



# Water Project Grants and Loans Applications Evaluation Summaries – 2019 Funding Cycle



August 27, 2019

## Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits. The 2019 application deadline was April 26, 2019. The Department received 14 complete applications requesting a total of \$12,341,262 in grant funding.

## Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the 2019 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) provided comments on each application, scored applications based on the criteria identified within the [Guidance on the Evaluation of Public Benefits](#), and made a funding recommendation for the Water Resources Commission (Commission) based on that evaluation and available funds. The following evaluation summaries highlight TRT comments gathered by the Department during the application evaluation process, and are prepared for the Commission's consideration and review. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grant Program Coordinator to request a review meeting and receive additional evaluation feedback. The evaluation summaries are listed in order of the TRT ranking.

The evaluation summary includes a combined public benefit score, which the TRT used to rank proposed projects. A table is also provided that shows a breakdown of the application score by category. An application could score up to 30 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 10 additional preference points; up to 5 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 5 points for collaboration (these are listed in the "Other" category). There is a maximum public benefit score of 100 points.

## Next Steps

**The Department is soliciting public comment on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation through 5:00 pm on September 26, 2019.** Information on how to submit a public comment is available [here](#). Public comments submitted on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation will be presented to the Commission who will make a funding decision. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 21-22, 2019.

## More Information

If you have questions please contact Grant Program Coordinator, Becky Williams, at 503.986.0869 or [WRD\\_DL\\_waterprojects@oregon.gov](mailto:WRD_DL_waterprojects@oregon.gov).

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# Upper Philips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Applegate Partnership, Inc.

**County:** Jackson

**Funding Requested:** \$983,290 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,357,267

**Project Summary:** The Little Applegate River Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project would restore fish passage by creating a bypass channel around the Upper Philips Dam, install a new fish screen, and improve irrigation efficiency with a water savings of over 85% through piping 1.8 miles of irrigation ditch with 18-inch diameter PVC-pipe in order to provide water to 11 small-farms and residences in Jackson County within the Rogue River Basin. The project is anticipated to improve irrigation infrastructure, improve agricultural production, allow production of additional acres, improve water quality, and enhance fish passage and instream flows for Endangered Species Act-listed and State-listed species including coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. The project proposes to dedicate conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 56.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
17	17	15	7.5

**Economic:** The proposed project outcomes anticipate that jobs would be either retained or created, ranging from short-term construction to longer-term agricultural related jobs. Improvements to crop productivity on currently difficult to irrigate acreage is anticipated as a result of improved reliability of the water supply. The application could be improved with additional details to support anticipated improvements to the recreational industry.

**Environmental:** The project proposes to legally protect 75 percent of the conserved water instream. The project proposes to remove a fish passage barrier that is a high priority removal for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proposed fish passage and screening improvements are likely to improve the ability of Endangered Species Act-listed fish to utilize the high quality upstream habitat. Enhancements to water quality are also likely due to decreased run-off entering the streams.

**Social/Cultural:** The project is a result of collaborative basin planning efforts. Outcomes of the proposed project include promotion of local food systems by improved water security for small local farms. The application could be improved with supporting information regarding efforts to engage traditionally underserved communities and to provide them an opportunity for meaningful input.

# Calapooya Creek Conservation Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Green Valley Farm and Logistics, LLC

**County:** Douglas

**Funding Requested:** \$155,106 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$206,808

**Project Summary:** The proposed project would convert approximately 80 acres of a 96-acre water right from hand-line irrigation, cattle and hay production; to approximately 60 acres of agricultural crops utilizing water efficient drip lines; improving water management and crop productivity on privately owned Calapooya creekside land in Douglas County. The project would improve instream flows for Endangered Species Act listed species; winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, coho and Fall Chinook in the Calapooya Creek by legally protecting approximately 0.48 cfs instream, through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program. Collaboration with the CREP program in a multi-year plan would help restore the natural ecosystem of the river bank riparian areas and water quality of the Calapooya Creek through the removal of invasive plants, replanting of native shrubs, trees and bird box installations.

By switching from cattle and hay production to agricultural crops and utilizing climate smart farming practices, greenhouse gas emissions and further bank erosion are anticipated to decrease. Additionally, anticipated project outcomes would directly address identified instream needs and result in the eventual lowering the temperature of the creekside from the replanting of riparian areas, a reduction in fertilizer runoff, and salmon habitat restoration. Finally, by using the Green Valley property as a demonstration farm, in school programs such as Oakland High School's Future Farmers of America, students would be actively engaged in learning about water conservation techniques and promoting future local efforts.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 54.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
21	15	13	5.5

**Economic:** The addition of multiple full-time positions are anticipated based on the proposed irrigation system improvements and transferring operations to a higher value agricultural crop. The infrastructure improvement proposed is likely to facilitate an innovative economic development opportunity for the viability of a small agricultural enterprise. The application could be improved with supporting information regarding the role of this project in improving local agricultural tourism.

**Environmental:** The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of conserved water instream. The proposed project would serve as an incremental step to improving riparian areas through Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program work in the watershed and improving base flows through streamflow restoration. The project would likely achieve improved water quality due to the removal of cattle from the riparian and channel area, though the benefit could have been better quantified.

(continued)

(Calapooya Creek Conservation Project – continued)

The application could be improved with information to describe collaborative plans for water quality monitoring. The applicant is advised to consult with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the planned fish screens. The review team did not concur that benefits to groundwater levels due to improvements in soil moisture would be achieved.

**Social/Cultural:** The proposed project anticipates opportunities being created with the local high school to act as a demonstration farm for educational programs. The application provided supporting information to describe local support and partnerships, and efforts to promote local and state priorities. The application could have been improved by providing environmental justice communities with opportunities to engage in the process of project development.

# Mosier Deep Water Supply Well #2

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Wasco County SWCD and Wade Root

**County:** Wasco

**Funding Requested:** \$671,724 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$906,910

**Project Summary:** This project would complete construction of the second of two deep wells, which would result in removal of the two largest irrigators from the compromised aquifers in the Mosier Groundwater Withdrawal Area, with anticipated reductions in withdrawals from the upper Columbia River Basalt (CRB) aquifers by between 660 and 990 acre feet per year. Completion of this project is anticipated to increase the long-term availability of the groundwater supply for Mosier's vital agricultural community and for the community at large, with the potential to also benefit water quantity and quality in Mosier Creek. These actions along with other ongoing efforts are anticipated to stabilize and eventually reverse the groundwater declines experienced in the Mosier area.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 47.5**

<b>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</b>			
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Social/Cultural</b>	<b>Other</b>
13	14	17	3.5

**Economic:** The proposed project provided clear and supporting information to describe the retention of jobs and contribution to local economic activity as anticipated outcomes. The proposed project has the potential to benefit water availability for junior water users which otherwise may face a negative economic impact.

**Environmental:** Anticipated project outcomes include stabilization of groundwater level declines and potential benefits to surface water flows in Mosier Creek as supported with expert opinion during the public comment period. The proposed project claims of improvements to water quality were not well supported and would benefit from additional information.

**Social/Cultural:** Removal of the groundwater user from the primary aquifer is likely to improve current water security for domestic well users in the area and alleviate the need to truck in water. The proposed project provided substantial information of collaborative basin planning efforts and evidence of support from community members. The application would be improved with engagement of environmental justice communities.

**Other Notes:** The proposed project is ready to be implemented and has demonstrated feasibility.

# City of Chiloquin New Well and Meter Replacement Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** City of Chiloquin

**County:** Klamath

**Funding Requested:** \$661,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,025,500

**Project Summary:** The main goal of the proposed project includes the relocation of the City of Chiloquin's water supply well from 1,000 feet to 1.2 miles from the Williamson River (tributary to Klamath Lake). The project infrastructure would include a new well, well house, 8,000 feet of buried 10-inch PVC pipe and new water meters throughout the City. Relocating the well is anticipated to reduce the groundwater effects on surface water in the Williamson River, enhancing instream flows for the endangered Lost River and Shortnose Suckers. Additionally, new water meters throughout the City would assist City public works employees in managing water distribution to reduce wasteful water use and accurately account for water use.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 38.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
17	7	13.5	1

**Economic:** The application clearly identified and supported the project's significance to maintaining the economic viability of the city and its impact to job retention. The project anticipates system efficiency improvements and based on the proposed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to automate daily water measurements at the new well. Additionally, automatic meter reading capability is anticipated to improve operational efficiency and reduce staff time.

**Environmental:** The project anticipates reducing water usage as a result of the added leak detection functions and from restructuring water rates to a conservation based rate structure. As a result of relocating the City's water supply well there is potential positive benefit to the Williamson River. The application would be improved by supporting claims of improved water quality with additional details and information.

**Social/Cultural:** The Klamath tribes were engaged in discussion regarding potential water solutions and have provided support for the proposed project. A reliable water supply is anticipated to provide benefits to the City's largely low income population. The application could be improved with a proposal to contribute to potential scientific data gathered as a result of the project.

# Prineville Airport Area Aquifer - ASR Project ASR Well #1

*TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time*

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** City of Prineville

**County:** Crook

**Funding Requested:** \$1,800,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$12,235,572

**Project Summary:** The proposed grant application project is to construct the City's dedicated Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) injection and recovery Well #1 and 2,500 feet of conveyance piping to connect the well to the City's system, which is part of the City's larger overall ASR Program. The City's dedicated ASR Well #1 is located near the Crook County Airport within the Lower Crooked River Basin, and if funded would be scheduled for construction in 2020 and would represent the culmination of several years of extensive efforts by the City to implement the ASR feasibility and implementation planning. This dedicated ASR well is anticipated to play a key role in the City's overall ASR Program by allowing the annual storage of an additional 261 MG of water (801 AFY) that would be used to meet the City's growing peak summertime water demands, and in turn encourage economic development in the region and ease peak demand stress on existing water sources.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 37.5**

<b>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</b>				
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Social/Cultural</b>	<b>Other</b>	
16.5	4.5	12.5	4	

**Economic:** An outcome of the proposed project is an enhancement to the City's water infrastructure by providing additional water storage capability. The application describes the ability to attract business development as an important anticipated outcome of proposed project's increased water supply. The application could be improved with supporting information to document the water demand for future business development.

**Environmental:** The review team noted that the described environmental benefits, such as those resulting from the release of mitigation water, were not a direct result of this project and that only part of the mitigation water would be related to this project. Additionally, the mitigation would not be expected to produce an overall instream benefit. The application could be improved with considering the potential for water conservation measures.

**Social/Cultural:** A strength of the project proposal is an anticipated improvement to emergency management capability. The application provided documentation of support from multiple groups of diverse interests. The application could have been improved by providing information to support improved conditions for the rural community with employment opportunities.

# Smith Ditch Water Delivery Improvement

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

**County:** Baker

**Funding Requested:** \$590,902 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$799,152

**Project Summary:** The proposed project would pipe the most troublesome section of the ditch with the goal of conserving water and protecting the ditch from future breaches into Baker City which could result in the loss of the ability to use the ditch and irrigate 2,230 acres of agricultural land. A 3,550-foot section of open ditch would be replaced with 48-inch DR 41HDPE fusion welded pipe that would be installed in the existing ditch for all but one portion of the project area. The pipeline, access hatches, vents, and water user withdrawal pipes would be installed per design. Regular flow measurements to determine the exact ditch loss would be conducted in the year leading up to the pipeline installation and the project proposes to legally protect 100% of the live flow amount (estimated currently at 0.53 cfs) permanently instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 35.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
16.5	5	11	3

**Economic:** A strength of the application was to effectively demonstrate the anticipated economic impact of the project on the local community. The project outcomes for agricultural job retention were well documented and supported. Additionally, the proposal clearly describes the potential for improvement in system efficiency for the identified section of the ditch.

**Environmental:** The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the water conserved instream through the piping effort. Though the project proposes protecting the conserved water instream, the application would be improved by clarifying which water right would be used and its priority date. The review team commented that without this additional detail the potential benefit to the system are unsupported. Additionally, information quantifying the current live flow of the stream would provide more information to explain how this project would benefit the ecosystem. Engagement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife may provide information regarding other system improvements which could be incorporated into the project.

**Social/Cultural:** The application provided clear supporting information regarding the risk of the ditch's failure and likely improvement to public safety due to the proposed project. The door-to-door contacts with the community provided a clear description of the outreach work conducted in preparation of the funding application. Information provided regarding improvements for bull trout as evidence of supporting the Oregon Conservation Strategy do not appear to be substantiated given their presence upstream of the project location.

# Canal Avenue Water Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Rogue Community College

**County:** Josephine

**Funding Requested:** \$1,500,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,000,000

**Project Summary:** The proposed project would connect Rogue Community College's (RCC) Redwood Campus to the City of Grants Pass water system on Canal Avenue via 1,500 linear feet of pipe and construct a booster pump station for both domestic supply and fire mitigation. This water infrastructure would serve a new science building and provide water to existing RCC facilities on the Redwood Campus. The project would significantly increase the amount of water available to fight fire at the heavily wooded 84 acre RCC Redwood Campus, as the college is currently classified by the Oregon Health Authority as a Small Water System and is not connected to the City's water infrastructure. Water available for firefighting is limited to the current water stores of approximately 200,000 gallons. The connection of RCC to the city's water system is a critical step to protect the college and begin the process of being annexed into the City which is needed to support further campus growth.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 31.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
16.5	0.5	14.5	0

**Economic:** The anticipated outcome to provide capacity for the campus to expand and add a science building is a strength of the proposed project. The proposed campus expansion would support economic activity due to retaining and increasing the student population. The proposed water infrastructure project would improve the efficiency of fire response times. The application would have been improved with system efficiency opportunities or watersmart infrastructure as a potential project detail.

**Environmental:** The proposed project would provide few anticipated environmental benefits. Localized improvements to groundwater levels may be an outcome of the project's proposal to tie into the City of Grants Pass water system. The application would be improved with assessing opportunities for environmental benefits in the proposed project details.

**Social/Cultural:** A strength of the proposal is the anticipated improvements to public safety through more efficient firefighting capacity for both the campus and nearby residential properties in the heavily forested area. Many public comment letters substantiated a high level of support from the local community. While the proposal may preserve the scenic value of the campus with greater firefighting capacity, the project did not propose changes to promote access to or improving the recreational value of the campus.

# Highland Ditch Piping Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Badger Improvement District

**County:** Wasco

**Funding Requested:** \$2,250,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,000,000

**Project Summary:** This proposed project would pipe roughly 14,000 ft. of irrigation ditch with a 30-inch PVC or HDPE pipe. The current open ditch is in steep terrain, and surrounded by the Badger Creek Wilderness Area in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The ditch is difficult to access and repair and is subject to possible washout due to debris filling the ditch. As this ditch is the main supply of irrigation water to farmers in the area, a ditch failure would threaten the economic stability of agriculture in the area. Additionally, installing a pipe would help prevent washouts which would negatively affect fish habitat in Badger Creek due to large amounts of dirt and debris filling the creek. The project proposes to legally protect up to 0.5 cfs of conserved water in Badger Creek through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program, and improve the overall efficiency of Badger Improvement District's irrigation system.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 29.5**

<b>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</b>			
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Social/Cultural</b>	<b>Other</b>
13.5	6	7.5	2.5

**Economic:** The application indicates that an outcome of the proposed project may be the change from hay and grazing to fruit crops of a higher economic yield. Additionally, long-term permanent jobs are anticipated as a result of the agricultural changes made possible by the proposed project. Additional information for potential irrigation efficiencies to support innovative system improvements would have strengthened the proposed project.

**Environmental:** The project proposes to legally protect 50 percent of the conserved water instream. The application could be improved by dedicating a larger percent of the conserved water instream, and by considering approaches for dedicating more ecologically impactful amounts of water instream. Additionally, clarifying the priority date of the instream water right would help explain the seniority of the protected water allowing reviewers to understand the benefit of the protected water. A potential project outcome is that natural springs could discharge into Badger Creek instead of the existing pipeline.

**Social/Cultural:** An improvement to public health and safety is an anticipated outcome of the proposed project based on the potential for failure of the ditch in steep terrain. As a low income area, the application would be improved with supporting details to describe the potential benefits of improved conditions which may result from the proposed project. Additional information to describe how this project promotes state and local priorities would improve the project proposal. Generally, the review team noted that the application would be improved with more information and evidence to support potential project benefits.

# Ladera Piping Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Arnold Irrigation District

**County:** Deschutes

**Funding Requested:** \$207,408 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$314,548

**Project Summary:** The proposed project area is comprised of an approximate 7,090 linear feet of the Ladera Lateral open canal commencing at the diversion from the Arnold Canal. The overall goals are to conserve water through system improvements in this high water loss region of Central Oregon. System piping is the primary method proposed. First Arnold Irrigation District (AID) would excavate the canal and bed the canal with reject dirt mixture. The project, as proposed, would then excavate and build wing walls, a head weir box, and transition boxes within the proposed project boundary. Three Sisters Irrigation District would contribute by providing pipe welding assistance. After the pipe is laid, backfilling, grading and reseeding would be conducted. AID would then install all hardware for weir boxes and delivery gates. The project proposes to improve stream flows by returning a portion of the conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 26**

<b>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</b>			
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Social/Cultural</b>	<b>Other</b>
9.5	6	6.5	4

**Economic:** The improvement to system efficiencies is an anticipated outcome of the proposed project. The application was supported with the information provided in an attached seepage loss study. The application would benefit with additional detail regarding job creation and retention. The review team noted that the application could be improved with specific information rather than generalized claims.

**Environmental:** The project proposes to legally protect 89 percent of the water conserved instream through the piping effort. This water would benefit conditions for various Sensitive Threatened and Endangered species that are water limited in the river. The review team noted that the application could be improved with more detail regarding how this project would achieve environmental benefits beyond generalized observations.

**Social/Cultural:** The application describes the reduced liability due to piping a currently open ditch system. A more detailed explanation describing the anticipated improvements to public safety would improve the project benefits. A description of any efforts made to engage in collaborative basin planning would explain the contribution of this project in supporting those larger efforts.

# Madras Downtown Distribution Main Replacement Project

*TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time*

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** City of Madras

**County:** Jefferson

**Funding Requested:** \$900,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,200,000

**Project Summary:** The proposed project, identified as a priority in the City's 2015 water master plan, would replace approximately 2,200 linear feet of existing undersized (4-inch and 6-inch) municipal water distribution mainline with a new 12-inch distribution main. This is anticipated to reduce water main loss, improve efficiency in the delivery system, and provide adequate flows and pressures to increase fire flow capability for fire safety to the downtown commercial area of Madras. In addition, this project would replace six fire hydrants, add isolation valves at blocks where none exist, and replace 23 dilapidated service connections. This work would occur within existing street infrastructure within a three block radius of the Madras Downtown Commercial District.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 23.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
11	1.5	10	1

**Economic:** The proposed project anticipates the potential for economic development based on improvements to system reliability. The planned improvements to fire suppression flows would support downtown development and expansion opportunities for the hospital and hotels. The application could be improved with additional supporting information regarding the potential for increased tourism as a benefit of the proposed project.

**Environmental:** The project may reduce water loss within the reach of line proposed for replacement but the improvement was not well quantified. The review team noted that, as proposed, the improvements to environmental conditions as a result of the project were limited. Additionally, while fire suppression activities are an important public safety benefit, it does not support a benefit to ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts.

**Social/Cultural:** The proposal to improve fire suppression capabilities for the downtown area would provide an important benefit for public safety. The application provided information to clearly document the importance of this project as a local priority. The application could be improved by identifying the project's role in supporting state or basin planning efforts.

# North Plains - Water Reservoir No. 2 and Pump Station

*TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time*

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** City of North Plains

**County:** Washington

**Funding Requested:** \$1,250,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$7,600,000

**Project Summary:** The proposed project includes redesigning a 1 million gallon (MG) tank to 2 MG as well as constructing the reservoir, pump station and implementing a new SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) control system. The proposed goal is to help address the City's storage needs. The deployment of a 2 MG tank (instead of the currently designed 1 MG) would provide for water storage needs through the City's 20 year Water System Master Plan period, based on current requirement for maintaining storage equal to three days of average daily demand. The on-site pump station would provide 1,300 gallons per minute with standby power generation to allow it to continue operation even during power outages. The SCADA system would communicate via radio or fiber optic between the existing reservoir, the water intake line, the master control panel in City Hall, and the newly proposed reservoir. This control system would ensure the best information on the water system is available to notify staff of water system usage and the best time to purchase water to run the pumps most efficiently.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 22.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
9	2	10.5	1

**Economic:** The proposed project would improve not only the City's water infrastructure, but also the system efficiencies with the SCADA system. While the project has local importance, the application did not provide clear documentation to support the anticipated change the project would effect in the local economy. A strength of the proposal is the long term security for the City's water supply needs.

**Environmental:** The proposed project anticipates few environmental benefits would be achieved. There is a potential reduction in water use of 5-10% through installation of the more efficient SCADA system. The project could be improved by including more environmental benefits in the scope of the project.

**Social/Cultural:** The proposal supports the benefit to the City by ensuring a seismically stable water reservoir. The application could be improved with details of how the SCADA system data might be made publically available and communicated. Public outreach and engagement with other water interest in the basin may improve the social benefits of the proposed project.

# Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District Automation Spill Ways

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Old Owyhee Ditch Improvement District and Malheur SWCD

**County:** Malheur

**Funding Requested:** \$200,851 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$323,251

**Project Summary:** The goal of the proposed project to develop system wide automation on the Old Owyhee Canal. It is anticipated to economically reform the irrigation district's water management system and gain efficiency within the interrelated irrigation district's systems. The approach would include:

- Increased delivery efficiency projects through:
  - Automation of head gate and spillway structures to conserve water
  - Maintained infrastructure integrity
- On the system wide basis, water efficiency is anticipated to yield information on water trading between irrigation districts

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 14.5**

<b>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</b>			
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Social/Cultural</b>	<b>Other</b>
10	1	3.5	0

**Economic:** The project is likely to modernize the infrastructure and improve the efficiency of the water conveyance system. The application would have benefitted from the additional explanation of how the proposed project would benefit the local economy. The review team commented that claims that this project would enhance the economic value of tourism at the Owyhee reservoir were not supported in the application. Additional details would improve the review team's understanding of the expected efficiencies.

**Environmental:** This project, as proposed, anticipates few environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including quantification and documentation of the benefits claimed, including more detail to explain how the anticipated water savings could be achieved. Opportunities for achieving environmental benefits could be researched and included for a future project proposal.

**Social/Cultural:** Improvements to the spillways would likely have a benefit to public safety. The application would benefit from connecting the anticipated results to the proposed project and explaining the current conditions and expected changes. The review team commented that the application would be improved by including additional information and details to describe and support the benefits anticipated as a result of the project.

# Quail Ridge Irrigation Renovation and Conservation Project

*TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time*

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** City of Baker City

**County:** Baker

**Funding Requested:** \$884,981 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,179,974

**Project Summary:** Project would include the rehabilitation of the irrigation system at Quail Ridge Golf Course located in the Powder Basin Watershed. The project would consist of a new mainline, lateral lines, electrical wiring, sprinkler heads and control system. The project is anticipated to preserve a valuable recreation asset and conserve water.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 13.5**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
6.5	0	7	0

**Economic:** The proposed project would enhance the reliability of irrigation for the golf course that is a resource for local retirees. The application does not explain the expected changes that could be a potential outcome of the proposed project. The proposal would benefit from business development guidance to more effectively design opportunities to impact the local economy.

**Environmental:** As proposed this project does not describe the conservation outcomes and is not likely to achieve any environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including more environmental benefits in the scope of the project. Early engagement with local groups and state agencies may provide insights and ideas regarding the potential environmental benefits this type of project could achieve.

**Social/Cultural:** While the golf course currently appears to represent an asset for community recreation and events, additional opportunities for community benefits are lacking. Involving the community through a public engagement process to solicit feedback and ideas may result in identifying opportunities to include in the proposal and enhance the use and expand the potential as a community asset.

# Stanfield Irrigation District Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

## Project Information (adapted from application)

**Applicant Name:** Stanfield Irrigation District

**County:** Umatilla

**Funding Requested:** \$286,000 Grant

**Total Project Cost:** \$423,500

**Project Summary:** The proposed project aims to conserve groundwater by using allocated surface water from the Columbia River instead of well water for irrigation purposes. This goal would be accomplished by connecting a pipeline from the East Improvement District (EID) and running it to the Stanfield Irrigation District's (SID's) Canal. With this pipeline, 4,460 acres of irrigated agriculture would be able to use their primary water rights from SID longer and more efficiently before having to switch to their secondary well water rights. This project would also allow SID to pull less water from the Umatilla, leaving more water in the river. It is also anticipated that the project would also save on electric power pumping costs from the operation of deep water wells.

## Technical Review Team Score and Comments

**Combined Public Benefit Score: 8**

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
5	1	2	0

**Economic:** The proposed project would result in improvements to irrigation system efficiency and has the potential to reduce energy costs. The application could have been improved with supporting details and a clear explanation for the potential to create or retain jobs and the expected changes to the local economy.

**Environmental:** The proposed project as described in the application anticipates only trace environmental benefits. The application could be improved by including additional environmental benefits in the scope of the project.

**Social/Cultural:** The review team observed that several application questions were either not completed or very little information was provided to describe the expected benefits as a result of the proposed project. Additional information would improve the application.