

Oregon Water Resources Department  
**Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program**  
Evaluation for September 2, 2008 Applications

<b>APPLICANT:</b>	City of Port Orford		
<b>STUDY TYPE:</b>	Above Ground Storage		
<b>APPLICATION NO.:</b>	GA0036 09		
<b>STUDY NAME:</b>	City of Port Orford Hubbard Creek Impoundment Expansion Project		
<b>BASIN:</b>	South Coast	<b>WRD DISTRICT:</b>	19
<b>WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:</b>	\$100,000	<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	\$200,000

**APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:**

The City of Port Orford owns and operates the existing Hubbard Creek Impoundment for the City's raw water source. The City has senior water rights on Hubbard Creek which allow the City to appropriate up to 1.25 cfs from a 3.3 acre-foot reservoir. During late summer, inflow to the reservoir frequently declines to less than the City's usage, causing the water levels in the reservoir to drop to critical levels, and preventing the City from withdrawing its full rate. Conservation is an accepted practice, particularly in the summer, and it is not uncommon for the City to issue curtailment measures in August and September.

The Hubbard Creek Impoundment feasibility study would evaluate raising the reservoir by 11 feet which would allow the City to impound an additional 52 acre-feet. The additional storage is necessary for the City to reliably meet water demands during the late summer and to prevent complete water supply shortfalls from occurring in the next five to ten years, and it would satisfy the City's 50-year peak month demand of 237 gallons per day per household.

This study will address the uncertainties associated with the expansion. The primary goal of the study is to produce an environmental assessment and preliminary engineering report for the associated project. These documents will identify the feasibility of the associated project including identifying the scope and cost of the project and any additional mitigation measures required to address any environmental consequences or benefits resulting from the implementation of the project.

**APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:**

The Application Review Team felt the application did an excellent job of presenting information showing that the expansion of the Hubbard Creek Impoundment appeared to be the most viable alternative to meeting the City's water supply needs. The application also did a good job of describing the technical aspects of the planning study, which include a topographic survey to allow estimating the stage-storage relationship; geotechnical investigations to evaluate the existing impoundment foundation; resources investigations (including those required by SB 1069); and, a preliminary engineering report to analyze the existing infrastructure. The application could have been strengthened by more thoroughly evaluating the permit requirements of the associated project, as well as including letters of support for the feasibility study.

Due to the relatively small size of the proposed impoundment expansion project, the team doubted that streamflows could be augmented in a significant way. Notwithstanding this, the study is a priority for funding

under SB 1069 since it includes provisions for using stored water to augment instream flows to conserve, maintain and enhance aquatic life, fish life or other ecological values. The study could begin in November 2008 and be completed by December 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Fund: High Priority at \$100,000.

**COMMENTS:**

Letter of support were received from Mayor Jim Auburn, City of Port Orford; John Hewitt, President, Port Orford City Council; and Michael Murphy, City Administrator, City of Port Orford. These letters indicated that in late summer Hubbard Creek can run dry. The study is important to assure an adequate supply of water during the summer months to existing residents and businesses and to provide for growth. This project is a high priority project on the City’s current Water Master Plan and is the most cost effective and efficient alternative available to meet the needs of the City.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Do Fund at \$95,000;** contingent on contract negotiations to ensure that all provisions of the statute are met.

The staff recommendation reflects a 5 percent across the board funding reduction on all studies.

**Commission Action:**

**On December 5, 2008, the Water Resources Commission took action to:**

*“Release funding to all feasibility study applicants the Commission authorized at its’ November 20 meeting, at a level representing 95% of staff recommendations, and move forward with grant agreement negotiations and signatures.”*

**This feasibility study received an award amount of \$90,250.**