



OREGON Clean Water State Revolving Fund



Fall 2020 | Volume 6 Issue 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Affordable loans for recovery and preparedness
- 2 COVID-19 and the water sector
- 3 America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative
- 3 DEQ's wastewater operator certification program
- 3 Sutherlin nears completion on innovative project
- 5 Upcoming events

Affordable loans for recovery and preparedness

Wildfire recovery in Oregon could take years, but efforts to prepare for future disasters are already underway. While the Clean Water State Revolving Fund cannot provide immediate funding following a disaster, the program offers the most affordable loans to finance preparedness planning, rebuilding and updating of wastewater and stormwater treatment systems. In addition, CWSRF offers eligible public agencies:

- Interim financing for pending federal funding
- Match funding for federal grants
- Co-funding
- Free technical assistance
- Up to \$500,000 principal forgiveness per eligible project
- 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30-year loan terms available

Eligible projects include:

- Disaster preparedness and security
- Repair and upgrade of facilities
- Damage mitigation from natural disasters
- Water or energy conservation upgrades
- Riparian restoration
- Wastewater system facility plans and studies



Debris along the McKenzie River resulting from the Holiday Farm fire.

- Private septic system replacement or sewer connection, via pass through loans
- Secondary treatment facilities
- Advanced wastewater treatment facilities
- Sludge disposal and management
- Interceptors, force mains and pumping stations
- Infiltration and inflow correction
- Major sewer replacement and rehabilitation
- Combined sewer overflow correction
- Collection system repair or upgrade
- Stormwater control projects
- Agricultural, forest-related and other nonpoint source control projects
- Irrigation modernization



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Help for current borrowers

Contact your [project officer](#) as soon as possible if there are financial or construction concerns following a natural disaster or other emergency.

New applicants

Eligible borrowers are public agencies, defined by [ORS 468.423](#) and include:

- State agency
- Incorporated city, county, sanitary authority
- School district, county service district, sanitary district, metropolitan service district
- Other special district authorized or required to construct water pollution control facilities
- Intergovernmental entity created by units of local government under ORS 190.003 to 190.130.
- Federally recognized Indian tribal government

Timeline

Application deadlines are the second Friday in December, April and August. Additional reviews will be held when five or more applications are received. The loan application process can take up to a year or more, depending on the complexity of the project. If you are not sure what type of project you need, or have financing questions, [we can help!](#)



DEQ public affairs specialist, Lauren Wirtis, looking out over a burned area in Jackson County.

Additional resources

Many organizations are offering support for communities affected by the wildfires:

- [DEQ](#)
- [The Willamette Partnership](#)
- [USDA-RD](#)
- [FEMA help](#)
- [Business Oregon](#)
- [FEMA public assistance grants](#)

COVID-19 and the water sector

COVID-19 is still impacting all aspects of communities, and all sectors of the economy. DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund project officers, engineers, managers and other staff are here to support loan applicants and borrowers during the ongoing pandemic.

Financial resources

The federal government has not provided infrastructure stimulus funding to help communities affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic. DEQ will reach out to applicants and borrowers if any new funds become available. Sign up for [Gov Delivery](#) for the latest program information.

DEQ's CWSRF is currently forecast to meet Oregon's demand for water quality infrastructure funding for the next 20 years, and we will continue to accept loan applications as usual.

CWSRF borrowers who have financial concerns related to their loan should contact Kathy Estes, Loan Specialist, at estes.kathy@deq.state.or.us or 503-229-6814.



Safety

In order to support physical distancing, CWSRF is providing alternatives to certain project requirements:

- Documents with scanned original signatures are now allowable
- Virtual or photographic site inspections can be arranged
- Virtual loan signing meetings may be available
- Adobe Sign online signature program is available for disbursement requests and loan agreements, more documents will be included in late 2020 or early 2021

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your [project officer](#).

Help for water utilities

The [Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network](#) provides utilities help in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and associated services from other utilities to restore critical operations during any type of emergency. Utilities can find [contact information](#) on each state's website or can contact EPA via [email](#).

EPA's [Pandemic Incident Action Checklist](#) is comprised of three different "rip & run" checklists that can help water utilities prepare for, respond to, and recover from a pandemic. Each checklist provides examples of actions that drinking water and wastewater systems can take.

Rural community assistance

For technical assistance or training needs relating to COVID-19 response for your water or wastewater system, please contact the Rural Community Assistance Partnership at info@rcap.org. More information can be found at <https://www.rcap.org/>

America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative

EPA announced the next step in an effort to address workforce challenges that are facing America's drinking water and wastewater utilities. [America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative](#) outlines public and private sector actions that will help recruit and retain the next generation of the water workforce through planning, technology training, and collaboration across the federal government and the water sector. The goal is to support workforce resiliency for water utilities, ensuring there is no disruption in vital wastewater services and to encourage the choice of water careers through education and outreach.

Currently, water utilities face challenges in recruiting, training, and retaining employees. These challenges are increased by roughly one-third of the water sector workforce eligible to retire in the next ten years. And, as the technologies that are used becomes more advanced, there is a growing need to train and employ people with specialized technical skills.

To learn more, visit <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-sector-workforce>.



DEQ's wastewater operator certification program

The Department of Environmental Quality administers Oregon's domestic wastewater system operators program. For information on testing and resources contact the Certification Program by [email](#) or by phone: 503-229-5349 or 503-229-5161.

Workforce Webinar Series

EPA is hosting a [webinar series](#) showing how utilities can address workforce challenges.

Sutherlin nears completion on innovative project

The City of Sutherlin, located in Douglas County, is nearing completion of a large upgrade to their wastewater treatment system. The project is notable both for its focus on water quality as well its inclusion of community partnerships. DEQ nominated the project for an EPA PISCES award, which annually recognizes outstanding projects financed by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Winners will be announced in late 2020.

The new facility features a 2.0-MGD (AWWF) activated-sludge treatment plant with UV disinfection, tertiary filtration, full laboratory and modern control system. The existing plant is being modified to chlorinate and to pump plant effluent to multiple users of recycled water, and it will provide aerobic digesters and a screw press for processing sludge. In order to ensure no discharges to Calapooya Creek during the summer months, a 90-acre effluent storage pond was purchased in anticipation of this project.

Other highlights of the project include:

Innovative financing

The city selected a 30-year bond purchase to maximize affordability. DEQ also provided \$500,000 of principal forgiveness.

Historic waters, modern uses

The 90-acre effluent storage pond which the city purchased in 2014 is named Ford’s Pond and was created in the 1940s by constructing a dam on Ford’s Creek for log storage. The water will be dechlorinated prior to storage in the pond.

Community engagement

Sutherlin recognized the value of Ford’s Pond for both recreational use and a nature reserve. In 2015 the city designated it as a park and entered into a partnership with the Friends of Ford’s Pond, a local community group, to create recreational opportunities.

Environmental and public health protection

The recycled water will be Class A quality. This is important because the recycled water is used to irrigate a golf course next to a subdivision and flows to Ford’s Pond, where minimizing nutrient loading is critical.

Problem solving

The project was guided by the need to address multiple and varied requirements. The solution contained these major elements:

- Use of a storage pond of proper volume to eliminate plant discharge to surface water during summertime; providing irrigation water deliveries required by multiple end users including a pasture, an olive farm, and a golf course with nearby houses
- Treating wastewater to standards required for both winter-season surface water discharge and for reuse
- A new-plant design, including solids-handling facilities, which is cost-effective and also repurposes the existing plant, to minimize cost and impact on ratepayers



A walkway in the new facility, looking south.



An artist’s rendering of Ford’s Pond after the improvements are made. Photo: Friends of Ford’s Pond.

THE BEST RATES ARE NOW EVEN BETTER

Revolving fund loans are kept affordable to better serve communities statewide and [interest rates are at an all-time low](#). Considering a water quality project? Now is a great time to speak to a CWSRF loan specialist to see if your community can take advantage of these historically low rates. Call 503-229-6814 for more information or [visit us online](#).

“The CWSRF program supports communities and improves water quality statewide.”

- CWSRF Program Charter





Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Clean Water State Revolving Fund
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (503) 229-LOAN (5626)
(800) 452-4011
CWSRFinfo@deq.state.or.us

MISSION STATEMENT

Oregon's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program supports communities by funding projects that improve water quality and environmental outcomes for the State of Oregon. The program is dedicated to working with small communities and on projects that increase financial and environmental sustainability, climate resiliency and water and energy efficiency.

- Program Charter

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Contacts

Northwest Region

Covering the counties of:
Clackamas, Clatsop,
Columbia, Multnomah,
Washington and
Tillamook

PROJECT OFFICER

Rebecca Kramer,
503-229-6018

Mailing address:

700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Western Region

Covering the counties of:
Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas,
Jackson, Josephine, Lane,
Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, and
Yamhill

PROJECT OFFICER

Alexis Cooley,
541-687-7341

Mailing address:

165 E. Seventh Ave., Ste 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Eastern Region

Covering the counties of: Baker,
Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant,
Harney, Hood River, Jefferson,
Klamath, Lake, Wasco, Sherman,
Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla,
Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler

PROJECT OFFICER

Bonnie Lamb, 541-633-2027

Mailing address:

475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701

DEQ Headquarters

Lynn Barlow,
Program Manager,
503-229-6896

Lee Ann Lawrence, Program
Coordinator,
503-229-5622

Kathy Estes, Loan Specialist

Oscar Orejel, Loan Specialist

Chris Marko, Program Analyst

Jennifer Kenny, Program Analyst

Mailing address:

Clean Water State
Revolving Fund
700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ransom Horner-Richardson, 541-633-2080

Mailing address: 475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110, Bend, OR 97701

Upcoming events

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

2020 deadlines for receiving applications at DEQ
by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the due date:*

DECEMBER 11, 2020

APRIL 9, 2021

AUGUST 13, 2021

*An additional review will be scheduled if five or more
applications are received between set deadlines

Details at [https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/cwsrf/
Pages/CWSRF-Application.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/cwsrf/Pages/CWSRF-Application.aspx)

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

DEC 10 Budgeting for Small Water Systems.
Details at www.events.rcac.org

The Oregon Association of Water Utilities

DEC 7-10 22nd Annual End of Year Operators
Conference. Details at <https://oawu.net>

Northwest Environmental Business Council

DEC 8-9 Business & the Environment Annual
Conference. Details at [https://
businessandenvironment.com/](https://businessandenvironment.com/)

Environmental Protection Agency Webinars

Ongoing webinars on how revolving loan funds can
help communities. Details at www.epa.gov/cwsrf

The Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

PNCWA is offering half day workshops called the
Summit Series, covering a variety of topics including
Leadership/Workforce Development, Stormwater and
more. Visit PNCWA online for [details](#).

Accessibility

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request.
Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.