



## Department of Land Conservation and Development

### 2021-23 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

Please complete each section in the form below. Type or write requested information in the spaces provided. **Submit completed applications by October 1, 2021.**

**Date of Application:** September 30, 2021

**Applicant:** Morrow County on behalf of the Cities of Lone, Lexington and Heppner  
(If council of governments, please also include the recipient jurisdiction name if applicable)

**Street Address:** 205 Third Street

**City:** Irrigon

**Zip:** 97844

**Contact name and title:** Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

**Contact e-mail address:** tmabbott@co.morrow.or.us

**Contact phone number:** 541-922-4624

**Grant request amount (in whole dollars):** \$34,500

**Local Contribution (recommended but not required):** \$5,000 plus in-kind

**Project Title:**

Willow Creek Valley Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth

**Project summary:** (Summarize the project and products in 50 words or fewer)

Develop a Goal 9 Economic Development and Employment Lands Assessment to include a traditional Economic Opportunity Analysis (EOA) along with development of a regional "strategy for growth" for the three cities in the Willow Creek Valley (WCV) region of Morrow County. Project will have a special focus on serving underserved and disadvantaged populations.

**Project Description & Work Program**

Please describe the proposed project, addressing each of the following in an attachment.

**Please see attached.**

- A. Goals and Objectives.** State the goals or overall purpose of the project. Describe particular objective(s) the community hopes to accomplish. Please indicate whether this is a stand-alone project or is part of a longer multi-year program. If it is the latter, describe any previous work completed, subsequent phases and expected results, and how work beyond this project will

be funded.

## **Please see attached Scope of Work.**

**B. Products and Outcomes.** Clearly describe the product(s) and outcome(s) expected from the proposed project. Briefly describe any anticipated significant effect the project would have on development, livability, regulatory streamlining, and compliance with federal requirements, socioeconomic gains, and other relevant factors.

**C. Equity and Inclusion Considerations.** Using the [TA Grant Equity Guidance](#), identify priority populations in the project planning area. Describe the anticipated impact of your proposed project on priority populations. Describe a preliminary outreach and engagement plan with specific goals and outcomes for participation of priority populations in the project. Include specific tasks and products related to the outreach and engagement plan in sections D and E.

### **D. Work Program, Timeline & Payment.**

**1. Tasks and Products:** List and describe the major tasks and subtasks, with:

- The title of the task
- Steps to complete task
- The interim and final products for each task

**2. Timeline:** List all dates for the project including tentative start date after the contract is signed, task completion dates, and project completion date. If the project is part of a multi-year program, provide an overview of the expected timelines in sequence of expected start dates and completion date for each phase and describe subsequent phases to be completed.

**3. Payment Schedule:** Develop a requested payment schedule showing amount of interim and final payments. Include the products that will be provided with each payment request. The payment schedule should generally include no more than two payments – an interim and final payment.

**E. Evaluation Criteria.** Include a statement in the narrative that addresses the program priorities and evaluation criteria presented in the application instructions (“Eligible Projects and Evaluation Criteria”).

**F. Project Partners.** List any other public or private entities that will participate in the project, including federal and state agencies, council of governments, city and county governments, and special districts. Briefly describe the role of each (*e.g.*, will perform work under the grant; will advise; will contribute information or services, etc.).

**G. Advisory Committees.** List any advisory committee or other committees that will participate in the project to satisfy the local citizen involvement program. Include specific goals for participation by priority populations in advisory committees.

**I. Cost-Sharing and Local Contribution.** DLCD funds are only a part of overall project costs; please identify sources and amounts of other funds or services that will contribute to the project’s

success. Cost-sharing (match) is not required but could be a contributing factor to the success of the application.

Will a consultant be retained to assist in completing grant products? Yes ☒ No ☐

Does the applicant intend to seek technical assistance from DLCD's equity and inclusion consultant? Yes ☒ No ☐ ([See TA Grant Equity Guidance](#))

### **Local Official Support**

The application ***must include a resolution or letter from the governing body*** of the city, county, district, or tribe demonstrating support for the project. If the applicant is a council of governments on behalf of a city, a letter or resolution from the city council supporting the application must be included. *The application will not be complete if it does not include this item.* The letter of support may be received by DLCD after the application submittal deadline, but it must be received before a grant is awarded.

### **Product Request Summary**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>		<b>Local Contribution</b>		<b>Total Budget</b>
1	\$	<u>3000</u>	\$	<u>1000</u>	\$ <u>4000</u>
2	\$	<u>6000</u>	\$	<u>1000</u>	\$ <u>7000</u>
3	\$	<u>6000</u>	\$	<u>1000</u>	\$ <u>7000</u>
4	\$	<u>8000</u>	\$	<u>1000</u>	\$ <u>9000</u>
5	\$	<u>5000</u>	\$	<u>1000</u>	\$ <u>6000</u>
6	\$	<u>5000</u>	\$	<u>0</u>	\$ <u>5000</u>
7	\$	<u>1500</u>	\$	<u>0</u>	\$ <u>1500</u>
8	\$	<u>          </u>	\$	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<hr/>					
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<u>34500</u>	\$	<u>5000</u>	\$ <u>39500</u>

Submit your application with all supplemental information to:

Gordon Howard, Community Services Division Manager

E-mail (preferred): [DLCD.GFGrant@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:DLCD.GFGrant@dlcd.oregon.gov)

Mail: Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N.E., Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-503-856-6935

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:      October 1, 2021**

# **Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth Project for Morrow County and Cities of Lone, Lexington and Heppner located in the Willow Creek Valley.**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PROGRAM**

Develop a Goal 9 Economic Development and Employment Lands Assessment to include a traditional Economic Opportunity Analysis (EOA) along with development of a regional “strategy for growth” for the three cities in the Willow Creek Valley (WCV) region of Morrow County. The EOA component will include an economic and lands analysis of employment lands (commercial and industrial) for each city, in compliance with OAR 660-009-0015 regarding Goal 9 and urban growth boundaries. In addition to the traditional EOA, this project will include a comprehensive “strategy for growth” that will provide each of the participating cities with specific tools to chart a path forward toward rural sustainability. Cities and partnering Morrow County will have a special focus on serving historically underserved and disadvantaged populations.

This project builds on the 2019 Housing Strategies Report which included a Buildable Lands Inventory (BLI) and an update to Goal 10 Housing. A Housing Implementation Grant (HB2001-2003 PI Grant) application was submitted to implement two strategies from the 2019 report. This Goal 9 Economic Development project would complement the 2019 Housing Strategies Report and the proposed Housing Implementation Project. This combined work would significantly advance several of the Greater Eastern Oregon Priorities adopted by the Greater Eastern Oregon Advisory Committee on August 15, 2019.

If both grants are awarded, county and cities would like to explore the possibility of combining the projects and consultant. Together, the two projects and final products would position the cities and their county, port and non-profit groups in an ideal position to develop housing and employment lands. Sustainability and prosperity are the over-arching objectives which can be achieved from a planning perspective with these grants.

Importantly, both grant projects will include special outreach to minority and under served populations (see attached census table summary). While the non-white population census is very low and the poverty numbers are high, applicant is eager to have guidance from the DLCD equity and inclusion consultant on methods to include those persons in the process and to plan for them in the products. The Willow Creek Valley demographic is starkly contrasted to Cities of Irrigon and Boardman who have large Hispanic populations. Some examples of outreach include attending social events, provide snacks and child care, conduct outreach at the schools and providing bilingual services.

## **I. PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND MAJOR DELIVERABLES**

The objective of this project is to prepare a traditional EOA for three cities in Morrow County, Ione, Lexington and Heppner, in accordance with OAR 660-009, and, develop a strategy for growth with specific projects to implement the EOA strategy. This will result in the following deliverables:

### **Part A – Traditional EOA for each City**

- Analysis of national, state, regional, county, and local economic trends
- An inventory of existing developed (redevelopable) and vacant industrial and other employment lands.
- An inventory of *potential* employment (industrial and commercial) lands
- An analysis of targeted industries and economic development strategies for the potential employment lands.
- Summary of community economic development potential of existing employment lands
- Draft Economic Opportunities Analysis for the unincorporated areas in Morrow County.
- Maps (GIS) for each city and unincorporated Morrow County
- Final Economic Opportunities Analysis for the unincorporated areas in Morrow County.

### **Part B – Strategies for Growth**

- Convene community members to develop a vision for the future
- Identify community and economic development goals related to the vision
- Prioritize goals
- Develop a strategy to implement the top two (or three) goals
- Relate the strategy to land supply and development constraints and opportunities.

## **II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**County:** Overall management of the Project will be the responsibility of the County. County Planning Director will be the principal point of contact and will coordinate with DLCD's Contract Administrator and the Consultant on all matters dealing with the Project.

Specific project management duties of the County include:

- a. Coordinating project schedule and deliverables with consultant;
- b. Coordinating County staff and Consultant work;
- c. Convening an initial Kick-off meeting with participating persons, cities, DLCD, Greater Eastern Oregon Economic Development District, Port of Morrow, Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group, Ione Community Agri Business Organization and consultant;
- d. Working with DLCD equity and inclusion consultant to develop outreach and inclusion for the project;
- e. Providing background information and a GIS zoning and comprehensive plan map layers;
- f. Reviewing and editing or commenting on consultant work;
- g. Providing project status updates and feedback with consultant;
- h. Ensuring the appointing of project advisory committee; and

- i. Supporting the noticing, scheduling, and managing advisory committee meetings and public meetings.

***Cities:***

- a. Working with the County to coordinate project schedule and deliverables;
- b. Working with County and DLCD equity and inclusion consultant;
- c. Participating in the initial kick off meeting (zoom call);
- d. Reviewing and commenting on the consultant's work;
- e. Providing background information, local knowledge of sites;
- f. Appointing a project advisory committee, or appoint members to a County-wide Advisory Committee;
- g. Scheduling and managing advisory committee meetings and a public meeting;
- h. Preparing and distributing meeting notices for advisory committee and public meetings;
- i. Creating or customizing meeting agendas and sign-in sheets;
- j. Assisting the Consultant with meeting facilitation; and
- k. Reviewing and commenting on meeting summaries and other Consultant task deliverables.

**III. KEY CONTACTS**

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director  
Morrow County  
215 NE Main Street  
Irrigon, Oregon 97844

City contact information:

City	Contact Name	Email	Telephone Fax	Mailing Address
1. Heppner	Kraig Cutsforth, City Manager	<a href="mailto:heppner@centurytel.net">heppner@centurytel.net</a>	Phone: 541.676-9618 Fax: 541-676-9650	111 N Main PO Box 756 Heppner, OR 97837
2. Ione	Elizabeth Petterson, City Manager	<a href="mailto:cityofioneor@gmail.com">cityofioneor@gmail.com</a>	Phone: 541-422-7414	285 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Ione, OR 97843
3. Lexington	Janette Eldridge, Town Recorder	<a href="mailto:lexingtonoregon@gmail.com">lexingtonoregon@gmail.com</a>	Phone: 541-989-8515	425 F Street Lexington, OR 97839

Consultant: To be selected by city-county-port-WCVEDG advisory committee.

#### **IV. SCOPE OF WORK**

The Morrow County Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategies for Growth Project (Project) for the Willow Creek Valley cities in Morrow County is composed of the following tasks. The County and Consultant will create interim project deadlines as needed to manage the project (see Task 1). All Consultant work must be completed no later than May 30, 2023.

##### **Task 1. Kick-off Meetings and Project Work Plan**

**Task 1a.** Participate in kick-off meetings (conference calls). The purpose of the meetings is to ensure agreement amongst all Participating Cities and County regarding the roles and responsibilities, a shared understanding of available data, and the Project schedule. These meetings should also be used to confirm the number and make-up of the advisory committees needed. The maximum number of advisory committees for this Project is five (5). Cities may be grouped geographically, or based on other characteristics, as deemed acceptable to the parties involved. The information gathered via the kick-off meetings will inform the creation of a Project Work Plan.

**Task 1b.** The Project Work Plan shall include a Project schedule, roles and responsibilities, data availability, and a schedule for presenting information and facilitating advisory committee meetings for the assigned cities and counties.

##### **Task 1 Consultant Deliverables**

- Conduct three (3) kick-off meetings via conference calls (one for each city).
- Create one (1) Project Work Plan that addresses all roles and responsibilities, tasks, timelines, and Deliverables for all Participating Cities and County.
- Coordinate with DLCD equity and inclusion consultant to refine work plan and outreach plan.

##### **Task 1 County Deliverables**

- Schedule and convene kick-off meetings.
- Review and comment on draft Project Work Plan.
- Provide background information and any GIS zoning and comprehensive plan map layers available and necessary for the project.
- Coordinate with DLCD equity and inclusion consultant to refine work plan and outreach plan.



### **Task 1 City Deliverables**

- Participate in kick off meeting.
- Provide background information and any GIS zoning and comprehensive plan map layers. (County will assist with maps.)
- Appoint a project advisory committee.
- Review and comment on draft Project Work Plan.
- Coordinate with DLCD equity and inclusion consultant to refine work plan and outreach plan.

### **Task 2. Summarize National, State, Regional, County and Local Trends; Identify Required Site Types**

Identify the major categories of industrial or other employment uses that could reasonably be expected to locate or expand in the planning area based on information about national, state, regional, county or local trends. This review of trends is the principal basis for estimating future industrial and other employment uses. A use or category of use could reasonably be expected to expand or locate in the planning area if the area possesses the appropriate locational factors for the use or category of use. The Contractor is strongly encouraged to analyze trends and establish employment projections in a geographic area larger than the planning area to determine the percentage of employment growth reasonably expected to be captured for the planning area based on the assessment of community economic development potential. As a reference, the Consultant shall refer to the most recent Port of Morrow Strategic Plan, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) of the regional Economic Development District, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC), Strategy and Plan for the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development (WCVED) and the Ione-Community Agribusiness Association (ICABO).

Identify the number of sites by type reasonably expected to be needed to accommodate the expected employment growth based on the site characteristics typical of expected uses. The Contractor shall examine existing firms in the planning area to identify the types of sites that may be needed for expansion. Industrial or other employment uses with compatible site characteristics may be grouped together into common site categories. The Contractor shall present a draft summary of trends and site types to each advisory committee. The Contractor must include, in the draft Economic Opportunities Analyses required by Task 5, the updates and revisions to the summaries of trends (Trend reports) and inventories of site types.

### **Task 2 Consultant Deliverables**

- Create three (3) Trend reports/documents: one (1) for each city. The Trend reports must include trend summaries and needed site types for each city. (An alternative may be considered, to create a single trend report for the Willow Creek Valley.)
- Draft and finalize advisory committee meeting summaries as specified in Task 1.

### **Task 2 County Deliverables**

- Review and comment on trend reports.
- Participate in advisory committee meetings.

### **Task 2 City Deliverables**

- Review and comment on trend report.
- Schedule advisory committee meetings.
- Prepare and distribute meeting notices for advisory committee meeting.
- Create meeting agenda and sign in sheet.
- Review and comment on meeting summary.

### **Task 3. Develop an Inventory of Industrial and Other Employment Lands**

Develop inventories of vacant and developed lands within the planning area designated for industrial or other employment use in accordance with OAR 660-009-0015(3). Present the inventories to the advisory committees for confirmation. The Contractor must include, in the draft Economic Opportunities Analyses required by Task 5, updates and revisions to the inventories of vacant and developed lands.

### **Task 3 Consultant Deliverables**

- Create three (3) inventories of vacant and developed lands: one (1) for each city. The inventories must include maps and narrative descriptions summarizing the inventory of industrial and other employment lands for each of the 3 cities.
- Draft and final advisory committee meeting summaries.

### **Task 3 County Deliverables**

- Review and comment on inventory and associated reports.
- Participate in advisory committee meetings.

### **Task 3 City Deliverables**

- Review and comment on inventory and associated report.
- Provide local knowledge of industrial and other employment sites and any known limitations, including provision of services.
- Schedule advisory committee meetings.

- Prepare and distribute meeting notices for advisory committee meeting.
- Create meeting agenda and sign in sheet.
- Review and comment on meeting summary.

#### **Task 4. Identify Community Economic Development Potential; Conduct Public Meetings**

Based on Tasks 1-3 above, prepare an Assessment of Community Economic Development Potential as described in OAR 660-009-0015(4). Present this assessment along with a summary of trends (Task 2) and inventory information (Task 3) to the community at public meetings and other outreach events or activities identified by DLCD equity and inclusion consultation. Additionally, these meetings and outreach events will be the platform for developing a list of three priorities for each community.

Identify revisions in a summary and the draft Economic Opportunities Analysis.

Public meetings and Outreach: The number of meetings and the meeting logistics must be coordinated with the Participating Cities, County, Port of Morrow, WCVEDG, GEODC and other stakeholders. It may be possible to group cities within a county based on geography or other relevant characteristics. The maximum number of public meetings is six, two for each city.

#### **Task 4 Consultant Deliverables**

- Prepare six (6) draft Assessments of Community Economic Development Potential for each city participating in this Project. The information should be organized and delivered into three (6) Assessments: one (1) for each city and one for Morrow County.
- Facilitate public meetings as determined in coordination with the Participating Cities and Counties. The maximum number of public meetings is six (6).

#### **Task 4 County Deliverables**

- Review and comment on Assessments of Community Economic Development potential.
- Participate in public meetings as practical.

#### **Task 4 City Deliverables**

- Review and comment on Assessment of Community Economic Development potential.
- Schedule and participate in a public meeting.
- Prepare and distribute meeting notices for the public meeting.
- Create meeting agenda and sign in sheet.

### **Task 5. Prepare Draft Economic Opportunities Analyses**

Taking information from Tasks 2-4, prepare three (3) draft Economic Opportunities Analyses (EOA) in accordance with OAR 660-009-0015 for the Participating Cities. Prepare a simple list of recommended next steps and include that list with the draft Economic Opportunities Analyses. Present all materials to the advisory committees (established in Task 1) for review. Incorporate revisions from the advisory committees into the final Economic Opportunities Analyses.

#### **Task 5 Consultant Deliverables**

- Three (3) Draft Economic Opportunities Analyses.
- Draft and final advisory committee meeting summaries.

#### **Task 5 County Deliverables**

- Review and comment on the Draft EOAs.
- Participate in advisory committee meetings as practical.

#### **Task 5 City Deliverables**

- Review and comment on the Draft EOA.
- Schedule advisory committee meetings.
- Prepare and distribute meeting notices for advisory committee meeting.
- Create meeting agenda and sign in sheet.
- Review and comment on meeting summary.

### **Task 6. Prepare Final Economic Opportunities Analyses**

As a result of advisory committee meeting discussion and the review comments provided in Task 5, prepare a final, hearings-ready Economic Opportunities Analyses for the Participating Cities in Morrow County. And, prepare a “economic strategy for each city with detail of specific steps for each to implement.

#### **Task 6 Consultant Deliverables**

- Revised draft, Economic Opportunities Analyses due June 15, 2024. Any required revisions following DLCD’s, and the Participating Cities’ and Counties’ reviews, shall be included in the Final Economic Opportunities Analyses, due June 30, 2024.
- Final, hearings-ready Economic Opportunities Analyses.

### **Task 6 County Deliverables**

- Review and comment on Revised Draft EOAs.
- Confirm receipt of final, hearings-ready EOA for Morrow County cities.

### **Task 6 City Deliverables**

- Review and comment on Revised Draft EOA.
- Review and comment on Economic Development Strategy and Priorities

### **Task 7: Ordinance Amendment Adoption**

City will conduct Planning Commission and City Council hearings to consider adoption of the EOA provided by consultant with co-adoption by the County where appropriate for areas outside city limits, inside urban growth boundaries. Notice of the hearings will be provided as required by City and County ordinance and state law. While the outcome of the hearings cannot be pre-determined, every reasonable effort to complete final adoption of the EOA will be made. The Economic Development Strategy and Priorities does not require a land use hearing (legislative code amendment) and may be adopted by Resolution by each city.

### **Task 7 Consultant Deliverables**

None.

### **Task 7 City Deliverables**

- Planning commission hearing notice.
- Hearing materials, including draft amendments, staff reports, and other background documents as needed.
- City council hearing notice.

### **Task 7 County Deliverables**

- Co-adoption of the final EOAs.
- Assist Cities if requested, in preparation of Notice of Proposed Amendment (“35-day notice”) as required by OAR 660-018-0021 for City public hearings.
- Draft Planning Commission hearing notice for cities, if requested.
- Assist cities with hearing materials, including draft amendments, staff reports, and other background documents as needed.
- Schedule for review by County Board of Commissioners.
- Notice of adoption by city and county as required by OAR 660-018-0021.

## Summary of Census Information on Ione, Heppner, and Lexington

### Ione

#### Population Summary:

White alone	255
Black or African American alone	2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1
Asian alone	1
Some Other Race alone	31
Population of Two or more Races	47

Growth Rate:	0.97%
2010 Population:	329
2020 Population:	337

Median Household income:	\$53,846.00
Percent in Poverty:	20.70%

### Heppner

#### Population Summary:

White alone	1039
Black or African American alone	3
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	10
Asian alone	4
Some Other Race alone	36
Population of Two or more Races	95

Growth Rate:	-8%
2010 Population:	1,291
2020 Population:	1,187

Median Household income:	\$48,571.00
Percent in Poverty:	8.20%

## Lexington

### Population Summary:

White alone	222
Black or African American alone	0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	5
Asian alone	1
Some Other Race alone	3
Population of Two or more Races	7

Growth Rate: N/A

2010 Population: 238

2020 Population: 238

Median Household income: \$33,125.00

Percent in Poverty: 8.90%

Source: 2020 US Census

# GREATER EASTERN PRIORITIES

Adopted August 15, 2019

The following priorities are all required to advance the regional economy and help support current and emerging businesses in Greater Eastern Oregon. Support for traded sector, small business and entrepreneurial job growth and retention is the

## Natural resources utilization

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- Support forestry, agriculture, mining, and recreation sectors.

## Water management and development

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- Helping promote the regional workforce development opportunities to meet current and future industry needs and address issues related to workforce availability such as childcare, training and education.

## Workforce housing availability

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- Increase housing availability across types and values.

## Competitive rural communities

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- Access to services that create competitive rural communities including broadband, child care services, an engaged entrepreneurial ecosystem, downtown revitalization and multi-model transportation to attract growth, development, and workforce.

## Infrastructure for marketable industrial lands

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- Increase availability of sewer, water, roads, and other investments to be competitive in attracting business development opportunities.

## Broadband

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- Support rural Oregon broadband development as a key economic development driver for rural communities.





P.O. Box 788 • Heppner, OR 97836  
541-676-5613  
[www.co.morrow.or.us](http://www.co.morrow.or.us)

## Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Don Russell, Chair  
Commissioner Jim Doherty  
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

September 29, 2021

Gordon Howard, Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N.W., Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Technical Assistance Grant Application – Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy  
for Growth Project for Morrow County and Cities in Morrow County

Dear Mr. Howard,

The Morrow County Planning Department is submitting a Technical Assistance Grant application on behalf of the Cities of Ione, Lexington and Heppner. The Board of Commissioners is fully supportive of this application. Initially, we asked our Planning Director to include all five cities in Morrow County. However, the two larger cities, Irrigon and Boardman, declined due to other competing priorities for their staff. We expect we may work with those cities and make a similar application in the future.

The proposed partnership will prove beneficial, enabling our County Planning staff to focus their efforts on the most rural part of Morrow County, the Willow Creek Valley. While each of the three cities has full-time staff, they do not have professional planning staff or staff dedicated to community development. Morrow County provides support to cities where and when we are able, to add value to their mission, such is the case with this grant application.

Ione, Lexington and Heppner have had very low growth rates over the past two decades. And, each city would like to turn around and have modest growth. An adequate employment lands analysis and a strategy to implement would set the foundation for future growth. The County and cities also have a strong desire to meet the needs of traditionally underserved populations.

We appreciate the availability of grant funds and the opportunity to foster this city-county partnership. Our Planning Director serves as the lead applicant and will also serve as the grant manager and project manager. Again, we fully support this project and are hopeful it will set the Valley on a path to sustainable and inclusive growth.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Russell", is written over a horizontal line.

Don Russell, Chair  
Morrow County Board of Commissioners



P.O. Box 361  
Ione, Oregon 97843  
Email: [cityofioneor@gmail.com](mailto:cityofioneor@gmail.com)  
Phone: 541-422-7414 Fax: 541-422-7179

September 23, 2021

Gordon Howard  
Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Howard:

The City of Ione is pleased to support Morrow County's application for the 2021-23 Department of Land Conservation and Development Technical Assistance Grant. Morrow County's grant proposal shares the City of Ione's mission for growth, diversity, and development. Funding this grant would benefit not only Ione but Morrow County as a whole.

Currently, Ione is in the planning process of building a new school and sewer system. It is our hope that the Goal 9 Economic Opportunity Analysis project, together with the Housing Implementation grant will give us specific tools to develop infrastructure and other programs that will attract individuals and families to our city.

The City of Ione welcomes the opportunity to form a partnership with Morrow County and the communities of Heppner, and Lexington to achieve the objectives of this grant.

The City Council of Ione would like to thank you for considering this grant proposal. We look forward to a positive outcome.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodrick Taylor, Mayor

# **Town of Lexington**

P.O. Box 416 Lexington, OR 97839

Phone: 541-989-8515 Email: [lexington.oregon@gmail.com](mailto:lexington.oregon@gmail.com)

**Mayor:**

Juli Kennedy

**Recorder:**

Janette Eldrige



**Council Members:**

Bill Beard

Bobbi Gordon

Will Lemmon

9/22/2021

Gordon Howard

Community Services Division Manager

Department of Land Conservation and

Development 635 Capitol Street N.W., Suite 150

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Technical Assistance Grant

Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth Project for Morrow  
County and Cities in Morrow County

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Town of Lexington has had very low growth rates. We desire to have adequate lands and a strategy that would enable us to grow our community and diversify and increase our population.

We appreciate the availability of grant funds and the opportunity to participate in this city-county application. We understand Morrow County is the lead applicant. If awarded, city will collaborate with county and other cities to refine an appropriate scope of work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Janette Eldrige  
Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



September 9, 2021

Gordon Howard  
Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N.W., Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Technical Assistance Grant  
Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth Project for Morrow County  
and Cities in Morrow County

Dear Mr. Howard:

The City of Heppner has had very low growth rates over the past two decades. We desire to have adequate lands and a strategy that would enable us to grow our community and diversify and increase our population.

We appreciate the availability of grant funds and the opportunity to participate in this city-county application. We understand Morrow County is the lead applicant. If awarded, city will collaborate with county and other cities to refine an appropriate scope of work.

Thank you for your consideration.

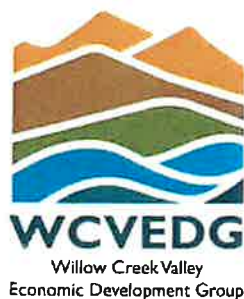
Sincerely,

Mayor  
James C Kindle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Kindle", is written over the printed name.

**THE CITY OF HEPPNER**

111 NORTH MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 756 • HEPPNER, OREGON 97836  
PHONE: (541) 676-9618 • FAX (541) 676-9650 • E-MAIL: heppner@centurytel.net • WEBSITE: <https://cityofheppner.com>



DATE 09/30/21

Gordon Howard  
Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N.W., Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Technical Assistance Grant  
Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth Project for Cities of Lone,  
Lexington and Heppner, located in the Willow Creek Valley region of Morrow County

Dear Mr. Howard:

Willow Creek Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) is a nonprofit economic development organization. We were formed to support the communities of South Morrow County, specifically the Cities of Lone, Lexington and Heppner. We are funded by the County and Columbia River Enterprise Zone. WCVEDG's goal is to assist these communities to retain and attract businesses and to assist with housing and business development.

We support the proposed city-county Technical Assistance Grant Application to develop a Goal 9 Economic Development and Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) and economic strategy for the Willow Creek Valley.

We understand Morrow County is the lead applicant for the cities. WCVEDG is supportive of this grant application and will lend program support when it is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim Cutsforth', is written over a horizontal line.

Kim Cutsforth  
Chair  
WCVEDG

October 1, 2021

Gordon Howard  
Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street N.W., Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Technical Assistance Grant  
Economic Opportunities Analysis and Strategy for Growth Project for Cities of Lone, Lexington  
and Heppner, located in the Willow Creek Valley region of Morrow County

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Port of Morrow is the county wide economic development district. While we specialize in industrial development on lands in our Industrial Park along the Columbia River, we support economic development activities throughout Morrow County. Due to their remote location and the historical dependency on timber, the Cities of Lone, Lexington and Heppner are more challenging areas to attract businesses.

We are pleased that many residents of those cities have found employment at businesses in the Port Industrial Park. But we also value and support commercial and industrial development within those cities. To that end, we support the proposed city-county Technical Assistance Grant Application to develop a Goal 9 Economic Development and Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) and economic strategy for the Willow Creek Valley.

We understand Morrow County is the lead applicant for the cities. The Port is supportive of this grant application and will lend technical support where we have staffing availability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Mittelsdorf,  
Economic Development Director  
PORT OF MORROW