this project would replace six fire hydrants, add isolation valves at blocks where none exist, and replace 23 dilapidated service connections. This work would occur within existing street infrastructure within a three block radius of the Madras Downtown Commercial District.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 23.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
11	1.5	10	1

Economic: The proposed project anticipates the potential for economic development based on improvements to system reliability. The planned improvements to fire suppression flows would support downtown development and expansion opportunities for the hospital and hotels. The application could be improved with additional supporting information regarding the potential for increased tourism as a benefit of the proposed project.

Environmental: The project may reduce water loss within the reach of line proposed for replacement but the improvement was not well quantified. The review team noted that, as proposed, the improvements to environmental conditions as a result of the project were limited. Additionally, while fire suppression activities are an important public safety benefit, it does not support a benefit to ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts.

Social/Cultural: The proposal to improve fire suppression capabilities for the downtown area would provide an important benefit for public safety. The application provided information to clearly document the importance of this project as a local priority. The application could be improved by identifying the project's role in supporting state or basin planning efforts.

North Plains - Water Reservoir No. 2 and Pump Station

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of North Plains

County: Washington

Funding Requested: $1,250,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $7,600,000

Project Summary: The proposed project includes redesigning a 1 million gallon (MG) tank to 2 MG as well as constructing the reservoir, pump station and implementing a new SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) control system. The proposed goal is to help address the City's storage needs. The deployment of a 2 MG tank (instead of the currently designed 1 MG) would provide for water storage needs through the City's 20 year Water System Master Plan period, based on current requirement for maintaining storage equal to three days of average daily demand. The on-site pump station would provide 1,300 gallons per minute with standby power generation to allow it to continue operation even during power outages. The SCADA system would communicate via radio or fiber optic between the existing reservoir, the water intake line, the master control panel in City Hall, and the newly proposed reservoir. This control system would ensure the best information on the water system is available to notify staff of water system usage and the best time to purchase water to run the pumps most efficiently.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 22.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
9	2	10.5	1

Economic: The proposed project would improve not only the City's water infrastructure, but also the system efficiencies with the SCADA system. While the project has local importance, the application did not provide clear documentation to support the anticipated change the project would effect in the local economy. A strength of the proposal is the long term security for the City's water supply needs.

Environmental: The proposed project anticipates few environmental benefits would be achieved. There is a potential reduction in water use of 5-10% through installation of the more efficient SCADA system. The project could be improved by including more environmental benefits in the scope of the project.

Social/Cultural: The proposal supports the benefit to the City by ensuring a seismically stable water reservoir. The application could be improved with details of how the SCADA system data might be made publically available and communicated. Public outreach and engagement with other water interest in the basin may improve the social benefits of the proposed project.

Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District Automation Spill Ways

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District and Malheur SWCD

County: Malheur

Funding Requested: $200,851 Grant

Total Project Cost: $323,251

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project to develop system wide automation on the Old Owyhee Canal. It is anticipated to economically reform the irrigation district's water management system and gain efficiency within the interrelated irrigation district's systems. The approach would include:

- Increased delivery efficiency projects through:
  - Automation of head gate and spillway structures to conserve water
  - Maintained infrastructure integrity
- On the system wide basis, water efficiency is anticipated to yield information on water trading between irrigation districts

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 14.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
10	1	3.5	0

Economic: The project is likely to modernize the infrastructure and improve the efficiency of the water conveyance system. The application would have benefitted from the additional explanation of how the proposed project would benefit the local economy. The review team commented that claims that this project would enhance the economic value of tourism at the Owyhee reservoir were not supported in the application. Additional details would improve the review team's understanding of the expected efficiencies.

Environmental: This project, as proposed, anticipates few environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including quantification and documentation of the benefits claimed, including more detail to explain how the anticipated water savings could be achieved. Opportunities for achieving environmental benefits could be researched and included for a future project proposal.

Social/Cultural: Improvements to the spillways would likely have a benefit to public safety. The application would benefit from connecting the anticipated results to the proposed project and explaining the current conditions and expected changes. The review team commented that the application would be improved by including additional information and details to describe and support the benefits anticipated as a result of the project.

Quail Ridge Irrigation Renovation and Conservation Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Baker City

County: Baker

Funding Requested: $884,981 Grant

Total Project Cost: $1,179,974

Project Summary: Project would include the rehabilitation of the irrigation system at Quail Ridge Golf Course located in the Powder Basin Watershed. The project would consist of a new mainline, lateral lines, electrical wiring, sprinkler heads and control system. The project is anticipated to preserve a valuable recreation asset and conserve water.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 13.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
6.5	0	7	0

Economic: The proposed project would enhance the reliability of irrigation for the golf course that is a resource for local retirees. The application does not explain the expected changes that could be a potential outcome of the proposed project. The proposal would benefit from business development guidance to more effectively design opportunities to impact the local economy.

Environmental: As proposed this project does not describe the conservation outcomes and is not likely to achieve any environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including more environmental benefits in the scope of the project. Early engagement with local groups and state agencies may provide insights and ideas regarding the potential environmental benefits this type of project could achieve.

Social/Cultural: While the golf course currently appears to represent an asset for community recreation and events, additional opportunities for community benefits are lacking. Involving the community through a public engagement process to solicit feedback and ideas may result in identifying opportunities to include in the proposal and enhance the use and expand the potential as a community asset.

Stanfield Irrigation District Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Stanfield Irrigation District

County: Umatilla

Funding Requested: $286,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $423,500

Project Summary: The proposed project aims to conserve groundwater by using allocated surface water from the Columbia River instead of well water for irrigation purposes. This goal would be accomplished by connecting a pipeline from the East Improvement District (EID) and running it to the Stanfield Irrigation District's (SID's) Canal. With this pipeline, 4,460 acres of irrigated agriculture would be able to use their primary water rights from SID longer and more efficiently before having to switch to their secondary well water rights. This project would also allow SID to pull less water from the Umatilla, leaving more water in the river. It is also anticipated that the project would also save on electric power pumping costs from the operation of deep water wells.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 8

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	**Environmental**	**Social/Cultural**	**Other**
5	1	2	0

Economic: The proposed project would result in improvements to irrigation system efficiency and has the potential to reduce energy costs. The application could have been improved with supporting details and a clear explanation for the potential to create or retain jobs and the expected changes to the local economy.

Environmental: The proposed project as described in the application anticipates only trace environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including additional environmental benefits in the scope of the project.

Social/Cultural: The review team observed that several application questions were either not completed or very little information was provided to describe the expected benefits as a result of the proposed project. Additional information would improve the application.

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Water Project Grants and Loans

Public Comments Received
2019 Funding Recommendations

Document Description

After the Technical Review Team ranks projects based on their public benefits, the Commission is required by statute to provide an additional public comment opportunity. The TRT ranking and recommendations were published on the Department's website and distributed on the Water Resources Development Program's listserve for a 30-day public comment period which took place August 27 through September 26, 2019. The Department received comments from 7 individuals and organizations on three applications. Public comments on the 2019 TRT funding recommendation are in the order and page number listed below. The Department carefully reviewed the comments to determine if new information was provided. The Department provides further discussion regarding the public comments in the Staff Report.

Contents

From: Kristen McNall
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Mosier Deep Water Supply #2 Funding Support
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 3:18:40 PM

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am extremely pleased that the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well 2 project has been recommended for funding.

The Mosier community has experienced serious water level declines in our aquifers over the past decades. In order to sustain our economy and our community we require reliable water sources. Fortunately we have shown that it is possible to develop a new deeper aquifer in our region. By moving large irrigators to this deeper aquifer, we are able to maintain a sustainable supply for other users of the upper aquifers including the City of Mosier, rural landowners, and smaller irrigators. However, drilling these deep wells is extremely technically challenging and expensive. Fortunately our local Soil and Water Conservation District, along with Oregon Water Resources Department staff, has acquired the knowledge necessary to successfully drill into this new deeper aquifer.

Mosier is extraordinarily fortunate to have two large irrigators, both of whom hold senior water rights in upper aquifers, who are willing to spend significant money to partner in developing new deeper wells. The fact is, these landowners could rely on their senior water rights but our community would suffer the consequences. This funding will enable us to develop this important source of water that benefits not just the landowner but the entire community.

I strongly urge you to fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well 2.

Regards,

Kristen McNall

Mosier Watershed Council Co-Chair

From: Bryce Molesworth
To: WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject: Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 6:14:18 PM

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am pleased to hear that the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 has been recommended for funding.

I partnered with OWRD and Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to drill the first Deep Water Supply Well. Unfortunately, this project was extremely technically challenging and thus significantly more expensive than anyone had predicted. Thus, the SWCD and Wade Root are applying for funds to construct the second Deep Water Supply Well.

My family invested almost a quarter of a million dollars into the first Mosier Deep Water Supply Well. By participating in drilling that well, I have helped to ensure the sustainability and reliability of the water supply to the entire valley. By moving my irrigation supply use to this new deeper aquifer, I have relieved pressure on the upper aquifers for both the City of Mosier as will as other rural landowners and smaller irrigators. Completing the project requires a second deep well for Wade's orchard.

Like me, Wade has a senior water right with a good well. However like me he is committed to sustaining the water supply in our community. As orchardists, we have worked hard to conserve water by using modern irrigation technology. We have each been active in the Mosier Watershed Council for many years, working to put in place a special well standard and to fix existing commingling wells.

The Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 is a crucial part of the puzzle to ensuring the sustainability of Mosier's water supply. I strongly urge the Commission to support the recommendation for funding the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2.

Sincerely,

Bryce Molesworth

Mosier Watershed Council Co-Chair

September 24, 2019

Oregon Water Resources Department
Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Public Comments – Mosier Deep Water Supply Well

I am writing on behalf of Mosier Grange #234. to provide support for funding of the OWRD grant application for the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well, which is proposed for construction at Root Orchards.

Mosier Grange members include members of the agricultural community of Mosier and non-agricultural members - all of us are consumers of water; domestic, municipal, or for irrigation. We are greatly concerned and invested in all discussions and decisions affecting the Mosier Watershed. The declining groundwater levels in Mosier's Watershed over the last 40 years has had a serious negative impact on our economy. The long-term sustainability of our Mosier community is of vital interest to us all. The proposed Mosier Deep Water Supply is a critical piece of the solution - the long-term availability of a sustainable water supply for all of Mosier Valley.

The project is ready to move forward and profit from the lessons learned in the completion of the first well by Bryce Molesworth into this new deep aquifer.

The Mosier Grange relies heavily on its annual Cherry Sales for the bulk of its operating funds. We are very concerned with the continuing success of all our members and all the agricultural community as well as all the citizens Mosier and the surrounding Mosier Valley.

We, the Grange, are a pivotal organization in our community. We provide a meeting place for groups and families, we are designated a Red Cross shelter to be activated in times of emergency, we sponsor a local domestic violence shelter, the Mosier Community School Peace Garden, local 4-H youth, provide a place for families to meet and a dinner following the loss of a loved one and aid to local community members when emergencies strike.

Mosier Grange #234 believes that now is the time for this project to go forward, for the benefit of our whole community, our local economy, for the health of Mosier's watershed and for our extended region as we plan for to the future.

For the sake of the Mosier community, Mosier Grange #234 members strongly urge you to approve and fund the OWRD proposal for completion of the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well project.

Sincerely,

Mosier Grange #234

Marilyn Wilson by cpk

Marilyn Wilson, Secretary
Mosier Grange #234
896 Frankton RoadHood River, OR 97031

Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

2325 River Road. Suite 3
The Dalles, OR 97058-3551
Tel: (541) 296-6178 ext. 3, Fax: (541) 296-7868, E-mail: wasco.swcd@oacd.org

September 23, 2019

Oregon Water Resources Department
Grant Program Coordinator
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Public Comments - Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2

The Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District appreciates the opportunity to apply for funding and requests that OWRD fund the Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 in consideration of the following:

This deep irrigation replacement well is a key element of the strategy to increase the reliability of the source of water supply to residential and agricultural users and reduce impacts to flows in Mosier Creek during the summer irrigation season. Recent research has demonstrated that pumping has become the most significant factor contributing to recent water level declines in the two shallowest basalt aquifers, the Pomona and Priest Rapids. Further, pumping these aquifers has started to affect streamflow in Mosier Creek during the irrigation season.

One element of the overall strategy for arresting water level declines in the Mosier Creek watershed is to find an alternate source of supply for the two largest groundwater users in the watershed with the objective of balancing withdrawals with recharge in the shallow basalt aquifers. The recently completed Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #1 (Molesworth deep irrigation well) removed the largest single source of withdrawals from the Priest Rapids aquifer. The second and equally important piece of this strategy element is to address declines in the Pomona aquifer by replacing the capacity of existing wells that withdraw the greatest volume of water from the Pomona aquifer for the following reasons:

(1) The Pomona aquifer is the shallowest of the basalt aquifers in the Mosier watershed, and is relied upon by several residences for their domestic source of supply. Replacing the supply of the greatest volume user in the aquifer will increase the sustainability of the supply for those (domestic) users who can least afford to drill a deeper well or seek another water supply.
(2) The aquifer also in the past has been a constant source of baseflow to Mosier Creek. However, Cullen Jones (2016) noted that Mosier Creek now transitions from a gaining stream to losing, coincident with the timing of drawdowns in the Pomona during summer irrigation season. Jones measured base flow loses of up to 40% during a few irrigation seasons. An objective of the deep well irrigation replacement strategy is to reduce or eliminate loss of streamflow to the aquifers in the summer by reducing groundwater withdrawals from the Pomona aquifer.

Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2 project is shovel-ready and has a high likelihood of success because productive aquifers have been identified and we are prepared to manage the subsurface conditions, based on experience from the last well. The District has completed public contracting to select a drilling contractor, the archeological survey has been completed, water rights have been approved and preparation of the well site has been completed. The benefit of some the expenditures will be lost if the project is not funded such as expense of public bidding/contracting by consultant and District staff time.

In this regard, the District, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and well owner have committed significant funding to the project that may not be available to complete this piece of the solution in the future, including:

(1) Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District matching funds
(2) A secured loan through Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
(3) Funds committed by the landowner, Wade Root

This combination and amount of committed funds may not be available in the future, and thus this grant cycle may be a one-time opportunity.

Another consideration is that the District has a price commitment from contractor that will lapse. Future project costs will likely be significantly more expensive in future because of inflation, recent steel tariffs, increases in fuel prices, etc.

Beyond on-farm job retention and short-term job creation (drilling, etc.), the project will provide a longer-term economic benefit by improving the reliability of the water supply for domestic users, maintaining property values and improving the ability of the community to attract and retain employers and jobs.

This project is a high priority for Wasco County SWCD, Wasco County Area Watershed Councils, the Mosier Watershed Council, City of Mosier, Wasco County, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and many other partners and stakeholders. We have widespread community support for the project, resources aligned to execute the project immediately upon funding, and a committed landowner who is willing to make a significant capital investment in this project for the benefit of the broader community. Wasco County SWCD strongly encourages OWRD to fund this request.

Sincerely,

Shilah Olson

District Manager

From:	jan.lee@oacd.org
To:	WRD_DL_waterprojects
Subject:	Little Applegate Project
Date:	Sunday, September 22, 2019 5:46:31 PM

We urge the funding of the Little Applegate River Fish Passage and Irrigation efficiency Project in which our member district, the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, partners with several local entities. The creation of a bypass channel around the Upper Phillips Dam and the fish screen in a high priority area allow ESA listed fish to use the high-quality upstream habitat.

In addition, the 85% water conservation resulting from piping the open ditch is an exemplary feature that places 75% of the conserved water instream while stabilizing the water supply for local farmers.

Jan Lee, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
338 Hawthorne Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 545-9420 cell
Jan.lee@oacd.org
https://oacd.org

Josephine County Board of Commissioners
Lily N. Morgan, Commissioner

August 29, 2019

Grant Program Coordinator
Oregon Water Resource
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: RCC Water Projects Grants and Loans 2019 Award Response

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the work on the Oregon Water Resources Grants and Loans programs. I would like to offer further information regarding one of the applicants and the score provided under Environmental considerations. The project is the Canal Avenue Water Project, with Rogue Community College as the applicant.

Currently Rogue Community College sits in the Wildfire Urban Interface area in Josephine County. Their campus serves thousands of Oregonians from the region daily. They are next to several retirement homes, a highway, and 84 heavily wooded acres. Currently, a rather small water tower serves the whole campus and there is no adequate fire suppression system. This area has experienced wildfires in the last twenty years that places an impact on wildlife and air quality due to smoke created. The campus also must deal with mitigating run-off on their paved areas in connecting to storm water collection points. By connecting with the City of Grants Pass's water infrastructure, they will also be required to deal with storm water storage.

With water infrastructure, the campus can proceed with a fire suppression system, and dormitories, which will reduce travel to and from the school with reduction in commuter traffic. With an environmental impact score of 0.5 the grants scoring does not adequately acknowledge the environmental impact on our water ways, wildlife, air quality and fire mitigation, in the most fire prone area in Oregon.

I would respectfully ask you to reconsider this score as the protection of our waterways and wildlife is vital. Reduced traffic and increased air quality are also going to be a benefit of this project. Please reconsider the Environmental score for the Canal Avenue Water Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lily N. Morgan
Josephine County Commissioner

COURTHOUSE
500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 • Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5101

From:	Colleen Padilla
To:	WRD_DL_waterprojects
Cc:	Kemper-Pelle, Cathy (CKemperPelle@roguecc.edu)
Subject:	RCC Canal Avenue Water Project support
Date:	Friday, September 06, 2019 2:10:59 PM
Importance:	High

Good afternoon.

As the federally recognized economic development district for Jackson and Josephine Counties, SOREDI would like to convey the impact that Rogue Community College has in our overall economy.

RCC is a vital asset to Southern Oregon and I am writing today to ask for your reconsideration for funding of the Canal Avenue Water Project.

RCC's primary campus in Grants Pass is constrained in its growth due to the lack of water capacity infrastructure to existing and future facilities on the Redwood Campus. Talent and workforce development is the single largest concern among traded-sector companies in our region, who are clamoring to find the talent they need to maintain their viable operations. Manufacturing, in particular, remains a critical industry in Southern Oregon. The majority of sales and customers for traded-sector companies are outside our region, which brings in new revenue that circulates 5 to 8 times, supporting the retail and service sectors. It is vitally important and that we enhance Rogue Community College's offerings and reduce constraints that will thwart success among our business community. These businesses rely heavily on Rogue Community College to help them solve immediate workforce talent needs. Our region, and the State, must see the long term picture and respond quickly.

This needed infrastructure is a critical step to being annexed into the City of Grants Pass which would further accommodate its future growth. Moreover, the Canal Avenue project would mitigate potential forest fire concerns at this campus. Our region – particular this locale in Josephine County – is listed as one of most fire-prone areas in the state. Fire and smoke resiliency has been a reoccurring theme in our region as SOREDI seeks input from citizens, industries, and community leaders to update it Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as is required by the EDA. This effort is currently underway and we have held over 35 focus groups and interviewed numerous influential business and community leaders. This project should score much higher in its environmental benefit.

I urge you to reconsider funding this vital project at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass. Our vibrant business and community health depends on this proactive measure**.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Colleen Padilla
Executive Director
1311 East Barnett, Ste. 301 | Medford, OR 97504
Cell: (541) 601-6918 | **Tel:** (541) 773-8946

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc.
Wildly Serious About Business