

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

APPLICANT:	City of Damascus		
STUDY TYPE:	Reuse		
APPLICATION NO.:	GR0031 09		
STUDY NAME:	East Damascus Regional Water Reuse and Wastewater Management Feasibility Study		
BASIN:	Willamette	WRD DISTRICT:	20
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$75,000	TOTAL COST:	\$150,000

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

The build-out population of newly formed City of Damascus is approximately 60,000 people, of which 20,000 might be expected to reside on the eastern side of Damascus. The eastern side is semi-rural and far from existing water and wastewater infrastructure, but prime for development as Damascus formulates their first Comprehensive Plan. A regional cooperative wastewater/water reuse plan could provide 2 million gallons per day of reclaimed water and wastewater facilities for East Damascus while helping to meet a significant portion of the water supply needs for the surrounding communities. This feasibility study will investigate separate but related opportunities for Southeast as well and Northeast Damascus, evaluating reuse options and partnership opportunities as Damascus seeks to solve the wastewater collection and treatment issues in combination with reclaimed water solutions.

Wastewater solutions for Southeast Damascus include upgrades of the existing Clackamas County treatment facility in Boring, production of reclaimed water, partnerships with Sunrise Water Authority, and distribution back into Damascus. Solutions for Northeast Damascus include partnerships with Gresham and Troutdale, and possible satellite water reclamation facilities.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team liked the regional scope of this feasibility study and the City of Damascus' efforts to incorporate water reuse and wastewater infrastructure into a strategic water management plan to meet pending and future development pressures. The applicant clearly articulated the study's technical approach, and the team felt the City was being proactive in evaluating "purple pipe" (dual piping for potable water and reuse water). The applicant had a good review of comparable and successful reuse projects and had letters of support from potential partners in Clackamas County.

The team recognized that the associated project could have water quality benefits, but was concerned that it could negatively affect return flows into the Clackamas Basin. The applicant indicated that reliance on returns from fish and downstream water right holders will be evaluated and addressed as part of the feasibility study.

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 30, 2009.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Fund: High Priority at \$75,000.

COMMENTS:

A letter of support for this application was received from David S. Rouse, Environmental Services Director, City of Gresham. Mr. Rouse indicates that the City of Gresham has a significant interest in reuse water as a component of their long-term water supply strategy. Gresham has been conducting its own reuse studies, and supports the feasibility study that the City of Damascus is doing and will cooperate and coordinate with the City of Damascus's study.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Do Fund at \$71,250.

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 \$67,687.