

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

APPLICANT:	City of Florence		
STUDY TYPE:	Water Conservation		
APPLICATION NO.:	GC0017 09		
STUDY NAME:	City of Florence Water Management and Conservation Plan		
BASIN:	Mid Coast	WRD DISTRICT:	2
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$20,000	TOTAL COST:	\$40,000

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

The City of Florence plans for an average annual growth rate of 3.5 percent, however it anticipates that its water demand will grow at a slower rate. Nonetheless, the City will likely exceed its water supply by 2010, and treatment capacity by 2011. The City holds four water rights, three being for groundwater use, and one for surface water use from Munsel Creek. Munsel Creek contains elevated levels of iron and the City has not appropriated water from it for a number of years. The three groundwater rights produce less than the amount authorized by the water rights.

The City of Florence seeks to prepare a Division 86 Water Management and Conservation Plan under OAR Chapter 690, Division 86 to thoroughly research and identify the most effective and efficient means of pursuing conservation. To meet growing demands, the City intends to rely on new sources of water as well as relying heavily upon conservation.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team discussed the City's water right situation as well the water right condition requiring that the City prepare a Water Management and Conservation Plan by September 19, 2009. The team noted the letter of support from Heceta Water District (which also requested grant funds for preparing a Water Management and Conservation Plan), but there was no indication that the two entities would work together to develop plans. If the team were to recommend funding the City of Florence's Water Management and Conservation, it indicated that it would want to see that the plan was developed in coordination with Heceta Water District, which has its source of water from Clear Lake, which flows into Munsel Lake and then into Munsel Creek, for which the City of Florence has a water right.

The team found that the water curtailment element of a Water Management and Conservation Plan was not associated with a feasibility study and had concerns that other elements of the plan, such as inventory of the District's water rights, may not be associated with a feasibility study, and therefore these tasks would not be eligible for funding under SB 1069.

The team felt that given the limited funding associated with the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program, and the severe water quantity problems facing the state, that other applications should be funded prior to this application.

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 in January 2009 and be completed by September 19, 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Not Fund

COMMENTS:

A letter of support for this application was received from Adam Sussman, GSI Water Solutions. Mr. Sussman expressed concern that the Application Review Team added a criterion that was not part of the grant application material. Specifically, that the Application Review Team did not recommend funding the application because it was a "required" plan. If the City had known of this criterion, they would not have expended the resources to apply for the grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Do not fund.

Note: This is one of three applications that were forwarded to the 2008 Oregon Water Supply Conservation Initiative (OWSCI) Community Match Funding Program to be considered for funding along with other similar grant applications submitted to that program.