

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

APPLICANT:	Central Oregon Irrigation District		
STUDY TYPE:	Water Conservation		
APPLICATION NO.:	GC0003 09		
STUDY NAME:	I-Lateral Water Conservation Feasibility Study		
BASIN:	Deschutes	WRD DISTRICT:	11
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$11,000	TOTAL COST:	\$23,900

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

Central Oregon Irrigation District's I-Lateral in Alfalfa, Oregon serves 1,712 acres. The feasibility study seeks to determine the cost effectiveness of piping or lining a 1.5 mile section of the I-Lateral. This section of the I-Lateral has very little elevation gain and also has high sedimentation. If the section can be piped or lined, it is estimated that 4.50 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water could be conserved, of which at least 2.25 cfs could be permanently converted to instream water rights in the Deschutes River through the use of the Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The restoration of streamflow in the Deschutes River is needed to improve fish habitat during the peak summer/irrigation season.

The study seeks to address ditch integrity issues caused by standing water, water seeping through the banks, rodent burrowing, sink holes, and silt build-up. The study also seeks to address high moss problems, water distribution problems associated with very limited elevation change, and above average maintenance costs due to all of these issues.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team found this to be a good straightforward study with a clear goal: to determine if it is economical to pipe or line a 1.5 mile section of the I-Lateral. The team recognized that this is a unique study because the area proposed to be studied is very flat and, therefore, has additional difficulties not associated with other piping or lining projects. Since there are many areas with limited elevation changes, the study may serve as a pilot for other irrigation districts.

The study has broad local support from five irrigation districts in central Oregon (not including the applicant), as well as the Deschutes River Conservancy. The team recognized that many of the irrigation districts in central Oregon, including the applicant, have successfully used the Allocation of Conserved Water Program and that there was a high likelihood for success.

The study is a priority for funding under SB 1069 because it is identified on the Department's statewide water assessment and inventory of potential conservation opportunities. The study could begin on January 2, 2009 and be completed by July 15, 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Fund: High Priority at \$11,000.

COMMENTS:

None received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Do Fund at \$10,450.

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 \$9,927.