

Pipeline

Governor Kulongoski announces \$27.8 million in federal stimulus awards

18 Oregon communities are awarded stimulus funds for safe drinking water projects, creating 500 jobs across the state

Oregon communities responded in a big way to the federal stimulus funding made available through U.S. EPA. We received 149 letters of interest describing safe drinking water projects totaling nearly \$335 million, far exceeding the \$28 million Oregon allotment of stimulus funds. While we did not have the resources to fund all of these worthy projects, we greatly appreciate all the communities that came forward to give a clearer statewide picture of drinking water infrastructure needs. We also appreciate the hard work of DHS and Oregon Economic and Community Development Department staff who worked swiftly, thoughtfully and carefully to carry out the analysis, rating and ranking of the submitted projects.

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Operator certification corner

New distance learning training becomes available: Basics for Small Water Systems in Oregon

by Dottie Reynolds

The Operator Certification Program has developed an online course for small water systems. This course, "Basics for Small Water Systems in Oregon" is the online version of the training course for certification for small (S) water systems. The online course will soon be available by going to <http://Oregon.gov/dhs/ph/dwp/certif>. There you will find a link to the online course. The online course is the same training and is now offered as an option to the classroom training held throughout the state every year for those needing CEUs.

We are eager to hear any feedback you might have on the course. Please e-mail the DWP at dottie.e.reynolds@state.or.us.

The online training is approved for six CEUs to satisfy the professional growth requirement. Remember, to renew your Small Water System Operator Certificate, you must take the classroom training, or now the new distance learning training, once every three (3) years.

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Stimulus ...continued from page 1

Reprinted below in its entirety is the Governor's announcement of the federal stimulus awards.

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Governor Kulongoski announces \$27.8 million in federal stimulus awards

18 Oregon communities are awarded stimulus funds for safe drinking water projects, creating 500 jobs across the state

(Salem, May 20, 2009) - Governor Ted Kulongoski today announced that the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) awarded federal recovery funds to 18 Oregon community water systems totaling \$27.8 million to help construct and improve to drinking water systems across the state.

"These funds will help communities across the state provide clean and safe drinking water while also creating more than 500 construction jobs for Oregonians," said Governor Ted Kulongoski. "These dollars will deliver projects from Warrenton to Elgin and Fern Valley to Portland to improve the public health of thousands of Oregonians while also investing in these local economies."

The federal recovery dollars are part of \$2 billion awarded nationwide by Environmental Protection Agency to fund drinking water infrastructure projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) sets the standards for the drinking water system improvements and determines eligible projects while OECDD works with applicants across the state to develop financing packages and manage the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF).

"By leveraging these federal stimulus dollars with existing state safe drinking water funds we have enabled 18 Oregon communities to fully fund pending construction projects totaling more than \$45 million," said Tim McCabe, director of OECDD. "This is the best possible use of stimulus

dollars here in Oregon: a near-term boost with the creation of more than 500 jobs and the long-term benefit of safe, clean drinking water."

The Department combined the \$27.8 million if federal funding from ARRA with \$13.9 million in existing state SDWRLF funds and local funds to help finance 18 projects with a total value of \$45.2 million. Overall, more than 50% of the Safe Drinking Water funds awarded will go to local community water systems in the form of grants or forgivable loans. The remaining amounts were loaned to the communities for 20 years at a 3% interest rate.

"Aging and inadequate infrastructure causes many communities to struggle to reliably provide safe drinking water," said Dr. Mel Kohn, acting state public health director in the Oregon Department of Human Services. "These investments will not only support good jobs but also upgrade drinking water systems that are fundamental to the health of Oregonians."

For the last month, OECDD staff reviewed 112 applications submitted from across the state. At least 20% of the funds provided have to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

Communities are expected to execute contracts by July 30 and federal requirements call for projects to be under construction no later than next March.

The Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program provides low-interest loans and grants for drinking water systems to finance infrastructure improvements. The program also emphasizes providing funds to small and disadvantaged communities and to programs that encourage pollution prevention as a tool for ensuring safe drinking water.

Since the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program began in 1997, EPA has awarded more than \$8 billion in grants, which states have turned into \$15 billion of financial assistance to fund safe drinking water projects.

A map of the locations and descriptions of the different projects are on pages 4–6.

For further information about the Safe Drinking Water Program and federal stimulus visit <http://econ.oregon.gov/ECDD/recovery/index.shtml>.

For information on EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program visit www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/

Information on the Oregon Department of Human Service's Drinking Water program: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/dwp/index.shtml



Introducing electronic reporting of water quality data

by Michelle Van Kleeck

To shorten the amount of time it takes to add water quality monitoring results to the Drinking Water Program database, and to improve data accuracy, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) has created a way for labs to submit drinking water monitoring results directly to the DWP. This is through a process using computerized batches known as “electronic reporting.”

However, in order for a lab to report a water system's water quality results this way, the water system is required to give permission to the lab.

What are the benefits to the water system of having their water quality data submitted electronically? The data show up on the DWP Web site faster and there is less chance for data entry errors. The electronically reported data goes to the DWP in electronic “batches,” meaning that the computer at the lab is sending the data directly to the computer at the DWP. The data go directly into the DWP database and the results show up on Data Online within a day.

The kinds of data that the DWP is currently able to accept from labs this way are: coliforms, nitrates, arsenic, other IOCs, SOCs and VOCs. In the future, the DWP will be able to accept other kinds of water quality data this way as well.

The lab will still send a paper copy of the water quality results to the water system even if the lab submits the results to the DWP electronically.

If you are interested in having your test results electronically reported to the DWP, contact your lab.

For additional information, contact Michelle Van Kleeck, data management coordinator, at 971-673-0471.

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Safe drinking water projects awarded ARRA Funds

City of Portland—Columbia South Shore Wellfield Improvements: Replace submersible pump/motors assemblies—to remove the potential for contamination from mercury seals—with higher efficiency pump/motor assemblies for seven production wells.

City of Rockaway Beach—Jetty Creek Water Treatment Plant Improvements: Construct a new water treatment plant to replace the existing plant that no longer is able to provide drinking water that meets today's more stringent health standards. The project also will allow the city to replace several older pumps with new water and energy high efficiency pumps.

City of Bend—Water Facilities Efficiency Upgrades and Improvements: Funding will provide for two well improvement projects, construction of fixed based data automated meter reader collectors at approximately 32 locations throughout the city and replacement of old inefficient meters, and finally, installation of more than 3,900 lineal feet of distribution line pipe replacing undersized pipe and providing higher water delivery and energy efficiencies within the water distribution system.

City of Fairview—Well #9 Improvements: Construct a new well (Well #9) to increase city's system capacity and offset decommissioning of Well #6 which is impacted by concentrations of Ethylene Dibromide (EDB, a hazardous substance) above safe drinking water maximum contaminant levels.

Marshland Water Association—Water Improvements Project: Funds will allow the system to decommission and replace its current drinking water wells, which contains arsenic in excess of current standards with treated water from a spring water source.

Arch Cape Water District—Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Distribution System Improvements: Project funding will allow the district to replace its existing pressure filter water treatment system with membrane filtration and UV disinfection in order to meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards and to replace more than 4,200 lineal feet of old leaking pipe.

City of Gresham—Residential Meter Replacement Project: Project will replace approximately 17,000 service meters with an automated, fixed-base meter reading system. This project will substantially reduce costly person hours to read meters and develop an instantaneous reading method that will enable the city to analyze water consumption patterns and identify residential and system leaks.

Falcon Cove Beach Water District—Water Storage Tank Project: Funding will allow district to meet critical water storage needs through the construct a new concrete water storage tank that will augment its existing water storage capacity, and to install an emergency generator that will allow for pumping of source water during events of power grid failure.

Tri-City Water/Sanitary Authority—Clearwell Baffle Project: The authority's original clearwell, constructed in 1979, no longer provides sufficient baffling to ensure adequate disinfection contact time during high water demand events. This project will allow the authority to install baffling and manifold in its clearwell along with necessary piping replacement.

City of The Dalles—Terminal Reservoir Project: This project will allow the city to address several water system deficiencies by providing sufficient water pressure to customers at higher elevations, eliminating unreliable 20-year-old pressure enhancement stations, and providing backup reservoir backup maintenance service. Funding will finance the construction of a 2.7 million gallon steel reservoir, a pump station with standby generator, pressure reducing valves and more than 8,400 lineal feet of water main pipe.

City of Woodburn—Water System Consolidation Project: This project will fund connection of three small individual water system into the city's water distribution system.

City of Warrenton—LT2 Compliance Project: The city's water system is unable to meet recently implemented safe drinking water standards with respect to its existing open reservoir. This project will allow the city to construct a new 3.5 million gallon covered reservoir, extend two waterlines more than 3,000 lineal feet from Highway 101 to the reservoir and upgrade a single lane access bridge to the reservoir.

Fern Valley Estates Improvement District—Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project: The district's 40 year old water distribution system is experiencing increasing instances of system interruptions due to failed pipe, failed valves and failed vents. This project will provide the district with funding to replace large portions of its distribution system with new pipe, fittings, valves and vents, and to install security fencing around its water source.

City of Elgin—Water System Improvement Project: The city's water system is in need of major rehabilitation to address several issues such as undersized in several areas that leads to greatly limited flows and water pressures during periods of high demand, dead end lines that reduce capacity and potential water quality issues, and old, thin-walled steel water lines that are prone to leaks. This project will replace aging, under-sized, failure prone key distribution system main lines, it will replace the pressure reducing valve with an automated system, it will allow the city to replace old water meters with an automated meter reading system, and provide security system and flowmeter improvements around drinking water wells.

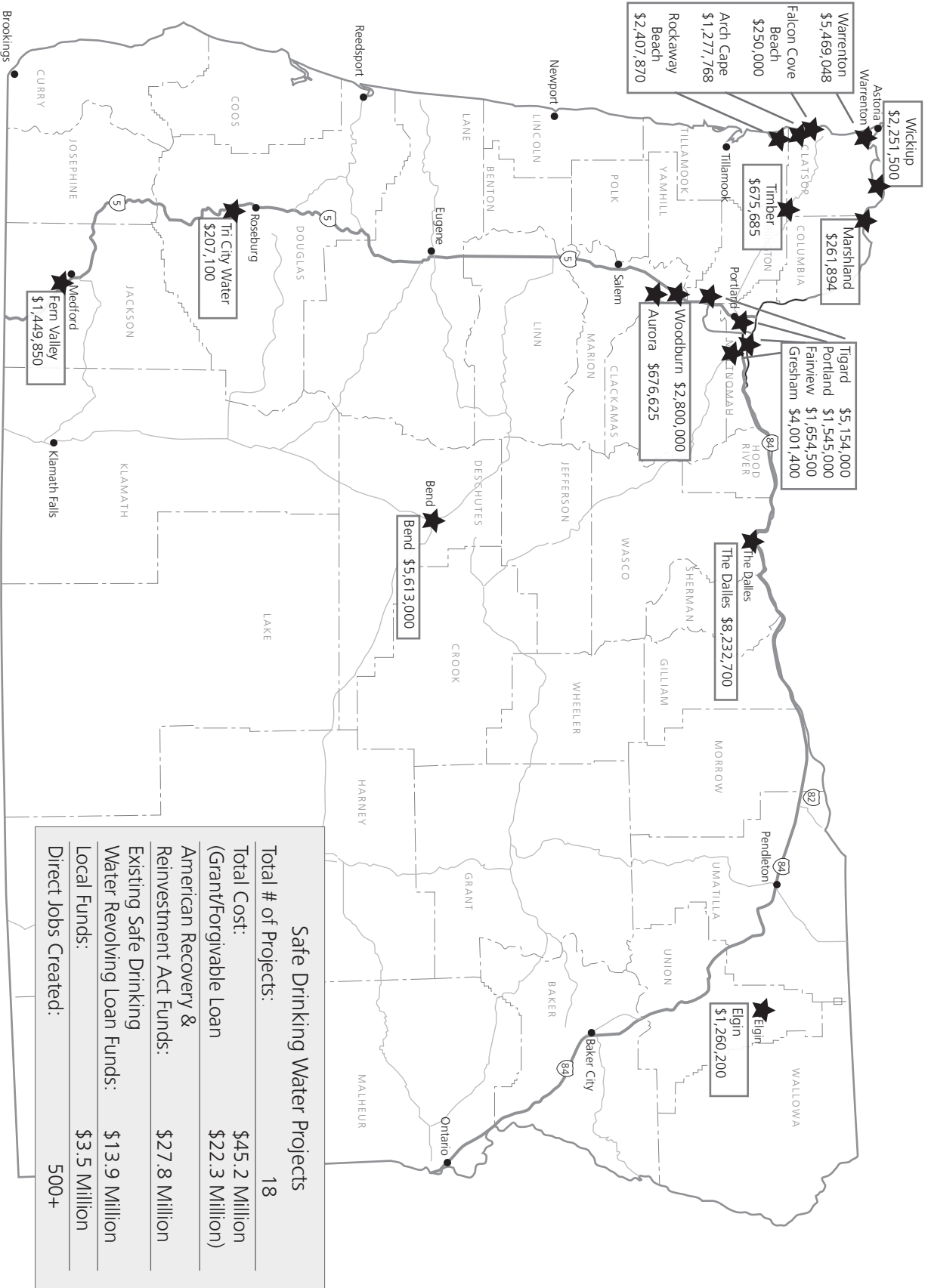
City of Tigard—Storage Tank Seismic Upgrade and Transfer Pump Station Construction Project: The city's drinking water system is primarily conveyed through an existing water storage reservoir that is more than 30 years old and in need of seismic retrofitting and repair in order to ensure uninterrupted water supply. This project will enable the city to retrofit the water reservoir against a seismic event as well as replace the existing undersized single pump system with a more appropriately-sized energy efficient pump station.

City of Aurora—Water Filtration System Improvement Project: The city's drinking water well is impacted by levels of arsenic in excess of drinking water standards. This project will enable the city to install a water filtration system that will reduce arsenic, as well as, manganese and iron levels below EPA Secondary Standards.

Wickiup Water District—Reservoir and Koppisch Road Project: Project will provide for the construction of a new water storage reservoir facility along with replacement of more than 12,000 lineal feet of undersized distribution lines.

Timber Water Association—Water Treatment Plant Replacement Project: The association's existing water treatment plant is in poor condition and no longer can produce drinking water that meets the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule during periods of high turbidity in its raw water source. This project will replace the existing water treatment plant, replace old and leaking distribution lines, and replace existing water meters with more efficient meters.

Safe Drinking Water Projects Awarded ARRA Funds



Meeting calendar

Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Department of Human Services
Diane Weis, 971-673-0427

October 21, 2009

All meetings are held at the Public Utility Commission Office, 550 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, OR 97310

Cross Connection Advisory Board

Go to:
www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/crossconnection/docs/AdvisoryBoardSchedule.pdf

Training calendar

CEUs for Water System Operators

Check www.oesac.com for new offerings approved for drinking water

OAWU

503-873-8353

Aug. 4	Control Valves by GC Systems
Aug. 17–20	Summer Classic XV
Sept. 8–10	Water Treatment/Distribution Certification Review
Sept. 22–24	Water Treatment/Distribution Certification Review

OCT Academy

1-866-266-0028

Sept. 15	Ponds and Lagoons
Sept. 18	Collections Certification Review
Sept. 21–22	Two-Day Mathematics for Collections Operators

Cross Connection/Backflow Courses

Backflow Management Inc.
503-255-1619

Backflow Assembly Tester Course
Aug.31–Sept.4 Portland

Cross Connection Inspector Course
Sept. 28–Oct. 1 Portland

Small Water System Training Course

OAWU
503-873-8353

September* Newport, Klamath Falls,
Bend, Eagle Point

* Dates to be announced

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