



# 2024 GRANT SOLICITATION

## IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION FUNDING

### GRANT APPLICATION

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00 PM ON JANUARY 17, 2024**

**\*Application must be received by this date and time\***

Send application electronically to: [OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov](mailto:OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov)

Mail application to: **OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**Attention: Grant Coordinator**  
**725 Summer Street NE, Suite A**  
**Salem, OR 97301**

#### **Application Assistance – Instructions, Scoring Criteria and Pre-Application Conferences**

We encourage all applicants to review the *Irrigation Modernization Funding Application Instructions* and *Scoring Criteria* while drafting their application and to request a *Pre-Application Conference* before applying. OWRD will review your draft application and provide feedback. You must submit your draft application two weeks before the pre-application conference. Pre-application conferences will not be scheduled the week of the application due date. To learn more, check out the Pre-application Conference document under Irrigation Modernization Funding on the [Water Project Grants and Loans, Applications, Forms and Guidance webpage](#).

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete Sections I through VIII in the spaces provided. **Use the Irrigation Modernization Funding Grant Application Instructions and Scoring Criteria documents when completing your application.** All resources are available at the [Water Project Grants and Loans webpage](#).
2. Complete the application checklist.
3. Submit the application on the form provided by OWRD. Do not alter the application for the purpose of formatting or changing the document structure.
4. Please ensure that the Certification portion of Section II is signed with a live signature by the Applicant and, if applicable, the Co-Applicant.
5. Submit the completed application and all attachments via email or in hard copy. Electronic application submission is the preferred method. You may scan a copy of the signed signature page and submit it with your application as long as both documents are included in the same email.
6. If the application is submitted in hard copy, use 8 ½" x 11" single sided, unstapled pages. Provide any attachments to the application on 8 ½" x 11" single-sided, unstapled pages.
7. Applicants are discouraged from submitting information considered proprietary unless it is deemed essential for proper evaluation of the application. Please note that eligible and complete applications will be posted on OWRD's [Funding Cycle History webpage](#).
8. Contact OWRD at 971-301-0718 or [OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov](mailto:OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov) if you have any questions.

# IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION FUNDING

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Please use this checklist to ensure that your application is complete, and you have included required attachments with your application.** We will not accept an application deemed ineligible or incomplete in any section.

### ***Application:***

- Section II is signed by Applicant/Authorized Person and Co-Applicant/Authorized Person (if applicable).
- All questions have been addressed.

### ***Required Attachments:***

- Attachment 1 – Site map (Question 8)
- Attachment 2 – Documentation of match funding (Question 24) includes the following:
  - a) Match documentation for **all** match funding sources listed in the match fund table.
  - b) Match funding documentation that clearly identifies the dollar amount and describes the work to be accomplished with the match.

### ***Optional Attachments:***

- Property access authorization (Question 10): Attachment #
- Letters of support (Question 13): Attachment #3
- Plans, designs, and/or engineering specifications: Attachment #4
- Secured permits and regulatory approvals needed to implement the project (Question 19):  
Attachment #
- Other: References      Attachment #5
- Other: District overview maps      Attachment #6



IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION FUNDING
2024 GRANT APPLICATION

I. Project Information

Project Name: Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1
Grant Funding Request: \$ 2,210,000
Match Funding: \$ 5,150,000
Total Cost of Project (Grant Funding Request + Match Funding): \$ 7,360,000

II. Applicant Information

Table with 2 columns: Applicant Name, Co-Applicant Name, Address, Phone, Email. Rows include Medford Irrigation District and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District, and Principal Contact Jack Friend and Fiscal Officer Tammi Flanakin.

Certification: I certify that this application is a true and accurate representation of the proposed work and that I am authorized to sign as the Applicant or Co-Applicant. By the following signature, the Applicant and Co-Applicant (if applicable) certify that they are aware of the requirements of an Oregon Water Resources Department funding award, have read and are aware of conditions within the example grant agreement on the OWRD's website and are prepared to implement the project, if awarded.

Signature of Applicant/Authorized Person: Jack Friend Date: 1-17-24

Print Name: Jack Friend Title: District Manager

Signature of Co-Applicant/Authorized Person: Brian Hampson Date: 1-17-24

Print Name: Brian Hampson Title: District Manager

III. Eligibility

1. Is your project an irrigation modernization project? [X] Yes [ ] No
November 2023

An irrigation modernization project is a project that improves water use efficiency of irrigation systems on currently irrigated agricultural lands.

*Attention - If the answer is "No" to this question, your project is not eligible for this funding.*

2. Does your project leverage federal funding?  Yes  No

*Attention - If the answer is "No" to this question, your project is not eligible for this funding.*

If yes, please identify which qualifying federal match you have:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service funds associated with an authorized watershed plan
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant *and* your entity is eligible to be on the Department of Environmental Quality's Intended Use Plan

Note: The federal funding source must also be listed in question 24 with match documentation.

3. Select applicant entity type for both applicant and co-applicant (if applicable).

<input type="checkbox"/>	City	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Profit Organization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Port
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oregon County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil and Water Conservation District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sole Proprietorship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Control District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Improvement District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Irrigation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

4. Provide a brief, one to two paragraph description of the water supply need that the project intends to address. Please reference (and attach) supporting data or reports that document the need.

Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) collectively divert water from the North Fork Little Butte Creek and South Fork Little Butte Creek into the North Fork Canal and South Fork Canal, respectively. The two canals merge to form the 13-mile Joint System Canal, which conveys water to MID's and RRVID's systems. The aging, earthen and concrete-lined canal system loses approximately 6.7 cubic feet per second of water, or 4,850 acre-feet annually, due to seepage and evaporation. These water losses are equivalent to approximately 13 percent of the water in the canal and contribute to water supply challenges for the districts and local farms.

Drought conditions in recent years have limited water supplies and agricultural production in both MID and RRVID. The districts have not had a full storage allotment in over 10 years and have not made deliveries for the full length of the irrigation season in the past 4 years. Correspondingly, low streamflow and impaired water quality in Little Butte Creek has contributed to the creek being listed on Oregon's 303(d) list for dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, sedimentation, and E. coli. The proposed project will help to address these ongoing agricultural and environmental challenges.

5. Is either the Applicant or Co-Applicant required to have a Water Management and Conservation

Plan (WMCP)?      X Yes      No

If yes, has the plan been submitted to the Water Resources Department and received approval?

Yes     No



*Pursuant to ORS 541.659, if an applicant is required to have a water management and conservation plan, the plan **must be submitted** to OWRD **and receive approval** prior to department acceptance of an application for a grant from the account. The application will be ineligible if a required plan has not been submitted and approved prior to the application deadline. Please contact [wrd\\_dl\\_wmcp@water.oregon.gov](mailto:wrd_dl_wmcp@water.oregon.gov) with any questions about WMCPs.*

#### IV. Project Summary and Location

6. Provide a brief, 4-5 sentence summary of the proposed project. Please include the goal and scope of the project and summarize project implementation. Refer to the *Irrigation Modernization Funding Application Instructions* for additional information on what to include.

The goal of the proposed project is to modernize the North Fork Canal and South Fork Canal to improve water supply reliability for high-value agriculture in Oregon’s Rogue Valley while improving water quality and habitat conditions for Endangered Species Act-listed fish in the Little Butte Creek watershed. The project will pipe the Districts’ 4,700-foot North Fork Canal, 1,900-foot South Fork Canal, and the junction where the canals merge. The project will improve water supplies for agricultural production, reduce the risk of infrastructure failure, reduce operations and maintenance costs, and enhance instream flows for federally threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon, and sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. MID and RRVID will dedicate 25% of the water saved by the project instream (approximately 111 acre-feet). This project will be the first phase of a large-scale effort to modernize the Districts’ shared Joint System Canal.

**Instructions:** Please answer the following questions about the location of the proposed project.

7. Please provide the following information about the project location.

- a. Latitude, Longitude: 42.414113, -122.605028
- b. County: Jackson County
- c. Watershed/Basin: 1710030708, Little Butte Creek Watershed

8. Please attach and label, Attachment #1, a site plan map(s) showing all the following items:

- a.  Project area boundaries
- b.  True north arrow
- c.  Map title and legend
- d.  Latitude and longitude of project location
- e.  Property boundaries
- f.  Surface water bodies
- g.  Location of involved structures (existing or proposed)
- h.  Tax Map and Lot numbers of each property in project area boundary. Use the same Tax Lot No. on the map as is used in Question 9 below. **Note: Each property where project work is planned must be identifiable on the map or your application will be deemed incomplete.**
- i.  Point(s) of Diversion and Place(s) of Use associated with the project (if applicable)
- j.  Proposed measurement location(s) (if applicable)

9. Complete the table below to identify any properties that will be impacted by project implementation. Indicate the types of activities that would occur on each impacted property. **Note: Each property identified below must be shown on the attached site map or your application may be deemed incomplete. Add rows as needed.**

Tax Map No. (e.g. 12S06W-12714)	Tax Lot No. (e.g. 100)	Ownership Type ( <input type="checkbox"/> One)	Property Owner of Record	What type of activity occurs on this site as part of project implementation? ( <input type="checkbox"/> all that apply)	If applicable, identify the type and extent of ground disturbing activity (e.g. test pits, borings, new road construction, excavation, etc.).	Property identified & labelled on the map ( <input type="checkbox"/> when complete)
36N2E	5303	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	Rogue River Valley Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact:	Ground disturbing activities include but are not limited to: Site mobilization Storage of materials Excavation and fill Reseeding after completion of construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36N2E	5300	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	C2 Cattle Co LTD Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36N2E	7100	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	Grissom Scott M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36N2E20	100	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Twin Creeks Financial LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact:		
36N2E20	800	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	Twin Creeks Financial LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36N2E20	500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private	Medford Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input type="checkbox"/> Project work <input type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36N2E	5500	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	B Bar K Cascade Ranch LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground disturbing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other impact:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. For each property listed in Question 9, evidence will be required documenting legal easement on or ownership of all lands where the work will be carried out. Evidence includes but is not limited to: (i) documentation of easement, (ii) easement holder’s agreement to allow Grantee to carry out the work, or a portion of the work on the servient estate, or (iii) deed or other documentation of land ownership. Submission of this information will be a condition of the grant agreement; you can provide it now or after the grant agreement is signed.

## V. Project Details and Description

**Instructions:** Please answer the following questions.

11. Provide additional information (building on the project summary) to further describe the proposed project and how the project will achieve its goals.

### **Background and Need**

MID and RRVID deliver water to irrigate approximately 2,225 farms and orchards on 21,758 irrigated acres in Jackson County, Oregon. Agricultural producers on these farms and orchards grow high-value pears, wine grapes, and other fruit in the Rogue Valley, as well as hay and other crops.

The two irrigation districts collectively divert water from North Fork Little Butte Creek and South Fork Little Butte Creek. The diversion structures on each creek have functioning fish screens that prevent fish from becoming entrained in the districts' irrigation system. However, the diversions can impede upstream and downstream passage for federally listed (threatened) SONCC coho salmon and five other native, migratory fish species.

Water from the North Fork diversion and South Fork diversion enter the North Fork Canal and South Fork Canal, respectively. The North Fork Canal and South Fork Canal merge to form the 13-mile Joint System Canal, which conveys water to a feature called the Bradshaw Drop. At the Bradshaw Drop, the canal splits into MID's and RRVID's systems.

The aging, earthen and concrete-lined canal system between the diversions and Bradshaw Drop loses approximately 6.7 cubic feet per second of water, or 4,850 acre-feet annually, due to seepage and evaporation. These water losses are equivalent to approximately 13 percent of the water in the canal and contribute to water supply challenges for the districts and local farms. Further, the canal system is at risk of catastrophic failure due to its age and the cumulative effects of ongoing activities that affect its structural integrity (e.g., falling trees, flooding, rodent activity). Since this canal system is at the head of MID's and RRVID's systems, the districts have identified eliminating this failure risk as critical to maintaining agricultural water supplies.

Drought conditions in recent years have limited water supplies and agricultural production in both MID and RRVID. The districts have not had a full storage allotment in over 10 years and have not made deliveries for the full length of the irrigation season in the past 4 years. Correspondingly, low streamflow and impaired water quality in Little Butte Creek has contributed to the creek being listed on Oregon's 303(d) list for dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, sedimentation, and E. coli.

### **Proposed Project**

To achieve the goals of improving water supply reliability for agriculture and improving water quality and habitat conditions in the Little Butte Creek watershed, the Districts are planning a phased approach to modernize the Joint System Canal. The size of the Joint System Canal requires a phased approach for design and engineering, applying for and securing funding, permitting, and construction. The Districts are requesting OWRD Irrigation Modernization Funding for the Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1, which will pipe the Districts' 4,700-foot North Fork Canal, 1,900-foot South Fork Canal and modernize the junction where the two canals merge.

The 4,700 feet of the North Fork Canal will be piped with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) low pressure pipe, estimated at 66-inch diameter. The 1,900 feet of the South Fork Canal will be piped with HDPE low pressure pipe, estimated at 60-inch diameter.

In the fall of 2023, the Districts solicited proposals from engineering firms and selected DOWL to complete preliminary designs (50% level) for the project. As part of that contract DOWL will also complete advanced and final design for the project, as described in Task 1 of Question 14. The Districts have worked with multiple partners to plan and develop the project over several years, which is described in more detail in Question 12.

The Districts share ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the Joint System Canal, North Fork Canal, and South Fork Canal. MID is responsible for 2/3 of the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Joint System Canal; RRVID is responsible for 1/3 of the costs. The Districts have an Intergovernmental Agreement to guide their roles and responsibilities for owning, operating, and maintaining the existing infrastructure. This shared responsibility will continue for the proposed project. Both districts will share the role of soliciting bids, selecting contractors, and reviewing deliverables produced by contractors, such as engineering documents. MID will be responsible for submitting requests for funds, invoices, and periodic reports to OWRD, with input and agreement from RRVID. Both districts will continue to rely on the existing Intergovernmental Agreement to guide their shared roles and responsibilities associated with the project.

Modernizing the North Fork and South Fork Canal will reduce water loss, improve streamflow and water quality, improve district operations, and make the irrigation system more drought resilient. Upgrading the open canal system to a pipe dramatically reduces the risk of flooding caused by canal blowouts and eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation. The project will improve water supply reliability for high-value agriculture in Oregon's Rogue Valley while improving water quality and habitat conditions for federally threatened SONCC coho salmon, and sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey.

12. Describe partnerships and collaborative efforts associated with the planning or implementation of this project. Include a description of how parties of diverse interests worked, or will work, together to achieve a common goal.

The Districts are working together with multiple partners and funders to modernize the Joint System Canal over several phases. These partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Environmental Protection Agency, Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA), the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, the Rogue River Watershed Council, elected officials, and others in the Basin.

From 2019-2021, MID and RRVID worked with FCA to develop a System Improvement Plan (SIP) for each district, including for the Joint System Canal. The SIP included a water loss assessment of the canal, GIS mapping, cost estimates, and a high level 10% design of a piped system. The Districts and FCA have met with a range of local, state, and federal individuals, agencies, and organizations as part of project pre-development. Stakeholder outreach has been ongoing throughout the design and engineering phase to ensure the project has the best path to on-the-ground construction. The Districts continue to work

with FCA to secure funding, review designs, and build stakeholder support.

The Districts have worked with the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to develop design alternatives for modernizing the canal, and the SWCD has conducted water quality monitoring in the canal. In 2021, the SWCD developed 30% designs, maps, and cost estimates for Phase 1; the executive summary of this report is included as an attachment.

The Districts are also coordinating with the Rogue River Watershed Council to address fish passage issues at both diversions. The Rogue River Watershed Council is studying fish passage needs at the North Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion and South Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion where water enters the North Fork and South Fork Canals, respectively. The study will evaluate potential alternatives to improve fish passage conditions at these locations for federally threatened SONCC coho salmon, and sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey.

Funding from several sources has been secured for the project. Match funding for Phase 1 was secured through a Congressionally Directed Spending request with the assistance of Senator Merkley. This funding is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency's Community Grant Program. The Districts have also secured a loan through the CWSRF program to cover a portion of planning and design costs.

In addition, the Districts are in the beginning stages of working with NRCS to develop a Watershed Plan for Phase 2 of the Joint System Canal which would modernize the Joint System Canal below the junction of the North and South Fork Canals. Outreach for Phase 2 has included publicizing and hosting virtual and in-person public scoping meetings, as well as responding to public comments received during the scoping period. Note that NRCS funds will not be used for Phase 1.

Previously, the Districts participated in the Water for Irrigation, Streams, and Economy (WISE) project in the Rogue Basin, which was a collaboration between many entities. MID and RRVID have been working to develop modernized irrigation systems for more than 20 years with a variety of partners.

13. List letters of support for this project (name and/or affiliation of sender is sufficient). Attach copies of the letters to your application.

- April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress
- Ben Klayman, Medford Water
- Brian Barr, Rogue River Watershed Council
- Carl Tappert, Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- Colleen Padilla, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc
- Dave Dotterrer, Jackson County Commissioner
- Dr. Alexander Levin, OSU Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center
- Edward Ford III, Bear Creek Orchards, Inc
- Eugene Wier, The Freshwater Trust
- Frances Oyung, Rogue Riverkeeper

- Greg Holmes, 1000 Friends of Oregon
- Greg Stabach, Natural Resources Dept. of Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Jill Smedstad, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
- Jo Ann Shannon, Rusted Gate Farm
- Julia Beattie, Rotary Club of Central Point
- Julie Smitherman, Medford Water
- Mayor Hank Williams, City of Central Point, OR
- Mayor Kathy Sell, City of Eagle Point, OR
- Michael Naumes, Naumes, Inc
- Representative Emily McIntire, Oregon House of Representatives District 56
- Representative Pam Marsh, Oregon House of Representatives District 05
- Robert Freeman, Jackson County Farm Bureau
- Sara Mosser, Rogue Basin Partnership
- Steve Wise, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Thomas White, Jackson County Stockmen’s Association
- Tonya Graham, Geos Institute
- US Representative Cliff Bentz, Second District, Oregon
- Wanda Derry, Talent Irrigation District

**Project Tasks**

14. Identify tasks necessary for the proposed project using the following format. Include as many tasks as necessary to implement the project. If your proposed project receives grant funding, the tasks identified will be incorporated into your grant agreement as the “Project Description.”

*Note: Project management and administration are common functions within specified tasks and not a separate task. All cost match and grant budget funds must apply to the tasks identified below. See the Budget Procedures and Allowable Costs document on the [Applications, Forms and Guidance webpage](#) for more information.*

**For each task address the following:**

Task number. Task Title

- Task schedule: State the approximate dates during which the task will be completed.
- Description of task activities: Include specific details of the task such as purpose, planned approach, and proposed methods.

**Task 1. Preliminary Design and Surveying (match funds)**

- Task schedule: January – April 2024
- Description of task activities: The Districts will work DOWL to complete preliminary designs and cost estimates to a 50% level. DOWL will complete surveying, geotechnical studies, cultural resource surveys, and alternative analyses. Note: this task will not use OWRD funds.

## **Task 2. Advanced and Final Design**

- Task schedule: May – October 2024
- Description of task activities: MID and RRVID will work with DOWL Engineering to complete advanced and final designs for piping the North and South Fork Canals; modernizing the junction of the two canals; and upgrading the North Fork Canal siphon. This task will include completing detailed costing, drawings, and specifications for the pipelines and associated improvements up to and including 100% design. Completion of this task will allow the Districts to develop a bid package and solicit contractor bids for construction. Note: activities that occur before a potential grant agreement would use matching funds.

## **Task 3. Environmental Review and Permitting**

- Task schedule: May – October 2024
- Description of task activities: This task will include completing necessary environmental analyses, securing relevant permits, and related stakeholder and agency consultation. The Districts, DOWL, and FCA will engage with relevant federal, state, and local agencies to complete permitting and meet all applicable rules and regulations for the project. Permits include all which are required for working in South Fork Little Butte Creek, which is essential salmonid habitat, any erosion control and construction related permits related to earthwork, as well as any necessary cultural resources consultation. Note: activities that occur before a potential grant agreement would use matching funds.

## **Task 4. Management Agreement for Instream Water**

- Task schedule: June – August 2024
- Description of task activities: The Districts propose to develop a management agreement with the Department to leave 25% of the water saved from the project instream at the point of diversion. The details of the water management agreement, including water rights, location, timing, and amount of instream water, will be determined in coordination with the Department. The Districts will respond to any information requests from the Department during the development of the agreement. The management agreement is conditional upon grant funding. If it is possible to use the Allocation of Conserved (ACW) program to protect 25% of the water instream given the amount of public funding for the project, the Districts would use the ACW process instead.

## **Task 5. Bid Package and Contracting**

- Task schedule: October – November 2024
- Description of task activities: Following federal and state procurement laws, the Districts will work with DOWL to prepare a bid package and solicit bids from qualified construction contractors. The Districts will select a firm and will execute a contract with the selected company for construction services.

## **Task 6. Procure Materials**

- Task schedule: September – November 2024
- Description of task activities: Working with DOWL, the Districts will procure pipe and associated materials for the project from qualified vendors. Depending on materials costs, the Districts may work with the construction contractor to procure project materials.

**Task 7. Construction and Installation of Pipeline**

- Task schedule: November 2024 – April 2025
- Description of task activities: After the irrigation season concludes, the Districts and their contractors will pipe the North and South Fork Canal, upgrade the North Fork Canal siphon, and upgrade the junction in accordance with the final design specifications from Task 1. The 4,700 feet of the North Fork Canal will be piped with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) low pressure pipe, estimated at 66-inch diameter. The 1,900 feet of the South Fork Canal will be piped with HDPE low pressure pipe, estimated at 60-inch diameter. This task includes site mobilization, storage of materials, excavation along pipeline alignment, installation and fusing of pipe, testing system components, and reseeding after completion. The pipeline will be constructed and installed in the current alignments of the North and South Fork Canals. Some of this land is owned by MID or RRVID and the Districts have easements for the remaining portions of land.

15. Project Task Scheduling – Estimated total project duration: 18 months

Place an “X” in the appropriate column to indicate when each task would occur. Note that successful applicants will not receive their grant agreement until Q3 of 2024. OWRD cannot reimburse for costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement. Project tasks listed must match the tasks identified in Question 14.

Tasks <i>(Add more rows as needed)</i>	2024				2025			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Preliminary Design and Surveying (match)	X	X						
Advanced and Final Design		X	X	X				
Environmental Review and Permitting		X	X	X				
Management Agreement for Instream Water		X	X					
Bid Package and Contracting				X				
Procure Materials			X	X				
Construction and Installation of Pipeline				X	X	X		

16. Describe how you propose to measure and report the water diverted and used from the proposed project. Include a proposed method, timing, frequency, and location of measurement in your proposal. Consider that many forms of measurement will incur additional costs.

*Note: Funded projects with any diversion of water are required by statute to “regularly measure and report the water diverted and used from the project” [ORS 541.692(3)]. OWRD makes the final determination on the method, timing, frequency, and location of measurement. Grant funds can be used to pay for measurement and reporting expenses during the life of the grant.*

**Method:** MID and RRVID propose to measure the water diverted and used from the project by using 3 existing gage stations, which are part of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Hydromet system. These stations are located on the South Fork Canal just below the diversion, on the North Fork Canal below the diversion, and below the junction where the North and South Fork Canals merge. Data from these stations are available online at Reclamation’s

Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region website, with links below. Data is archived in the historical database on the Hydromet website.

**Locations:**

South Fork Canal Gaging Station: GPS coordinates 42.409480, -122.602717

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/wygraph.html?list=sfbo%20qc&daily=sfbo%20qj>

North Fork Canal Gaging Station: GPS coordinates 42.424187, -122.604010

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/wygraph.html?list=nfbo%20qc&daily=nfbo%20qj>

Joint System Canal Junction Gaging Station: GPS coordinates 42.414113, -122.605028

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/rtgraph.html?list=jcto%20qc&daily=jcto%20qj>

**Timing:** The gage stations would measure water diverted during irrigation season and are active year-round.

**Frequency:** The gage stations collect data in 15-minute increments, then transmit that data every hour to the Hydromet system via a satellite network.

**Reporting:** Water diverted and used would be recorded daily during the irrigation season (typically April 15 – October 1). Monthly totals (acre-feet) would be reported to the Department annually at the end of the water year.

**Water Rights, Permits, and Regulatory Approvals**

*Attention – All current, pending, or planned water rights necessary to implement the proposed project must be listed below for the application to be accepted as complete.*

17. Identify any currently held water rights needed to implement the proposed project below. Check all of the following that apply and provide the information requested in the table below:
- a.  X - The applicant holds the water right(s) required for the project. If checked, list all water rights required for the project in the table below, adding rows as needed. See the Application Instructions for further instruction, including how to find water right information.
  - b.  The applicant has legal access to a water right that will be required for the project and has been given permission to use the water right(s). If checked, list all water rights required for the project in the table below, adding rows as needed. See the Application Instructions for further guidance, including how to find water right information.

Water Right Number (Include prefixes, if applicable, e.g., <u>G</u> 00010)	Is this an application, permit, certificate, limited license, special or final order, transfer, decree, lease, or claim?	Water Right Amount			Tax Map/Lot IDs within the Place of Use where water will be used to implement the proposed project
		Max Volume (ac-ft)	Max Rate (cfs)	Duty (ac-ft/ac)	
83381	Certificate	N/A	87.84	N/A	*See below
85714	Certificate	N/A	8.04	N/A	*See below
85286	Certificate	N/A	1.45	N/A	*See below
85288	Certificate	N/A	49.34	N/A	*See below
83383	Certificate	N/A	87.84	N/A	*See below

Note: Total diversions from North and South Fork Little Butte not to exceed 140 cfs.

\*The certificates listed above cumulatively serve 21,758 acres of irrigated land and 2,260 properties across MID and RRVID. Due to the large number of properties served by the project, they are not included individually. A supplemental map showing the boundaries of both Districts is provided as an attachment to show the place of use for the water rights listed above.

18. Identify any new water rights needed for the proposed project. Complete the table adding any essential information describing needed water rights or status.

Since the mechanism to leave 25% of the saved water instream will be a management agreement between the Districts and the Department, no new water rights are needed for the project.

Type of Water Right Surface water, Groundwater, Limited License, Conserved water certificate, Storage, Secondary Use permit, Transfer, Instream Lease, etc.	Status Application not yet submitted, Application submitted and in progress (if submitted include application number)	Anticipated Water Right Amount			Tax Map/Lot IDs within the anticipated Place of Use where water will be used to implement the proposed project
		Max Volume (ac-ft)	Max Rate (cfs)	Duty (ac-ft/ac)	

19. In the table below, provide a list of any permits and regulatory approvals needed to implement the project. Indicate the status and efforts to-date of each. Please attach copies of any secured permits/approvals. *Add rows as needed for additional permits.*

<b>Project Activity Requiring Permit/Regulatory Approval</b>	<b>Permit/ Regulatory Approval Name and Entity Issuing</b>	<b>Status and Efforts to Date</b>
Land Use Compatibility Statement	Jackson County Planning Department	An initial project description was sent to the Department, and they provided feedback.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the lead federal agency	Will be initiated after Preliminary 50% designs are complete. EPA will determine if a Categorical Exclusion or other NEPA process is appropriate.
Endangered Species Act compliance	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service	Consultation will be coordinated with EPA (the lead agency) once preliminary 50% designs are complete.
National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation	State Historic Preservation Office	The project area may need to be surveyed for eligible historic/archaeological resources. DOWL engineer will manage the process.
Management Agreement for Instream Water	Oregon Water Resources Department	Process will be initiated if the project is selected for grant funding.

If no permits or regulatory approvals are required, please provide an explanation below.

**VI. Public Benefits**

**Instructions:** Describe how the project would provide public benefits in each of the three public benefit categories (economic, environmental, social/cultural). In your responses, describe current conditions and anticipated project outcomes and benefits. Provide evidence to support your claims. Descriptions should be quantitative when possible.

Applications are scored and ranked based on the descriptions of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits and the likelihood of the project achieving the claimed benefits. More specifically, the evaluation is based on the change in conditions expected to result from the project as demonstrated in the application.

**Application Tip:** Please read the **Scoring Criteria** document on the [Applications, Forms and Guidance webpage](#) as you complete this section. The Scoring Criteria document will be used for both Irrigation Modernization Funding applications and Water Project Grants and Loans (WPGL) applications. Irrigation Modernization projects will be evaluated in the same manner as WPGL projects with one exception. For projects involving surface water rights where the project conserves water, priority shall be given to projects that legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470.

The Scoring Criteria document includes definitions of each public benefit and a description of how the public benefits are evaluated and scored. Applications that do not demonstrate public benefit in each of the three categories (economic, environmental, social/cultural) will be deemed incomplete. Applications **must** achieve a minimum score of seven in each of the three public benefit categories during the evaluation process to be eligible for funding.

Leave blank any public benefits that are not applicable to the proposed project.

- 20. Economic Benefits – ORS 541.673(2)
  - a. Does the project create or retain jobs? If so, explain.

Spending approximately \$7 million on project design and construction activities from 2024-2025 will create or retain approximately 60 construction sector jobs, generating approximately \$2.7 million of construction sector income (Economic Development Calculator, Highland Economics). MID and RRVID will hire contractors to design and install the pipeline. Jobs supported by the project will include engineers, surveyors, equipment operators, general laborers, and other construction specialties. It is possible that the pipe for the project could be manufactured by an Oregon company, supporting jobs at that manufacturing facility.

Project expenditures will also retain approximately 30 additional permanent jobs, generating approximately \$1.3 million of income, at local businesses in the area through economic ripple

effects. Local businesses benefiting from the spending associated with project construction activity include retail, food service and restaurants, equipment and materials suppliers, and hotels/lodging.

Improving the reliability of water supplies for District patrons will help maintain agricultural production for 21,758 acres, which include high-value pears, wine grapes, and other fruit in the Rogue Valley. The project will help retain an estimated 470 agricultural jobs at farms, orchards, and vineyards in Jackson County (Economic Development Calculator, Highland Economics).

- b. Does the project increase economic activity? If so, explain.

Spending approximately \$7 million on project design and construction activities will increase economic activity in Jackson County for at least 2 years. Depending on the results of the bid solicitation, a local contractor may be hired by the Districts, further keeping dollars circulating in the local economy. It is possible that the pipe for the project could be manufactured by an Oregon company, supporting manufacturing economic activity in the state. The project will have ripple effects in the local economy as construction will support other ancillary businesses such as suppliers, restaurants, and lodging. In addition to direct project expenditures, the project is anticipated to have a total short-term economic benefit of over \$4 million in Jackson County (Economic Development Calculator, Highland Economics).

The project will also increase the long-term economic viability of orchards, vineyards, and farms in the area by delivering more reliable water supplies to 21,758 irrigated acres. This will support \$4.3 million in annual agricultural sector income in Jackson County (Economic Development Calculator, Highland Economics).

- c. Does the project result in increases in efficiency or innovation? If so, explain.

The project will result in time savings and cost savings for MID and RRVID by nearly eliminating the maintenance and repair associated with the current open and deteriorating North Fork and South Fork Canals. Piping will eliminate several risks that affect the structural integrity of the canals and can disrupt water supplies including falling trees, flooding, rodent activity, and damage from livestock. Since this canal system is critical to MID's and RRVID's water supply, eliminating the failure risk from the canals will maintain agricultural water supplies for 21,758 acres of agricultural land.

The project will increase the efficiency of the Districts' water delivery infrastructure by eliminating water loss in the canals due to seepage and evaporation, saving approximately 446 acre-feet of water annually.

- d. Does the project result in enhancement of infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses? If so, explain.

The project will enhance District infrastructure by piping the North Fork and South Fork Canals, which will greatly modernize MID's and RRVID's conveyance system. Piping the open canals will eliminate the risk of a canal breach or failure that could cut off water supplies for the Districts' water users. By increasing the reliability of the Districts' infrastructure to deliver water to 21,758 acres of orchards, vineyards, and farms, the project will increase the value and productivity of agricultural lands. The project will increase water supplies available to agricultural producers by approximately 335 acre-feet annually (75% of water savings from the project). In drought years, this additional water could extend water deliveries by up to 2 weeks and will provide the Districts more flexibility to deliver water throughout the irrigation season. This will allow agricultural producers to have up to 2 additional weeks of water and be more drought resilient in their operations.

The project will also enhance South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek downstream from the Districts' points of diversion through dedicating 25% of water savings instream at the point of diversion (approximately 111 acre-feet). This additional water will enhance riparian vegetation along the creeks, especially in the summer months when flows are lower.

- e. Does the project enhance economic value associated with tourism or recreational or commercial fishing, with fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or with other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream? If so, explain.

The project will enhance fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to several tribal communities, specifically federally threatened SONCC coho salmon, and sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. SONCC coho salmon habitat is within the traditional lands of the Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Coquille, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua, and Klamath Tribes as well as those of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.

The Districts will leave 25% of the water saved by the project instream at the diversions on South Fork Little Butte Creek and North Fork Little Butte Creek. This will enhance the habitat and recreational value of fishing along South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek.

- f. Does the project result in increases in irrigated land for agriculture? (which may include increasing irrigated acres, agricultural economic value, or productivity of irrigated land) If so, explain.

The project will increase the agricultural economic value and productivity of 21,758 acres of existing irrigated land by saving approximately 335 acre-feet of water annually for agricultural production. Drought conditions in the Rogue Valley in recent years have limited water supplies and agricultural production in both MID and RRVID. A majority of Jackson County has

experienced Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) levels of drought in three of the past four years, which is more widespread and intense than the long-term average (US Drought Monitor 2023). From 2020-2023, the Governor has declared a drought declaration for Jackson County (OWRD 2023). The Districts have not had a full storage allotment in over 10 years and have not made deliveries for the full length of the irrigation season (April 15 – October 1) in the past 4 years. During 2020-2022, the Districts did not begin water deliveries until June or July, rather than April 15, and the irrigation season ended in August rather than October 1. These years had an irrigation season of just 6 weeks, when a full season would be closer to 23 weeks. The drought and lack of water supplies have negatively impacted agricultural producers and crop yields. Some orchards in the Rogue Valley have cut down trees due to lack of water supplies to conserve water for the remaining trees. Other orchards have had enough water to keep trees alive but not enough to produce a marketable crop.

The project will allow MID and RRVID to deliver water for up to 2 weeks longer during the irrigation season, especially during drought years. Providing approximately 335 acre-feet of additional water annually for agricultural production will enhance the value of agricultural lands and increase the productivity of existing orchards, vineyards, and farms. For example, with up to 2 weeks of additional water, pear growers in the Rogue Valley could bring a larger portion of their crop up to the size standards required for higher pear grades and thus generate more income.

21. Environmental Benefits – ORS 541.673(3)

- a. Does the project result in measurable improvement in protected streamflows? If so, complete the subquestions below and explain.
  - i. Complete the table below:
    - List the existing water right information of the source water right to be moved, protected, or transferred instream, and
    - Name the legal means proposed to permanently dedicate and protect water instream by the Oregon Water Resources Department.

***IMPORTANT Note: You MUST include the legal protection of water instream to receive a score for this public benefit. Projects which permanently dedicate water instream will extra points. If awarded funding, the legal protection of water instream will be a condition of funding. Contact the Grant Coordinator for any questions about these grant conditions.***

**Legal Protection of Water Instream** (add rows to table as needed)

Water right permit or certificate number to be used in transaction for instream protection (e.g., irrigation, reservoir, or AR/ASR; S-####)	Rate(s) (cfs)/duty (ac-ft/ac) or volume (ac-ft) of the contributing water right	Estimated rate (cfs)/duty (ac-ft/ac) or volume (ac-ft) of water to be legally protected instream	Percent (%) of right to be legally protected instream	Transaction for Legal Means of Instream Protection (chose one)
				<input type="checkbox"/> Instream transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation of Conserved Water <input type="checkbox"/> Above-ground storage release <input type="checkbox"/> Below-ground storage release
				<input type="checkbox"/> Instream transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation of Conserved Water <input type="checkbox"/> Above-ground storage release <input type="checkbox"/> Below-ground storage release
				<input type="checkbox"/> Instream transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation of Conserved Water <input type="checkbox"/> Above-ground storage release <input type="checkbox"/> Below-ground storage release
				<input type="checkbox"/> Instream transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation of Conserved Water <input type="checkbox"/> Above-ground storage release <input type="checkbox"/> Below-ground storage release

- ii. **If using the Allocation of Conserved Water Program:** Identify the percent of the conserved water that will be permanently dedicated instream and protected by the Oregon Water Resources Department: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A
- iii. Describe how the protected streamflows accomplish one or more of the following:
  - (A) Supports the natural hydrograph;
  - (B) Improves floodplain function;
  - (C) Supports state- or federally-listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
  - (D) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; or
  - (E) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife:

This question is not applicable at this time since the project will use a management agreement to leave water instream rather than the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

- b. Does the project result in water conservation? If so, explain.

The project will result in water conservation from piping the open canals and eliminating water loss from seepage and evaporation. FCA conducted a water loss assessment of the Joint System Canal in 2019 from the North Fork and South Fork diversions to the Bradshaw Drop.

The assessment estimated water losses in the entire 13-mile canal of approximately 6.7 cubic feet per second, or 4,850 acre-feet annually (FCA 2020). These water losses are equivalent to approximately 13 percent of the water in the canal. Water loss in the North Fork and South Fork Canals was estimated proportionally to the loss of the entire Joint System Canal. Based on the length of the canal that will be piped in Phase 1, the project is estimated to save approximately 446 acre-feet of water annually from seepage and evaporation.

MID and RRVID's preferred approach is to use the Allocation of Conserved Water Program (ACW) to protect 25% of the water saved by the project instream. Due to the proportion of public funding anticipated for the project and interpretation of the ACW program, the Districts propose to develop a management agreement with the Department to leave 25% (approximately 111 acre-feet) of the water saved from the project instream at the point of diversion. The origin of the instream water will come from the water rights listed in Question 17. The management agreement would be conditional upon grant funding. The remaining 75% of water (approximately 335 acre-feet) will be used to shore up supplies to meet existing beneficial use on agricultural lands.

The water dedicated instream from this project will accomplish the following:

Supports the natural hydrograph – Under current conditions, flows in South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek have been altered due to out-of-stream irrigation withdrawals. The project will support the natural hydrograph in South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek by dedicating approximately 111 acre-feet of water instream through a management agreement. Instream flows in the area are measured at two OWRD gages: South Fork Little Butte Creek at Mouth (14341610) and Little Butte Creek at Lakecreek (14346700).

Supports state- or federally-listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species – The instream flows from the project will support SONCC coho salmon, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Increased streamflow aligns with the 2014 NOAA Fisheries Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon Recovery Plan. The Little Butte Creek watershed is one of the most important tributaries to the Rogue River for coho habitat and spawning. Several conservation organizations have prioritized increasing streamflow in the watershed to improve aquatic habitat, including the Rogue River Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, and Rogue Riverkeeper. The instream flows from the project will also support sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey.

Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes – The project is anticipated to improve conditions for species that are of importance to tribal communities. The instream flows from the project will support the federally listed SONCC coho salmon, which are native fish species to the Rogue River Basin and the Little Butte Creek watershed. SONCC coho salmon habitat is within the traditional lands of the Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Coquille, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua, and Klamath Tribes as well as those of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.

- c. Does the project result in measurable improvement in groundwater levels that enhances

environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas? If so, explain.

Not applicable

- d. Does the project result in a measurable improvement in the quality of surface water or groundwater? If so, explain.

The project will increase the quantity of surface water in South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek which will address water quality impairments. Low streamflow and impaired water quality in Little Butte Creek has contributed to the creek being on Oregon's 303(d) list for the following impairments: dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, sedimentation, and E. coli (Oregon DEQ 2022). By dedicating 25% of water saved instream, the project is expected to improve water quality in the Little Butte Creek watershed.

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) conducted water quality monitoring in nearby Antelope Creek and Yankee Creek for RRVID's Bradshaw Drop pipeline project which also included onfarm irrigation upgrades. That study found measurable reductions of average E. coli and total phosphorus concentrations instream after completion of the piping and onfarm improvements (Jackson SWCD 2022). When piping projects are combined with onfarm irrigation improvements, the SWCD's monitoring indicates the potential to measurably improve several water quality metrics both instream and in the canal.

Jackson SWCD has a water quality monitoring plan in place with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to analyze the effect of piping the Joint System Canal on water quality in the canal. Parameters monitored include temperature, E. coli, total phosphorus, and turbidity. The SWCD has been conducting pre-project monitoring of the canal since 2021. The plan is to collect data from the canal throughout the project and for several years after piping is complete (ODA 2023).

- e. Does the project increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts? If so, explain.

The project will increase ecosystem resiliency of the Little Butte Creek watershed and SONCC coho salmon populations in the Rogue River system by restoring a more natural hydrograph to the creek. A more natural hydrograph will support ecosystem functions such as lower water temperature and improved riparian habitat, which contribute to ecosystem resiliency to climate change. Jackson County and the Rogue Basin have experienced Extreme to Exceptional levels of drought every year for the past five years (US Drought Monitor 2023). It is likely that droughts of similar nature will occur more frequently and for longer duration due to climate change, making water conservation projects even more important for the basin in the future.

- f. Does the project result in improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed? If so, explain.

The project will address several limiting ecological factors in South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek. Low streamflow and impaired water quality in Little Butte Creek has contributed to the creek being listed for dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, sedimentation, and E. coli. on Oregon's 303(d) list. South Fork Little Butte Creek is listed as impaired for flow modification, habitat modification, and temperature year-round. North Fork Little Butte Creek is listed as impaired for temperature year-round (Oregon DEQ 2022).

Increasing streamflow in South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek will address these water quality impairments and improve habitat conditions for federally threatened SONCC coho salmon and sensitive species including Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey.

In a related effort, the Rogue River Watershed Council is working with River Design Group on a fish passage study of the North Fork and South Fork diversions to address fish passage barriers near each diversion. The study will evaluate potential design alternatives for improved fish passage. MID and RRVID plan to work with the Council to evaluate the feasibility of potential fish passage alternatives and determine next steps from the fish passage study.

22. Social/Cultural Benefits – ORS 541.673(4)

- a. Does the project promote public health and safety of local food systems? If so, explain.

The project supports a robust local food system by improving water reliability for irrigated land. The Districts' Joint System Canal delivers water that supports the Rogue Valley's agricultural economy of high-value pears, wine grapes, other fruits, hay, and other crops. The food that is grown by producers in MID and RRVID is consumed locally and around the U.S. The project will allow irrigators to have a more reliable water supply and could extend water deliveries by up to 2 weeks during drought years. While a full irrigation season is supposed to be approximately 23 weeks, during 2020-2022 the Districts only had enough water to deliver to patrons for approximately 6 weeks. An additional 2 weeks of water will be a significant improvement for producers and for agricultural yields.

The project will improve public safety by eliminating the risk of a major canal failure. The structural integrity of the canals can be affected by falling trees, flooding from creeks, rodent activity/digging into the canal banks, and damage from livestock. Piping the canals will eliminate these risks and the related risks of canal flooding and property damage to homes, buildings, and lands located downslope of the Joint System Canal Phase 1 area.

- b. Does the project result in measurable improvements in conditions for members of minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes? If so, explain.

The project is anticipated to improve conditions for species that are of importance to tribal

communities by enhancing aquatic habitat in the Little Butte Creek watershed for SONCC coho salmon, Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. These are native fish species listed as Sensitive by the state, and in the case of the SONCC coho salmon is federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as Threatened. SONCC coho salmon habitat is within the traditional lands of the Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Coquille, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua, and Klamath Tribes as well as those of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. MID and RRVID will dedicate 25% of saved water instream through a management agreement between the Districts and OWRD.

- c. Does the project promote recreation and scenic values? If so, explain.

The Rogue River Basin is known for its forested mountains, river canyons, and orchards and vineyards, which have earned it a reputation as a scenic destination for outdoor recreation. The project promotes recreational and scenic values along South Fork Little Butte Creek, North Fork Little Butte Creek, and Little Butte Creek by increasing the presence of flowing water in the creeks by approximately 111 acre-feet during the irrigation season. The additional water will enhance riparian vegetation along the creeks, contributing to scenic values and enhancing recreational fishing opportunities. The instream water will support SONCC coho salmon, Chinook, bull trout, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey populations in Little Butte Creek and the Rogue River.

- d. Does this project contribute to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state? If so, explain.

Jackson SWCD has a water quality monitoring plan in place with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to analyze the effect of piping the Joint System Canal on water quality in the canal. Parameters monitored include temperature, E. coli, total phosphorus, and turbidity. The SWCD has been conducting pre-project monitoring of the canal since 2021. The plan is to collect data from the canal throughout the project and for several years after piping is complete. The data collected through this effort will be submitted annually to the Department of Environmental Quality for inclusion in the Integrated Report. Data will be stored in-house at Jackson SWCD and made available to the public upon request (ODA 2023).

- e. Does this project promote state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes? If so, explain.

The project promotes state priorities by addressing limiting ecological factors in Little Butte Creek identified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Oregon's 2022 Integrated Report on water quality identifies dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, sedimentation, and E. coli as impaired parameters in Little Butte Creek (Oregon DEQ 2022), which has been listed since 1998.

The project also supports the 2014 NOAA Fisheries SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan, which identifies increasing streamflow as a priority for the species recovery and de-listing from the Endangered Species Act. By enhancing streamflow in the Little Butte Creek watershed, the project is anticipated to improve conditions for SONCC coho salmon which are of importance to tribal communities.

The instream water from the project will also support local efforts to address water quality impairments and improve salmonid habitat in the Little Butte Creek watershed. The Rogue River Watershed Council led a floodplain rehabilitation project in Little Butte Creek in 2019, with collaboration from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Rogue Basin Partnership, The Freshwater Trust, and regional agency partners (Rogue River Watershed Council 2024).

- f. Does this project promote collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy? If so, explain.

Several organizations have been working collaboratively to improve water quality and streamflow in the Little Butte Creek watershed to benefit listed and sensitive species, including, but not limited to, the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Rogue River Watershed Council, and Trout Unlimited. MID and RRVID have been working with these organizations and others in the basin to balance the water needs of agriculture and fish and aquatic habitat.

The project supports several recommended actions in Oregon’s 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Mucken & Bateman 2017) including, but not limited to:  
7.A Develop and Upgrade Water and Wastewater Infrastructure  
11.D Protect and Restore Instream Habitat and Habitat Access for Fish and Wildlife

The project is a win-win solution that supports Jackson County’s agricultural economy and long-term collaborative efforts to restore the natural hydrograph in the Little Butte Creek watershed to benefit fish populations including SONCC coho salmon in the Rogue River and its tributaries.

## VII. Project Budget

**Instructions:** Please answer the following questions about the proposed project budget using the table provided. All Grant and Match Funds must be allowable costs as described in the OWRD’s Grant Budget Procedures and Allowable Costs document.

23. Please provide an estimated line-item budget for the proposed project. Please note that indirect costs **are not** an allowable grant expense. See the Budget Procedures and Allowable Costs on the OWRD [Applications, Forms, and Guidance webpage](#) for further guidance.

OVERALL PROJECT BUDGET Line Items	In-Kind Match	Cash Match Funds	OWRD Grant Funds	Total Cost
Staff Salary/Benefits	\$25,000	0	\$10,000	\$35,000
Contractual/Consulting	0	\$3,525,000	\$1,800,000	\$5,325,000
Supplies	0	0	0	0
Materials	0	\$1,600,000	\$400,000	\$2,000,000
Travel	0	0	0	0
Equipment (must be approved)	0	0	0	0
Other:	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	\$25,000	\$5,125,000	\$2,210,000	\$7,360,000

**VIII. Match Funding**

24. **Instructions:** Fill out the table below and attach the appropriate documentation for both secured and pending match (add rows as needed). Label the documentation as Attachment #2.

Applicants must have one of the following sources of federal match:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service funds associated with an authorized watershed plan
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s grants that are eligible to be on the Department of Environmental Quality’s Intended Use Plan

For secured funding, you must attach a letter of support or other documentation from the match funding source (including match from your own organization) that:

- Specifies the dollar amount identified for this project,
- Equals the dollar amount shown in the “Amount/Dollar Value” column in the table below,
- Describes the work to be accomplished through the match.

For pending resources, you must attach other written documentation showing a request for match funding. Documentation must:

- Include the amount of match funding requested or anticipated,
- Include the project name,
- Note the date on which a future funding application will be submitted,
- Identify the funding program from which funds are pending, and
- Provide evidence that the project is eligible for the funding program identified.

The total match funds listed below must match the amounts in Section I and Question 23.

<b>Match Funding Source</b> (if in-kind, briefly describe the nature of the contribution)	<b>Type</b> (☑ only one)	<b>Status</b> (☑ only one)	<b>Amount/ Dollar Value</b>	<b>Date Match Funds Available</b> (Month/Year)
Environmental Protection Agency, Community Grant	X cash <input type="checkbox"/> in-kind	X secured <input type="checkbox"/> pending	\$5,000,000	February 2024
Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan for engineering	X cash <input type="checkbox"/> in-kind	X secured <input type="checkbox"/> pending	\$125,000	January 2024
MID staff time for project management	<input type="checkbox"/> cash X in-kind	X secured <input type="checkbox"/> pending	\$12,500	January 2024
RRVID staff time for project management	<input type="checkbox"/> cash X in-kind	X secured <input type="checkbox"/> pending	\$12,500	January 2024
<b>Total of Match Funds</b>			\$5,150,000	

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

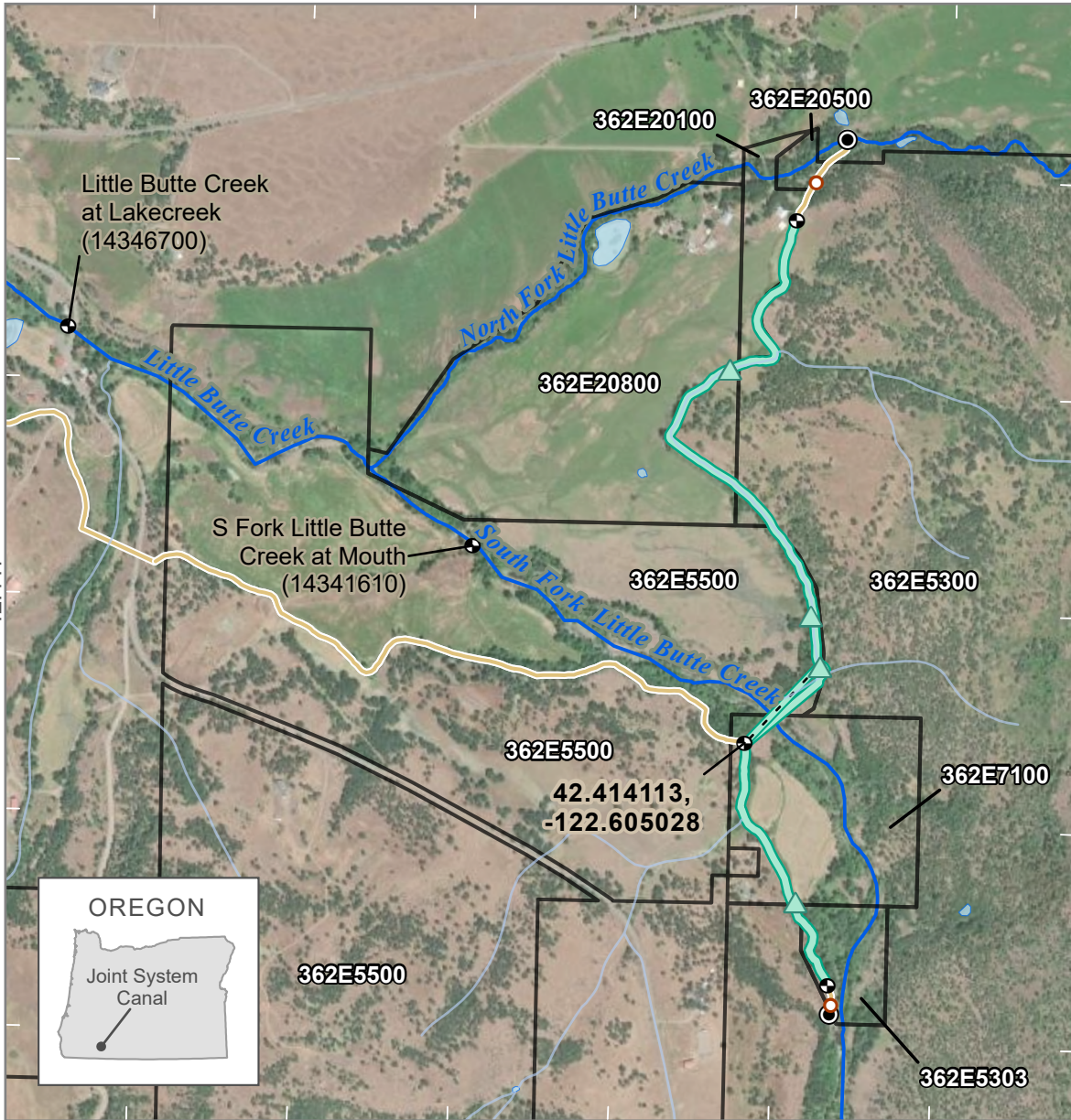
Attachment 1:  
Site Map (Question 8)

-122.617

-122.600

42.417

42.417

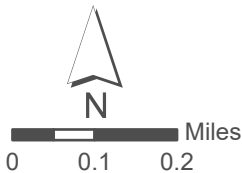


# Joint System Canal

Project Area  
Property Boundaries

- Diversion
- ▲ Turnout
- Gaging station / proposed measurement location
- Fish screen

- Project Area
- Proposed siphon replacement
- Infrastructure outside Project Area
- Property boundary



Credits: ODOT, esri, FCA, NHD, Jackson County  
JSC\_OWRD\_2024.aprx  
Map Date: 1/17/2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Attachment 2:  
Documentation of Match Funding (Question 24)



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Jacksonville OR 97530  
Office (541)899-9913  
Fax (541)899-9968

1/16/2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Attention: Grant Coordinator  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Irrigation Modernization Grant for Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1, Matching Funds Documentation

Dear Grant Coordinator:

During the FY 2022 federal appropriations process, Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) were awarded \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for the Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1. This funding is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Community Grant Program. MID and RRVID are in the process of accessing this funding from EPA. This letter serves as documentation that these matching funds are secured and are dedicated to this project.

As part of the Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1, MID and RRVID applied to and secured a design loan from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A loan amount of \$1.5 million was approved for the project, of which \$125,000 will be used as matching funds for this project. This letter serves as documentation that these matching funds are secured and are dedicated to this project.

This letter also serves as MID's commitment to contribute \$12,500 of in-kind staff resources toward the project. District staff time will be used for project management, landowner coordination, permitting, and bid preparation/contractor selection, among other activities to complete the project.

Thank you for supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

Jack Friend  
Manager, Medford Irrigation District

# Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

3139 Merriman Road Medford, OR 97501 (541) 773-6127 Fax (541) 773-5420 Website: [www.rrvid.org](http://www.rrvid.org)

1/16/2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Attention: Grant Coordinator  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Irrigation Modernization Grant for Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1,  
Matching Funds Documentation

Dear Grant Coordinator:

During the FY 2022 federal appropriations process, Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) were awarded \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for the Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1. This funding is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Community Grant Program. MID and RRVID are in the process of accessing this funding from EPA. This letter serves as documentation that these matching funds are secured and are dedicated to this project.

As part of the Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1, MID and RRVID applied to and secured a design loan from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A loan amount of \$1.5 million was approved for the project, of which \$125,000 will be used as matching funds for this project. This letter serves as documentation that these matching funds are secured and are dedicated to this project.

This letter also serves as RRVID's commitment to contribute \$12,500 of in-kind staff resources toward the project. District staff time will be used for project management, landowner coordination, permitting, and bid preparation/contractor selection, among other activities to complete the project.

Thank you for supporting this important project.

Sincerely,



Brain Hampson  
Manager, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

# Community Grants Program

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FINAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

OCTOBER 2022



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## Purpose

This document provides information and guidelines on how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will award and administer water infrastructure projects identified as Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and Community Project Funding (CPF) items in Appropriations Acts. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) includes \$841,405,095 in the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for 483 drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality protection projects.<sup>1</sup>

## Background

President Biden signed the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) into law on March 15, 2022. In this law, Congress renewed the practice of funding specifically named community infrastructure projects, referred to by the Senate as CDS items and in the House of Representatives as CPF items. [Appendix A](#) of this document provides the pertinent section of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, also referred to as the EPA's FY 2022 Appropriations Act. Water infrastructure CDS/CPF projects are further referred to as Community Grants projects in this document.

## Eligibility

Community Grants projects are designated for the planning, design, and construction of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and for water quality protection. Eligible Community Grant projects are included in Appropriations Acts. For FY 2022, eligible projects are referenced in the explanatory statement found in [Appendix A](#). [Appendix B](#) lists each project that is eligible for funding under the FY 2022 Appropriations Act and identifies the state, recipient name, purpose, and appropriated funding amount of each project. EPA will use the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) framework to guide implementation of these Community Grants; the [CWSRF](#) and [DWSRF](#) eligibilities should be referred to for development of workplans, project scopes, costs, and sub-awards. Funds appropriated for Community Grants projects may not be awarded solely to repay loans received from SRF programs or to repay other debts unless there are explicit instructions to do so in Appropriations Acts or accompanying explanatory statements and/or committee reports. These funds may not be used for operation and maintenance.

## Technical Corrections

Should a Community Grant recipient identified in an Appropriations Act need to modify the type, purpose, or named recipient of the Community Grant, a technical correction will be needed. The Agency's FY 2006 Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-54) included a permanent authority that allows EPA to make technical corrections to Community Grants only after consultation with Congress, without the need for additional legislation. For example, if a recipient (*e.g.*, City of Salem) is named in the authorizing language but a different legal entity (*e.g.*, Salem Wastewater Utility) owns the infrastructure, the recipient can request a technical correction. As another

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<sup>1</sup> In the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, EPA received a total of 491 CDS/CPF projects for \$860.3 million. Of this total, 483 projects are for water community projects; this document pertains to these projects.

**Appendix B: List of EPA Congressionally Directed Spending Community Projects  
and Funding Levels  
(FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act)**

STAG Account	State	Project (Recipient Name and Purpose)	Amount (\$)
<p><i>The list below is organized by: (1) Community projects funded by the Clean Water SRF, (2) Community projects funded by the Drinking Water SRF, and (3) Community projects funded by both Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF. Projects are arranged alphabetically by state within each category. Note that EPA made grammatical changes to remove extra spaces, hyphens, and periods. The <a href="#">original CDS list</a> should be referred to for technical corrections.</i></p>			
<b>Community Projects Funded by Clean Water SRF Appropriations (alphabetical by state)</b>			
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	The City of Ketchikan for the Tongass Sewer force main rehabilitation project	1,250,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	City of Ketchikan for Schoebner Culvert Rehabilitation	1,250,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	City of Kodiak for Wastewater Lift Station and Force Main Replacement	3,250,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	Kenai Peninsula Borough for Central Peninsula Landfill Leachate Volume Reduction Project	3,360,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	Municipality of Skagway for Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	10,200,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AK	The City and Borough of Juneau for Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements	800,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AL	Lowndes County for Septic Tank Installations	700,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AZ	Mohave County for Bank Street Channel Stormwater Project	1,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	AZ	Town of Hayden for Sewer Line Replacement	2,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	CA	City of East Palo Alto for O’Connor Stormwater Station improvement	800,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	CA	City of Madera for Sewer Trunk Main Rehabilitation Project	3,500,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	CA	City of Maywood for Sewer Improvement Project	1,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	CA	City of Millbrae for Water Recycling Project	800,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	CA	City of Sacramento for 24th Street In-Line Combined Sewer System (CSS) Storage Pipe project	1,500,000

STAG Account	State	Project (Recipient Name and Purpose)	Amount (\$)
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Albany for Composting System Expansion at the Albany-Millsburg Water Reclamation	1,500,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Dufur for Wastewater Treatment Expansion Project	1,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Hood River for Phase IV Waterfront Stormwater Line Relocation	575,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Newberg for Emergency Wastewater Treatment Plant	500,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of North Bend for Storm and Sanitary Infrastructure Replacement and Up grades	1,340,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Prineville for a Drinking Water and/ or Clean Water Project for Water and Wastewater Services Extension	1,500,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	City of Sandy for Sewer Pipe Improvements	1,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	Klamath County for Upper Klamath Lake Water Reuse Equipment	2,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	North Unit Irrigation District for Jefferson County Main Canal Lining Project	555,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	Port of Toledo for Sewer Connection Expansion Project	1,958,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	OR	Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation District for Joint System Piping, Phase 1	5,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	PA	Cranberry Township for a sanitary sewer system project	960,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	PA	The City of Corry for a wastewater treatment plant project	400,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	PA	Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority for Stream Restorations and Stormwater Basin Retrofit	3,500,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	PA	Cecil Township Municipal Authority for Village of Lawrence Sewage Facilities Project	1,000,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	PA	Mid-Cameron Authority for Cameron County Interceptor Line Replacement	376,000
STAG—Clean Water SRF	RI	City of Warwick Sewer Authority for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System	1,500,000

**CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND  
LOAN AGREEMENT  
No. R78600**

**BETWEEN**

**THE STATE OF OREGON  
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**AND**

**ROGUE RIVER VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
AND  
MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
AS CO-BORROWERS**

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**THIS LOAN AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)** is made and entered into as of the date (“**Effective Date**”) it is fully executed by all parties (and in the case of the State, approved by the Attorney General's Office, if required) and is by and among the **State of Oregon, acting by and through its Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”)** on the one hand, and the **Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District** (collectively, “**Borrower**”) on the other hand. References in this Agreement to “Borrower” are to the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District jointly and severally. Unless the context requires otherwise, capitalized terms not defined below shall have the meanings assigned to them by ARTICLE 9 of this Loan Agreement. The reference number for the Loan made pursuant to this Loan Agreement is Loan No. R78600.

DEQ agrees to make, and Borrower agrees to accept, the Loan on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth below.

### **ARTICLE 1: THE LOAN - SPECIFIC TERMS**

DEQ agrees to make the Loan on the following terms and conditions:

(A) **BORROWER(S):** Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Road  
Medford, OR 97501  
AND  
Medford Irrigation District  
5045 Jacksonville Hwy  
Central Point, OR 97503

(B) **RESERVED**

(C) **LOAN AMOUNT:** \$1,500,000

(D) **TYPE AND PURPOSE OF LOAN.** The Loan is a "Revenue Secured Loan" made by DEQ pursuant to OAR Section 340-054-0065(2) for the purpose of financing the Project.

(E) **PROJECT TITLE:** Design to for Joint System Canal Piping Project

(F) **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:** The Joint System Canal and North Fork Diversion Canal are irrigation canals in the Little Butte Creek watershed within the larger Rogue River watershed. The canals are used jointly by the Borrower to serve several thousand customers with crop irrigation. A proposed piping project near the junction of the South and North Little Butte Creeks is proposed. The proposed project includes: design and construction of piping up to 4.4 miles of canal and diversions, siphons replacement, water diversion structure and possible fish passage improvements. The project will address water quantity and quality by reducing the effects of seepage, evaporation and solar heat inputs along the open canal.

(G) **INTEREST RATE:** Zero and 86/100 (0.86%) per annum. Calculation of interest is also discussed in ARTICLE 2(E) and in ARTICLE 2(F)(4) of this Agreement.

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Attachment 3:  
Letters of Support (Question 13)



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795 Winter St. NE | Salem, OR 97301 | Phone: 503-363-0121 | Fax: 503-371-4926 | [www.owrc.org](http://www.owrc.org)

December 15, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for MID and RRVID Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is writing in support of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1. The Joint System Canal provides water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin with high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops. Modernizing the Joint System will benefit Oregon's economy, the local community, and the environment.

OWRC is a nonprofit trade association representing irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other local government entities delivering agricultural water supplies throughout Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower facilities. OWRC members deliver water to approximately 600,000 acres of farmland in Oregon, which is over one-third of all the irrigated land in the state. Both MID and RRVID are members of OWRC.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address water losses from the aging canal system, reduce risk of catastrophic failure, enhance resiliency to drought, improve water quality, and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal, and eliminate water losses due to seepage and evaporation, estimated to be 13%. The project will increase the districts' resiliency to drought, which has severely impacted the Rogue Basin the past several years, and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure, which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms and negatively impact the local economy. The project will also conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek, and improving habitat for endangered coho salmon.

State funding for this project is essential to support the districts' modernization efforts and strategically leverage secured federal funding. We urge the Oregon Water Resources Department fund the MID and RRVID's proposed project and appreciate your support of irrigation modernization efforts throughout the state. The Joint System Canal Piping Project is a win-win solution that will provide multiple environmental, economic, and socio-cultural benefits in the region.

Sincerely,

April Snell  
Executive Director

***The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources***



# MEDFORD WATER

August 10, 2022

Brian Hampson, Manager  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Rd.  
Medford, OR 97501

Jack Friend, Manager  
Medford Irrigation District  
5045 Jacksonville Hwy.  
Central Point, OR 97502

Re.: Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Hampson and Mr. Friend,

As a long-standing partner in water conservation, water quality and fish & wildlife habitat enhancement in the Rogue Basin, Medford Water strongly supports the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and Medford Irrigation District (MID) Joint System Canal (JSC) Piping Project. The Districts estimate that the aging earthen canal system, built in 1902 and upgraded in the 1950's, loses approximately 13 percent of its flow due to evaporation and seepage, which exacerbates the impacts of ongoing drought and contributes to lower stream flows that degrade habitat for fish and wildlife, including the ESA-listed Coho salmon.

The Districts plan eventually to replace the entire JSC. RRVID recently completed Phase 1 of the project – the Bradshaw Drop Pipeline – and the Districts are seeking funding for phased restoration of the remaining 13.6 miles. Converting the JSC to a piped system will eliminate water losses from seepage and evaporation and reduce the risk of flooding. The Districts have committed to conserve 25% of the saved water instream, which will increase stream flows in Little Butte Creek. Efficient irrigation practices made possible by this project will improve water quality at Medford Water's drinking water intake on the Rogue River by decreasing irrigation runoff return from flood irrigation. Another important benefit of the project will be to provide pressurized water for fire response, allowing quicker suppression of structure and wildland fires.

The extended drought underscored the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region and carries on the goals of the WISE project – to provide Water for Irrigation, Streams and the Economy.

Sincerely,

Ben Klayman,  
Water Quality & Treatment Manager

Craig Harper,  
Watershed Administrator

200 S. Ivy Street - Room 177  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 774-2430

medfordwater.org  
water@medfordwater.org  
Fax: (541) 774-2555



August 2, 2022

Brian Hampson, Manager  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Road  
Medford, OR 97501

Jack Friend, Manager  
Medford Irrigation District  
5045 Jacksonville Highway  
Central Point, OR 97502

Subject: The Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Hampson and Mr. Friend,

This letter indicates the Rogue River Watershed Council's support for the Rogue River Valley Irrigation and Medford Irrigation Districts' "Joint System Canal Piping Project." We understand that the earthen canal loses 13% of its water due to evaporation and seepage, exacerbating the impacts of the longer, hotter, and drier summers we have experienced in the inland Rogue. These collective impacts of this trend affect irrigators, fish and wildlife (and the habitats they depend upon), and drinking water suppliers like the Medford Water Commission and the City of Grants Pass.

The Little Butte Creek watershed is incredibly important for native fish. It also supplies drinking water supply to over 150,000 people. Chinook Salmon, summer and winter steelhead (and resident Rainbow Trout), Cutthroat Trout, Klamath Smallscale Suckers, Pacific Lamprey, and the federally threatened Coho Salmon all rely on parts of this watershed for spawning and rearing.

Upgrading the Joint System Canal to a pipe will eliminate seepage and evaporation losses over 13 miles of water conveyance. You have committed to conserving 25% of the conserved water as protected (if possible) instream flow, enhancing stream flows in important reaches of the Little Butte Creek watershed. The project will also enhance fire departments' response to rural structure and wildland fires through the installation of standpipes that will provide pressurized water.

Your leadership in addressing drought-related issues in a way that improves your ability to meet the needs of your patrons, the communities' needs to fight rural fires, and the ecosystem's need for instream flow is refreshing. This project is a large step towards increasing resiliency in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian R. Barr".

Brian R. Barr  
Executive Director

Rogue River Watershed Council  
89 Alder Street, Central Point, OR 97502  
541.423.6158  
[www.rogueriverwc.org](http://www.rogueriverwc.org)



**ROGUE VALLEY**  
SEWER SERVICES  
CLEAN WATER · HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

December 21, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS) is very supportive of the proposed Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project.

One of RVSS' primary missions is the protection of water quality. Using water more efficiently is one of the best and easiest ways to protect water quality. The canal piping project is a good project that will improve both water quality and quantity in the region.

Sincerely,

Carl Tappert, PE  
Manager  
Rogue Valley Sewer Services



February 17, 2022

Brian Hampson, Manager  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Rd.  
Medford, OR 97501

Jack Friend, Manager  
Medford Irrigation District  
5045 Jacksonville Hwy.  
Central Point, OR 97502

**Subject: SOREDI Support for Joint System Canal Piping Project**

Dear Mr. Hampson and Mr. Friend,

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SOREDI) is pleased to offer hearty support for the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and Medford Irrigation District's (MID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. Our One Rogue Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy includes several key initiatives including Tourism and Placemaking. <https://soredi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-11-08-SOREDI-CEDS-FINAL.pdf>

**INITIATIVE 4. TOURISM - Support the organizations and places that strengthen the tourism and experiential environment in Southern Oregon.**

**INITIATIVE 5. PLACEMAKING - Nurture an environment that preserves Southern Oregon's quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.**

This project addresses our need to conserve water and protect the livability of our region for citizens and our ability to attract new business investments and visitors. Further, this project has direct impact on our agricultural community which is key industry for Southern Oregon and important for our long-term economic vitality.

**4.5. Grow the region's agritourism industry and promote the region's unique culinary experiences. Expand farm-to-table offerings and partnerships among producers (farms) and makers (chefs/artisans).**

We must ensure vibrant communities throughout our region and take measurable steps toward a resilient ecosystem that reduces evaporation, seepage, and the ill effects of drought for our streams and beyond. Further, this project stands to enhance our ability to provide pressurized water to fire departments, allowing quicker response to rural structure or wildland fires.

**The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.**

Sincerely,

Colleen Padilla, SOREDI Executive Director  
[colleen@soredi.org](mailto:colleen@soredi.org) | (541) 601-6918

**December 2020**

SUSTAINING UNDERWRITER  
Jackson County  
Josephine County  
City of Grants Pass  
City of Medford

EXECUTIVE UNDERWRITER  
AllCare Health  
Asante  
Avista Utilities  
Banner Bank  
Brophy Schmor, LLP  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua  
Tribe of Indians  
First Interstate Bank  
Harry & David Operations  
Hunter Communications  
Lithia Motors Inc.  
Moss Adams, LLP  
PacifiCorp  
Peoples Bank  
Regence BlueCross BlueShield  
Rogue Credit Union  
TribalOne  
US Bank  
Zeal

UNDERWRITER  
Amy's Kitchen  
Ausland Group  
Boise Cascade, LLC  
Breeze Capital Management LLC /  
Standard Financial  
Britt Music and Arts Festival  
Carestream  
Cascade Wood Products  
Coldwell Banker Commercial NW  
Cummins, Inc.  
Cutler Investment Group  
Dutch Bros  
Erickson, Inc.  
Evergreen Federal Bank  
Fire Mountain Gems & Beads  
Jackson County Fire District 3  
JB Steel, Inc  
KDRV  
KeyBank  
Knife River Corporation  
KOGAP Enterprises, Inc.  
KTVL  
Lava Lanes  
Linde Group  
MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.  
Medford Fabrication  
Met One Instruments  
Morgan Lodging, LLC  
Murphy Company  
Naumes, Inc.  
Navigator's Hospitality, LLC  
Neuman Hotel Group  
OMEP - Oregon Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership, Inc.  
Oregon Pacific Bank  
Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc.  
Oregon Tech  
ORW - Ogden, Roemer, Wilkerson  
Pacific Retirement Services  
Plexis Healthcare  
Providence Medford Medical Center  
Rogue Community College  
Rogue Disposal & Recycling  
Rogue Workforce Partnership  
S & B James Construction  
South Ashland Business Park, LLC  
Southern Oregon Education  
Service District  
Southern Oregon Sanitation  
Southern Oregon University  
Space, LLC  
Spectrum Business  
Tekmanagement  
Timber Products Co  
Umpqua Bank  
Valley Immediate Care  
ZCS Engineering & Architecture



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

## Board of Commissioners

**Dave Dotterer**  
*Commissioner*

10 South Oakdale, Room 214  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: 541-774-6119  
Fax: 541-774-6705  
DotterDG@jacksoncountyor.gov  
[www.jacksoncountyor.gov](http://www.jacksoncountyor.gov)

January 8, 2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem OR 97301

RE: Support of the Medford Irrigation District and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Grant Coordinator:

As the Jackson County Commissioner who works directly with our irrigation districts, I support the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, and irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high-value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect the habitat of endangered Coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure, which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the Project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water loss due to seepage and evaporation, and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The Project will conserve, in-stream, 25 percent of the water saved from seepage and enhance stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. I appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) support for irrigation modernization and urge OWRD to approve the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Dotterer  
County Commissioner



Oregon State University  
Southern Oregon Research  
and Extension Center

Southern Oregon Research  
and Extension Center  
Oregon State University  
569 Hanley Road  
Central Point, Oregon, 97502

P 541-776-7371 | F 541-776-7373  
extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec

1/2/2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates the support of Oregon State University's Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alexander Levin, PhD  
Director and Viticulturist  
Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center  
Oregon State University

January 15, 2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter is submitted to express Bear Creek Orchards, Inc.'s (BCO) support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to farms and orchards in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

In the case of BCO, effective irrigation is extremely important to our operations. As a subsidiary of Harry & David, one of the area's largest employers, BCO grows and harvests thousands of tons of pears and peaches each year on over 1,700 acres in the Rogue Valley. The fruit is ultimately included in gourmet gifts that are marketed and sold nationwide under the Harry & David® brand.

Improvement of the local delivery system and canal infrastructure will result in a number of positive outcomes, including:

- enhanced water conservation;
- reduced canal maintenance challenges;
- improvement of the habitat for endangered coho salmon and the health of the local watershed; and
- increased protection of the water supply.

In sum, BCO supports MID's and RRVID's plans to modernize the Joint System Canal to address the challenges posed by the current aging canal system and to help provide a more secure water future for the community.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,



Edward E. Ford III  
Senior Vice President and Treasurer



81 Central Ave  
Ashland, OR 97520  
541-708-0934  
[www.thefreshwatertrust.org](http://www.thefreshwatertrust.org)

---

December 13, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter is to express The Freshwater Trust's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal provides source water to both districts irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows. The open canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy, and even riparian restoration projects that depend on water from the districts during their establishment phase.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek, one of the most important fish producing tributaries of the Rogue River.

The past several years of drought have made it clear that we need to modernize and increase efficiencies through piping and pressurization of irrigation delivery systems so that our communities and the environment can make best use of the water available in our watersheds. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Eugene Wier, Rogue Program Director, The Freshwater Trust – Ashland Office.



*~ Working to protect clean water, native fish,  
and healthy communities in the Rogue River Basin.*

Dec. 19, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

Rogue Riverkeeper is a program of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, a non-profit organization based in southern Oregon. Rogue Riverkeeper works to protect and restore clean water to benefit native fish habitat and communities in the Rogue River Basin. I submit this letter in support of a grant application by the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) for the Joint System Canal Piping Project. On behalf of our more than 4,500 members and supporters, we are hopeful that the proposed project will result in reduced water loss, improve water management and delivery, and reduce risk of system failure.

The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community for the irrigation water it provides but the aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of climate change and drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect the aquatic habitat of endangered coho salmon and other native species. Rogue Riverkeeper supports the MID and RRVID plans to modernize the Joint System Canal to address numerous challenges in operating the current system and to provide a more secure water future for the community. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation, increases efficiency by the district and irrigators, and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project plans to conserve in-stream water saved from seepage, potentially enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek, an important habitat that has historically high usage by coho salmon and other native fish but also is water quality limited for temperature, sediment, and other pollutants. To that end, Rogue Riverkeeper supports this proposed piping project as it proposes to provide benefits to the aquatic ecosystem by improving

water quality and leaving more water in-stream through increased system efficiency and conservation including pressurized water and on-farm conversion. Rogue Riverkeeper also hopes that this project will work to further protect water quality by transferring water rights to keep the conserved water instream.

While we recognize the essential role of irrigation for Rogue Valley's agriculture, it's imperative that modernization efforts holistically address these interconnected challenges to ensure a sustainable balance between agricultural needs and ecological health. Modernization efforts should simultaneously serve agricultural producers and protect the river's ecosystem, water quality, and recreational opportunities. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Franca Ozy".

Rogue Riverkeeper Program Manager  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center



133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • friends.org  
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528

21 December, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

I am writing to express 1000 Friends of Oregon's support for funding for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. 1000 Friends is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission, in part, is the preservation of farmland so that it continues to be available for production. One of the best ways to ensure farmland stays farmland is to help farmers succeed in their farming endeavors, thus removing the pressures to convert that land to other uses. We believe this project is a critical part of a larger effort that will help keep farming viable in the Rogue Valley for generations to come.

The Joint System Canal was originally constructed in 1902, and last updated in the 1950s. It is essential to the local community, providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops. The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. It also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

Updating the Joint System Canal is the next step in a modernization and piping project that has been studied and planned for years. An earlier phase, called the Bradshaw Drop, was built by RRVID. That project came in under budget and is over-performing in water savings, and farms being served by that project are modernizing their own practices, multiplying the efficiency of the overall system. That project is on the ground proof of the benefits that the Joint System Canal project will bring to the valley.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a

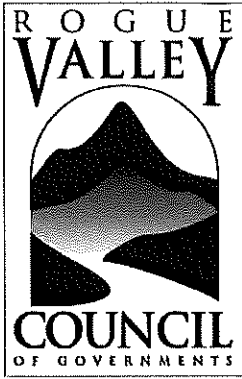
much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Holmes', written in a cursive style.

Greg Holmes  
Working Lands Program Director /  
Southern Oregon Advocate  
1000 Friends of Oregon  
PO Box 2442 Grants Pass OR 97528  
greg@friends.org

cc: RRVID



*Natural Resources Department*

# Rogue Valley Council of Governments

(541) 664-6674 • FAX (541) 664-7927 • [www.rvcog.org](http://www.rvcog.org)

12/20/23

*The Rogue Valley Council of Governments is a voluntary association of these local governments and special districts in our region:*

- Jackson County
- Josephine County
- City of Ashland
- Town of Butte Falls
- City of Cave Junction
- City of Central Point
- City of Eagle Point
- City of Gold Hill
- City of Grants Pass
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Medford
- City of Phoenix
- City of Rogue River
- City of Shady Cove
- City of Talent
- Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District № 9
- Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
- Rogue Community College (RCC)
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVS)
- Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD)
- Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI)
- Southern Oregon Regional Communications (SORC)
- Southern Oregon University (SOU)

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments supports the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The project benefits local stream flows improving water quality conditions by providing higher base flows and cooler water through the controlling of loss through seepage and evaporation.

The Joint System Canal also benefits the local community by providing critical water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation. This loss combined with the impacts of the ongoing drought result in continued lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon and other aquatic species. The canal also creates maintenance challenges for the Districts and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for its users including many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

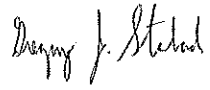
MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water delivery system future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve an estimated 25% of the water saved from seepage in-stream, enhancing the stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought (and fires) have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a "win-win" solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

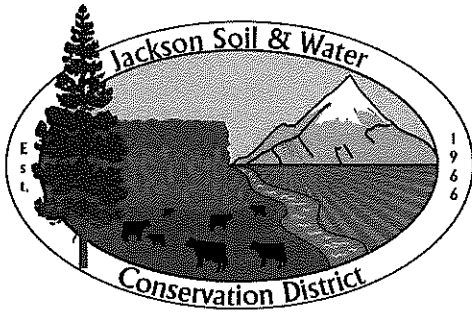
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155 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street • P.O. Box 3275 • Central Point, OR 97502

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Stabach".

Greg Stabach  
Natural Resources Program Director



Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region. The Little Butte Creek watershed is one of Jackson SWCD's priority focus areas for agricultural water quality improvements, and we strongly support funding this project.

Sincerely,

Jill Smedstad  
Executive Director

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
89 Alder Street Central Point OR 97502  
(541)423-6159 | [jill.smedstad@jswcd.org](mailto:jill.smedstad@jswcd.org)  
[www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)



December 15, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Rusted Gate Farm's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

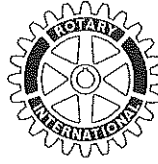
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Shannon".

Jo Ann Shannon  
Executive Director

# Rotary Club of Central Point

Club No. 0333 • District No. 5110



POST OFFICE BOX 3333

CENTRAL POINT, OR 97502-0013

*"Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best"*

November 15, 2021

Brian Hampson  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Rd.  
Medford, OR 97501

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Hampson,

The Rotary Club of Central Point supports the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and Medford Irrigation Districts' (MID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. This project will improve water quality and fish habitat while reducing water loss from seepage and evaporation that occurs in the existing old earthen canal system. The districts will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek. The project would also install standpipes to provide pressurized water to fire departments, allowing quicker response to rural structure or wildland fires.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region. We understand well the importance of the agricultural economy in the Rogue Valley and how the supply of irrigation water to our farms, ranches, orchards, and vineyards is the lifeblood of those productive lands. Many of our businesses are directly or indirectly dependent on agricultural production which provides a significant portion of the economic activity of our area.

We support improvements to our area's infrastructure and we believe this is an important irrigation modernization project. The enhancements to our environment are another benefit from this project that will be enjoyed by all of our citizens. The Rotary Club of Central Point supports the funding of the Joint System Canal Piping Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Beattie".

Julia Beattie, President  
Rotary Club of Central Point



**MEDFORD  
WATER**

August 10, 2023

Brian Hampson, Manager  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Rd.  
Medford, OR 97501

Re.: Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Modernization

Dear Mr. Hampson,

As a long-standing partner in water conservation, water quality and fish & wildlife habitat enhancement in the Rogue Basin, Medford Water strongly supports the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Modernization Project. RRVID's aging earthen canal system, built in 1902 and upgraded in the 1950's, loses a significant portion of its flow due to evaporation and seepage, which exacerbates the impacts of ongoing drought and contributes to lower stream flows that degrade habitat for fish and wildlife, including the ESA-listed Coho salmon.

RRVID completed the Bradshaw Drop Pipeline – and is seeking additional funding for restoration of the remainder of its system. Converting the open-ditch canals to an underground piped system will eliminate water losses from seepage and evaporation and reduce the risk of flooding. RRVID is committed to conserving a substantial amount of the saved water instream, which will increase stream flows and improve water quality in Little Butte Creek. Efficient irrigation practices made possible by this project will further improve water quality at Medford Water's drinking water intake on the Rogue River by decreasing irrigation runoff return flow from flood irrigation. Another important benefit of the project will be to provide pressurized water for fire response, allowing quicker suppression of structure and wildland fires.

The extended drought underscored the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. The RRVID Modernization Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Julie Smitherman,  
Water Resources & Customer Services Manager

Craig Harper,  
Watershed Administrator

200 S. Ivy Street - Room 177  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 774-2430

medfordwater.org  
water@medfordwater.org  
Fax: (541) 774-2555

City of Central Point, Oregon  
140 S 3rd Street, Central Point, OR 97502  
541.664.3321 Fax 541.664.6384  
[www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov)



NOV 10 2021

Administration  
Christopher Clayton, City Manager  
Elizabeth Simas, HR Director  
Deanna Casey, City Recorder

November 5, 2021

Brian Hampson  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Road  
Medford, OR 97501

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Hampson,

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Central Point City Council unanimously approved a motion to support the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's (RRVID) and Medford Irrigation District's (MID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. This project involves piping the 13.6 miles long Joint System Canal which will help improve water volume, water quality, protect fish habitat, enhance instream flows in Little Butte Creek, and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the regional agricultural economy.

Central Point has had a long-standing cooperative relationship with RRVID, and the City has made a point of including the District in its land use and public facilities decisions. We appreciate this opportunity to reciprocate by writing this letter of support for RRVID's pursuit of funding for this critically important improvement to their irrigation water delivery infrastructure. We understand that this project will also install standpipes to provide pressurized water to fire departments so that they can respond more effectively to rural structure or wildland fires.

In 2002, the City and RRVID collaborated in the redesign of a district irrigation system in the Twin Creeks Mixed-Use Development. This resulted in the construction of a new pump station, several hundred feet of piping, and the addition of fish screens on Griffin Creek. The City of Central Point promotes water conservation, efficient use of resources, urban agriculture, and fish habitat enhancement. For all of the above reasons, the City enthusiastically supports the Joint System Canal Piping Project and encourages funding entities to do likewise.

Sincerely,

  
Central Point Mayor Hank Williams

  
City Manager Chris Clayton



# City of Eagle Point

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January 9, 2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator:

This letter indicates the City of Eagle Point's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sell, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathy Sell'.



## NAUMES, INC.

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Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Naumes, Inc.'s strong support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

Our family business, Naumes, Inc., is primarily a grower, packer and shipper of pears, farming around 1060 acres of orchards, and we also operate around 90 acres of wine grapes and a custom crush winery. Having a strong and consistent water supply is vital to our growing operations.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought and crop losses have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure the viability of agricultural operations and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

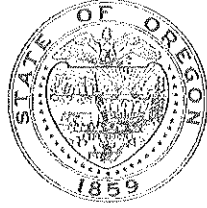
Sincerely,

Michael D. Naumes  
President, CEO  
Naumes, Inc.

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Naumes, Inc.  
2 W. Barnett Road  
PO Box 996  
Medford, OR 97501

Direct: (541) 608-1727  
Main: (541) 772-6268  
Fax: (541) 772-2135



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Emily McIntire  
House District 56

December 5, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department

725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Representative Emily McIntire's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

I appreciate your time and concern in this matter. Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions.

Blessings,



Representative Emily McIntire  
Member  
Oregon House of Representatives

**PAM MARSH**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 5  
SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

December 8, 2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

*Re: Support for Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1*

Dear OWRD Grant Review Team,

I am reaching out with my strong support for the Medford Irrigation District and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Joint System Canal Piping Project—a proposal to modernize an aging canal and to help build a more secure water future in the Rogue Basin.

MID and RRVID fundamentally contribute to the vitality of our rural and agricultural community here in the Rogue Valley, while drought threatens our economy and way of life. I understand that the earthen canal system loses 13 percent of its water to evaporation and seepage, contributing to lower streamflow, reducing agricultural production, and impacting native fish populations and aquatic habitats. This aging canal also creates ongoing maintenance challenges. We know that it is at risk of failure, which could cut off irrigation to over 21,000 patrons, with severe impacts on our local economy.

In my view, irrigation modernization is a critical step we must take to help build a more resilient region. Several years of drought and dire predictions for a hotter, drier climate here in Southern Oregon have underscored the imperative of protecting our water resources so that we can best provide for agricultural needs, reduce environmental impacts, and sustain our community. We simply must expedite upgrades to our water infrastructure as soon as possible.

I strongly urge OWRD's approval of this application. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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

Representative House District 05  
Southern Jackson County

## Jackson County Farm Bureau

2960 Brownsboro Hwy  
Eagle Point, OR 97524



1/10/2023

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Jackson County Farm Bureau support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Freeman".

Robert Freeman, President  
Jackson County Farm Bureau



*Rogue Basin Natural Resources Stewardship  
From Summit to Sea*

November 2, 2021

Brian Hampson, Manager  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
3139 Merriman Rd.  
Medford, OR 97501

Jack Friend, Manager  
Medford Irrigation District  
5045 Jacksonville Hwy.  
Central Point, OR 97502

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Hampson and Mr. Friend,

Thank you for reviewing the Joint System Canal Piping Project proposal sponsored by the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and the Medford Irrigation District (MID). This project seeks to pipe the 13.6-mile Joint System Canal, including North and South Fork Diversion Canals, and replace various siphons to address aging infrastructure, reduce water losses due to evaporation and seepage, and improve fish passage.

Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) is an ongoing collaboration of 23 organizations dedicated to advancing ecosystem restoration in the Rogue River Basin; RBP fully supports this application for funding as our Rogue Restoration Action Plan (RRAP) identifies water conservation and fish habitat enhancement as importation ecological priorities in the Rogue River Basin. Further, removing barriers to fish passage is a top priority for RBP and the Joint System Canal Piping Project is highlighted as a fundable future project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sara E. Mosser  
Partnership Coordinator

**Rogue Basin Partnership**  
P.O. Box 1214  
Medford, OR 97501  
541.414.3474  
[Sara.Mosser@roguepartners.org](mailto:Sara.Mosser@roguepartners.org)



Southern Oregon  
**LAND**  
CONSERVANCY

PO BOX 954, ASHLAND, OR 97520 / 541 482 3069 / LANDCONSERVE.ORG

January 5, 2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Southern Oregon Land Conservancy's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project.

Little Butte Creek, one of the source waters for the withdrawals, is both critical wild salmon habitat and a conservation focus area for SOLC. We currently hold multiple conservation easements on Little Butte Creek, and support actions that improve water quality, quantity and climate resilience. The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon.

We encourage you to support efforts by MID and RRVID to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek. The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We urge the Oregon Water Resources Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Steve Wise, Executive Director



**Board of Directors:** Dan Thorndike, President; Molly Morison, Vice President & Co-Interim Executive Director; Heather Hickmann, Treasurer; Jeff Beaupain, Secretary; Teresa Cisneros; Keith Emerson, Gordon Gray, Jim Huber; Dan Kellogg;; Harry Piper;; Donald Rubenstein; Kevin Talbert; Kris Wall.  
**Trustee Council:** Karen DeBoer; Paul Imperia, MD; Dan O'Connor; Judson Parsons; Sarah Sameh; Karen Smith; Nancy Tait; Bill Thorndike, Jr; Sam Whitford.  
**Staff:** Steve Wise, Executive Director; Jenni Abdo, Marketing Manager; Rebekah Bergkoetter, Land Steward; Paul Belson, Conservation Project Manager; Macy Canete, Office Manager; Alex Liston Dykema, Attorney; Paige Gerhard, Event and Volunteer Coordinator;; Lyndia Hammer, Stewardship Manager; Tara Laidlaw, Education Program Manager; Kristi Mergenthaler, Stewardship Director.

**President: Randy Wolf**

Ph. 541-890-3940

Email: [president@jcstockmens.com](mailto:president@jcstockmens.com)

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Email: [treasurer@jcstockmens.com](mailto:treasurer@jcstockmens.com)

Jackson County Stockmen's Association - PO Box 266 - Butte Falls, OR 97522

---

1/4/2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates the Jackson County Stockmen's Association's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, forage and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

Thomas White – Vice President – Jackson County Stockmen's Association

January 10, 2024

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Oregon Water Resources Department,

I am writing to express the Geos Institute's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal provides water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops. Ensuring the most efficient use of this water is critically important to our local economy and culture, particularly as we encounter more frequent and severe drought, extreme heat, and other local impacts of climate change.

Having worked directly with communities across the western U.S. to help them address the impacts of climate change, I have seen that conserving the supply of fresh water is consistently the top strategy selected by communities as they face the reality of less predictable precipitation and less frequent, but more intense storms. Our people, communities, economies, and wildlife all depend on communities making the most efficient use of their water resources.

The project before you from MID and RRVID is an urgent and necessary step for building water resilience in southern Oregon. The aging, earthen canal system is wasteful at a time when we can simply no longer afford such waste. It currently loses roughly 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation. MID and RRVID are working to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community by piping the canal to eliminate water losses due to seepage and evaporation. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and ask the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Tonya Graham  
Executive Director

CLIFF BENTZ

SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE:  
1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-6730

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
14 N CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 112  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
TEL: (541) 776-4646  
FAX: (541) 779-0204

2430 SW 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 2  
ONTARIO, OR 97914  
TEL: (541) 709-2040



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS,  
AND WILDLIFE

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL,  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,  
AND THE INTERNET

January 8, 2024

Mr. Doug Woodcock  
Acting Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Woodcock,

I am writing to express the full support of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. Recognizing the critical role of the Joint System Canal in our local community, this project will help sustain the livelihoods of over 2,225 farms and orchards, covering more than 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin. These lands are dedicated to cultivating high-value crops such as pears, wine grapes, and various other produce.

The current state of the aging, earthen canal system poses significant challenges, with approximately 13 percent of water losses attributed to seepage and evaporation. This issue is further exacerbated by the ongoing drought, impacting the local ecosystem and diminishing stream flows, crucial for the habitat of endangered coho salmon. Additionally, the maintenance challenges and the risk of canal failure pose a direct threat to the water supply of numerous orchards and farms, thereby affecting the local economy.

In response to these challenges, MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal, a move that is both commendable and necessary for securing a more resilient water future for our community. The initial phase of the project, will focus on piping the North Fork and South Fork canals. This is a strategic step towards eliminating water losses caused by seepage and evaporation. Furthermore, this enhancement significantly reduces the risk of canal failure, ensuring an uninterrupted water supply to our local farms and orchards. A key aspect of this project is the conservation of 25% of the saved water from seepage, contributing to the enhancement of stream flows in Little Butte Creek. This sustainable approach aligns with MID's and RRVD's commitment to environmental stewardship, emphasizing the balance between agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin.

The Joint System Canal Piping Project stands as a prime example of a win-win solution, simultaneously enhancing agricultural productivity and environmental resiliency in our region.

I strongly encourage the full and fair consideration of the of the Joint System Canal Piping Project. I am pleased to support this request consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. If you require any additional information about this critical project, please do not hesitate to contact me in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cliff Bentz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cliff Bentz

Member of Congress

# TALENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**P.O. Box 467**  
**104 W. Valley View Rd.**  
**Talent OR 97540-0467**



**Phone: 541-535-1529**  
**Fax: 541-535-4108**  
**Email: [tid@talentid.org](mailto:tid@talentid.org)**  
**Web: [www.talentid.org](http://www.talentid.org)**

December 11, 2023

1916-2016

Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Joint System Canal Piping Project – Phase 1

Dear Grant Coordinator,

This letter indicates Talent Irrigation District's support for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) Joint System Canal Piping Project. The Joint System Canal is essential to the local community by providing water to approximately 2,225 farms and orchards, irrigating over 21,000 acres in the Rogue Basin that grow high value pears, wine grapes, and other crops.

The aging, earthen canal system currently loses approximately 13 percent of its water due to seepage and evaporation, exacerbating the impacts of ongoing drought and contributing to lower stream flows that affect habitat for endangered coho salmon. The canal also creates maintenance challenges and is at risk of failure which could cut off the water supply for many orchards and farms, affecting the local economy.

MID and RRVID are planning to modernize the Joint System Canal to address these challenges and provide a more secure water future for the community. The first phase of the project will pipe the North Fork and South Fork canals, which form the upper end of the Joint System Canal. Upgrading the canals with pipe eliminates water losses due to seepage and evaporation and dramatically reduces the risk of canal failure. The project will conserve in-stream 25% of the water saved from seepage, enhancing stream flows in Little Butte Creek.

The past several years of drought have demonstrated the importance of addressing both agricultural and environmental water needs in the Rogue Basin to ensure a vibrant community and resilient ecosystem. We appreciate the Oregon Water Resources Department's support for irrigation modernization and urge the Department to support the Districts' application for funding. The Joint System Canal Piping Project provides a much-needed example of a win-win solution that improves agricultural and environmental resiliency in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Wanda Derry".

Wanda Derry  
Manager

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Attachment 4:  
Draft Technical Memo (plans, designs, or engineering  
specifications)



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
89 Alder Street Central Point OR 97502  
Telephone: (541)423-6159 Fax: 541-727-7471  
[www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)

## TECHNICAL MEMO – FIRST DRAFT

### JOINT SYSTEM CANAL PIPELINE PROJECT – PHASE 1



*For: Medford Irrigation District & Rogue River Valley Irrigation District*

*Prepared By: Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District*

*Date: DRAFT 8/22/2021*

*Nearby Address: 2855 S F Little Butte Creek Road, Eagle point, OR*

*HUC12 Watershed(s): Lower North Fork Little Butte Creek, Lower South Fork Little Butte Creek, Lake-Creek Little Butte Creek*

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

This technical memo and preliminary design report refer to the planned Joint System Canal (JSC) Pipeline project – Phase 1, for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID). The complete pipeline project aims to convert the entire JSC into a pressurized pipeline for the purpose of eliminating canal leakage, maximizing use of existing storage reservoirs, pressurizing water for irrigators, reducing canal maintenance, reducing the total canal length, improving measurement of irrigator water use, replacing aging infrastructure, and improving water quality.

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) System Improvement Plans (SIP) for MID and RRVID were utilized as a main reference for the information in this memo. This technical memo references their previous work with a more detailed look at the specific JSC Phase 1 pipeline project.

The total estimated budget for Phase 1 is about 15.6 million dollars to install 4.17 miles of pipeline. See Table 1, 2 and Section 5 for details.

Phase 1 plans to pipe the North Fork (NF) Canal, South Fork (SF) Canal and a portion of the JSC to the end of the Osborne Siphon with a combination of gravity and pressurized pipelines totaling about 4.17 miles of pipe. The existing total canal length is about 4.6 miles long. 0.4 miles of pipeline will be eliminated by straightening the pipeline alignment outside of the existing canal footprint using new siphon locations. About 1.5 miles of concrete lined canal including concrete bench flumes and shotcrete lined sections will be replaced by the pipeline. This phase 1 length represents about 30% of the total canal length of the Joint System Canal system. There may be up to 4 phases needed to complete the entire Joint System Canal.

The NF Canal Pipeline, SF Canal Pipeline, and JSC Pipeline may be constructed independent of each other. Depending on final design and construction considerations, the Phase 1 project may need to be split into multiple sub-phases.

**Table 1: Summary of JSC Phase 1 Pipe Types and Costs**

<b>PIPE SECTION</b>	<b>PIPE TYPE</b>	<b>LENGTH (Miles)</b>	<b>COST</b>
<b>NF Canal Pipeline</b>	66" HDPE Fusion Weld KRAH	0.89	\$2,111,000
<b>SF Canal Pipeline</b>	60" N-12 Water-Tight Gasket	0.36	\$1,511,000
<b>JSC – Junction to Osborne</b>	72" HDPE Fusion Weld KRAH	2.92	\$11,930,000
<b>TOTAL - JSC Phase 1</b>		<b>4.17</b>	<b>\$15,552,000</b>

The North Fork Canal may be piped in a 66" diameter low pressure pipeline for the main canal, and a 66" pressurized pipeline up to 30 psi for the SF Little Butte Creek Siphon. Total length is about 4,700 feet (0.89 Miles) of pipe, comprised of 3,900 feet of gravity pipe and 800 feet of pressure pipe. The pipeline will begin downstream of the existing measurement flume and will end at the Junction. Design flow rate is 125 cubic feet per second (CFS). Estimated cost for the NF Canal pipeline is about 2.1 million dollars.

The South Fork Canal may be piped in a 60" diameter gravity pipeline. Total length is about 1900 feet (0.36 Miles) of pipe. The pipeline will begin downstream of the existing fish screen and will end at the Junction. Design flow rate is 100 CFS. Estimated cost for the SF Canal pipeline is about 1.5 million dollars.

The JSC from the Junction to the end of Phase 1 at the end of the Osborne Siphon may be piped in a 72" diameter pressurized pipeline, with pressure ranges of 10 psi for the beginning of the main canal up to 70 psi for the low point of the Osborne Siphon. Total length is about 15,400 feet (2.92 Miles) of pipe. The pipeline will begin downstream of the Junction and will end in the main canal. Automatic debris screens will be placed at the beginning of the pressurized pipeline. Design flow rate is 140 CFS. Estimated cost for the JSC pipeline is about 11.9 million dollars.

The end of Phase 1 may have a reducing section of pipe down to about 36" diameter with a control valve to provide backpressure on the pipeline during operation. Erosion control measures will be installed, and this reducer and valve are expected to be temporary for at least 1 irrigation season at which point they may be removed when phase 2 begins and reattached to the end of phase 2.

13 irrigation water delivery turnouts (12 existing and 1 new) with new flow meters will be installed. New improved flow measurement stations will be installed on the SF Canal pipeline and JSC pipeline. New headgates, surveillance systems, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems with remote manual operation may be installed at the SF and NF canals. A new automatic debris screens will be installed at the beginning of the JSC pressurized pipeline. 5 creeks/drainages will be crossed with new inverted siphons.

Over a mile of livestock and wildlife friendly fencing may be installed along with multiple stockwater improvements. 11 areas along the open canal have stormwater inflows and/or upland flood irrigation inflow. Each will be adjusted and evaluated to either collect or re-route the water. Potentially 15 acres of disturbed ground over the new pipeline will be re-seeded with non-invasive grasses and forbs in partnership with local experts.

Although not included in this report, fish screens and diversions at NF and SF Little Butte Creek may be updated with new concrete stations, new stoplogs, new fish passage improvements for lamprey or other improvements. The existing diversions in NF and SF Little Butte Creek plan to be studied for fish passage improvements by Rogue River Watershed Council and others. Additional riparian habitat improvements may be evaluated for each siphon creek crossing location and is not included in the scope of this project.

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Attachment 5:  
References

## References for Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1 OWRD Irrigation Modernization Grant Application

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<https://www.rogueriverwc.org/project-archive/little-butte-creek-floodplain-rehabilitation-project/>

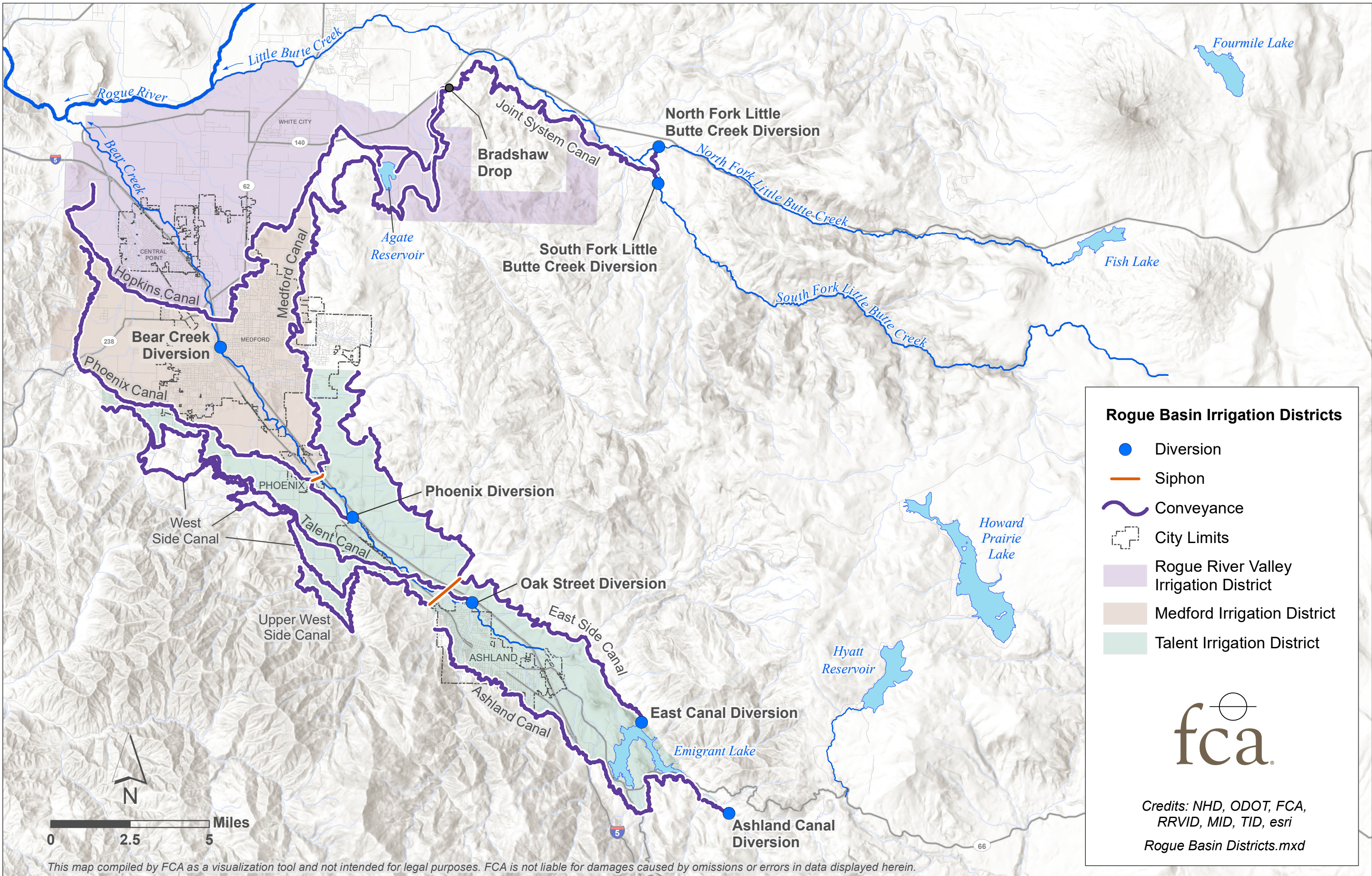
US Drought Monitor. (2023). "Jackson County, OR." National Drought Mitigation Center.

[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?fips\\_41029](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?fips_41029)

Oregon Water Resources Department  
Irrigation Modernization Funding  
2024 Grant Application

Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1

Attachment 6:  
District Overview Maps

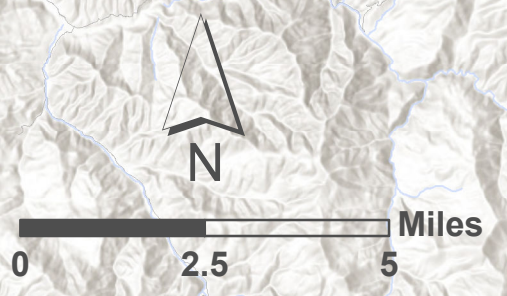


**Rogue Basin Irrigation Districts**

- Diversion
- Siphon
- ~ Conveyance
- City Limits
- Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
- Medford Irrigation District
- Talent Irrigation District



Credits: NHD, ODOT, FCA, RRVID, MID, TID, esri  
 Rogue Basin Districts.mxd



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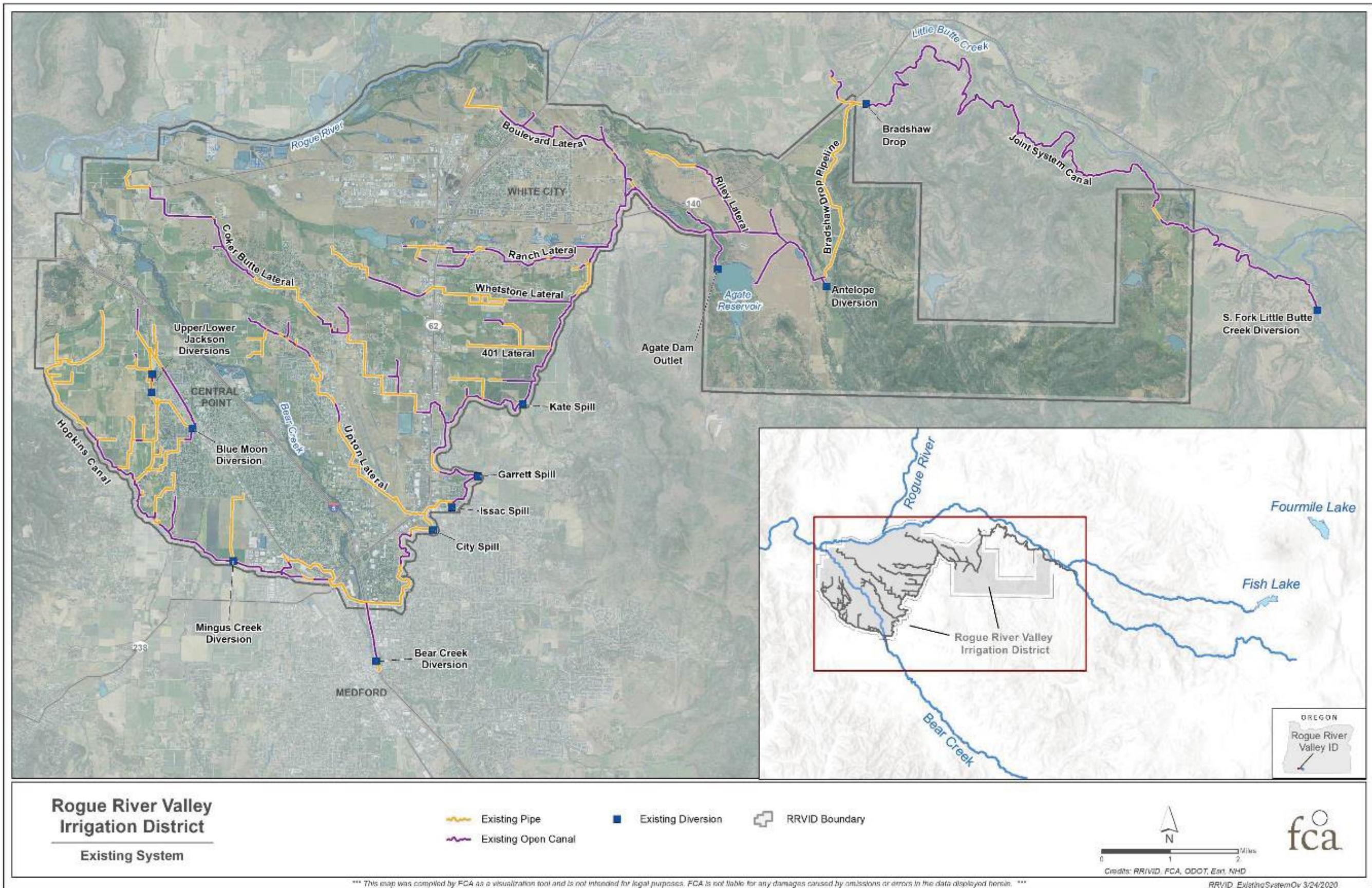


Figure 2: Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Existing Delivery System and lands served, including the Joint System Canal.