

# Water Infrastructure Investment Opportunities

By Melissa Murphy, Business Oregon

Land Acquisition and Conservation Workshop  
November 2022



# Overview

- Enhanced Federal Investment in Infrastructure
- SDWRLF and SIPP Funding
- BIL Challenges and Opportunities
- Source Water Protection Grants

# Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund

- Planning, design, and construction project loans for community water systems and nonprofit non-community water systems.
- Offers below market interest rates and incentive in the form of loan principal forgiveness.
- Projects that resolve current health and or compliance issues, or address technical, managerial or financial problems through consolidation receive priority funding and greater financial incentives.
- Federal crosscutters apply (Davis-Bacon, AIS, and new BABA)
- Next Letters of Interest submission date is March 15, 2023.

# Additional Considerations for SDWRLF

- Requires a completed feasibility study, up-to-date master plans are accepted
  - Inform stakeholders of existing and future issues for next 20 years (50 years for seismic)
    - Water quality, supply level, infrastructure condition/adequacy
    - Foreseeable **future** changes to water quality, supply level, infrastructure
    - Compliance with existing regulations, challenges posed by future regulation
- Shovel ready projects and a readiness to proceed is considered in prioritization of funding.

# Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP)

- Funding up to \$20,000 per project
- 100% forgivable loan
- A water system may be awarded SIPP funds once every three years
- **Feasibility Studies** - studies to evaluate infrastructure project feasibility.
- **Asset Management Plan** - plan for managing water system infrastructure assets
- **System Partnership Studies** - studies to evaluate potential for system consolidation / regionalization
- **Water Rate Analysis** - analysis of water system rate charges, structure, and adequacy
- **Leak Detection Studies** - studies to detect water system leakage and identify possible solutions
- **Security Risk and Vulnerability Studies** - studies or assessments to evaluate infrastructure and information security, including cybersecurity.
- **Water System Master Plan for water systems with < 300 connections** - long-range plan to evaluate the needs of the water system and make recommendations for future improvements
- **Seismic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans**

# Circuit Rider Assistance

- Circuit Riders to provide short-term (typically 10 hours or less) on-site technical and engineering assistance for community water systems serving populations under 10,000, as well as nonprofit transient and non-transient water systems. For these systems, services are free.
  - **Funding application assistance**
  - **Financing options and strategies**
- See OHA website for more!

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Background

- BIL also referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed 11/15/2021
- Provides funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure through existing EPA funded programs
- SDWRLF– Oregon Health Authority and Business Oregon joint implementation
- 5 years of enhanced DWSRF funding in addition to that typically received; three distinct funding buckets

# BIL Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenge: New federal requirements (BABA)
- Opportunity: Once in a generation investment in infrastructure
- Opportunity: Assist communities that lack capacity and target equitable outcomes



# Source Water Protection Grants (DWSP)

- **Overview**

- Low Interest Loans up to \$100,000, Grants up to \$50,000
- Eligible activities include those that lead to risk reduction within the delineated source water area or would contribute to a reduction in contaminant concentration within the active drinking water source.

- **Eligibility**

- Any Public and Privately-owned Community and Nonprofit Non-Community water systems with a completed Source Water Assessment are eligible for funds.
- The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) completed source water assessments for all public water systems in the state between 2000 and 2005.
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the OHA or DEQ staff with questions about project ideas and/or project eligibility.

# Source Water Cont.

- **Updated Delineations (mapping the source protection boundary)**
- **Enhanced Assessments (Inventories, Evaluations of threats)**
- **Source Protection Planning (Education, BMPs, Conservation plans, restoration plans, plans for future easement or land acquisition)**
- **Purchase of lands within the drinking water source area (funded only via low interest loans)**
- **Implementation – Dozens of ideas on the OHA page**
  - Hazardous waste collection events, pesticide application, spill protection, conservation easements, educational materials, legal studies for feasibility of purchasing land, and more.

# Contacts & Web Presence

- Contact a Business Oregon Regional Development Officer today!
- [www.Oregon.gov/biz](http://www.Oregon.gov/biz) - Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund
- [www.Oregon.gov/bil](http://www.Oregon.gov/bil) – OHA Webpage