

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

APPLICANT:	City of Rockaway Beach		
STUDY TYPE:	Above Ground Storage		
APPLICATION NO.:	GA0026 09		
STUDY NAME:	Water Impoundment Relocation Feasibility Study		
BASIN:	North Coast	WRD DISTRICT:	1
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$14,500	TOTAL COST:	\$29,000

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

The City of Rockaway Beach diverts its water from Jetty Creek. The Jetty Creek point of diversion dam has several problems, including: 1) high runoff during storm events that causes spikes in raw water turbidity that increase the cost of water treatment; 2) sedimentation requires frequent dredging; 3) low summer streamflows create difficulty for the City in meeting its water demands, as well as maintaining the instream water rights; and 4) the dam creates a fish passage barrier.

This planning study seeks to determine the feasibility of relocating the City's existing instream raw water impoundment on Jetty Creek to a side channel location, which will improve fish passage. The City also plans to install a control device to ensure that the instream water right is met prior to diverting water for municipal needs. The study is needed to identify the engineering and financial feasibility of the associated project, as well as the potential environmental impacts. Key components of the study include: site evaluation; geotechnical investigation; hydrologic analysis; and a biological inventory. These items will provide the foundational information that will be used to determine the overall engineering, financial, regulatory and environmental feasibility.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team felt this feasibility study was associated with a great project. The associated project would improve the City's water supply problems and would also have significant environmental benefits through the elimination of a fish passage barrier, improvement in instream flows (through installation of a control device), and elimination of the need to do instream dredging.

The application was a little confusing in that it describes an instream impoundment with a designed storage capacity of 750,000 gallons, but has been reduced in size to less than half its nominal capacity due to sedimentation. This dam is not a storage facility, but is a point of diversion for the City's water rights. Because of the water right implications associated with changing the point of diversion, the team believes that, as part of the feasibility study, the City should conduct an analysis of the water right issues associated with relocating the City's raw water impoundment to a side channel location.

The study is not a priority for funding under SB 1069 since it does not 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 on or before January 1, 2009 and be completed by December 31, 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Fund: High Priority at \$14,500. Require analysis of water right issues.

COMMENTS:

None received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Do Fund at \$13,775; contingent on contract negotiations to ensure that all provisions of the statute are met. Require analysis of water right issues.

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 \$13,086.