

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

APPLICANT:	City of Corvallis		
STUDY TYPE:	Reuse		
APPLICATION NO.:	GR0022 09		
STUDY NAME:	City of Corvallis Wastewater Reclamation Plant Water Recycling Project		
BASIN:	Willamette	WRD DISTRICT:	16
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$174,700	TOTAL COST:	\$356,000

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

The City of Corvallis is looking for alternate discharge options for treated wastewater to comply with the Willamette River temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and eliminate direct discharge to the river. The City has evaluated regulatory requirements and economic impacts of current and continued long-term discharge to the Willamette over the next 50 years. It also conducted a screening evaluation was conducted for alternate indirect river discharges. Because of this screening evaluation, three water reuse alternatives were identified as potential solutions to protect water quantity and quality in the future and to enhance community livability by providing a sustainable water resource. Water quantity needs that could be addressed by the associated project include: agricultural irrigation, urban irrigation, wetland restoration, wildlife habitat expansion, augmenting streamflows, and conserving water from the Willamette River and local streams.

This planning study builds upon a Preliminary Assessment of Recycled Water Facilities (completed in July 2006) and the Regulatory and Economic Impacts Evaluation and Reuse Alternatives Preliminary Screening (completed in July 2008). The purpose of this study is to perform a comprehensive feasibility cost analysis for the three water reuse alternatives previously identified and select the most suitable alternative. The feasibility study will be presented to the public for input and opinions to determine the most acceptable reuse alternative.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team found the application to have an impressive listing of professional/human resource qualifications, federal interest in the project (Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge) and potential water quality benefits. Additionally, the team liked that this study will build on previous studies.

However, the team did not have consensus as to whether this step of the project was actually a feasibility study. All agreed that the evaluation for alternate river discharges completed in step two was a feasibility study. Some felt that this step of the project was a continuation of and refinement of the previous feasibility study. Others felt that the project had moved on to the implementation stage. The reason for this confusion was that all tasks except for “Task 2.2: Water Recycling Screened Alternatives Evaluation” appeared to be directly linked with selection of the preferred alternative, and not part of a feasibility study. There was consensus that the application could have been strengthened by expanding upon and describing how some of the other components (such as “Task 2.1: Conduct Water Reuse Citizen Survey”) were part of a feasibility study. There was also consensus that Tasks 2.6 – 2.10 (Investigate Successful Water Recycling Public Involvement Programs, Prepare Public Information and Involvement Plan, Prepare Water Recycling Project Presentation and Graphics, Public

Meeting and Open Houses, and Conduct Ongoing Public Information Activities) were into the project implementation phase.

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 1, 2009 and be completed by December 31, 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Not Fund.

COMMENTS:

Representative Jackie Dingfelder verbally indicated that she would like to see more Water Conservation and Reuse applications funded, and supported the City of Corvallis Wastewater Reclamation Plant Water Recycling Project as a means to determine if reuse water was a viable option for the City to address its water supply and water quality needs.

Kimberley Priestley of WaterWatch also indicated that a higher percentage of funding should be dedicated to conservation and reuse projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Do Fund at \$24,988. Limit funding to Task 2.1: Conduct Water Reuse Citizen Survey.

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 \$23,738.