



Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Evaluation Summaries – 2022 Funding Cycle



August 11, 2022

Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The 2022 application deadline was April 27, 2022. The Department received 4 complete applications requesting a total of \$7,362,656 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the 2022 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) provided comments on each application, scored applications based on the criteria identified within the [Scoring Criteria document](#), and made a funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission (Commission) based on that evaluation and available funds. The following evaluation summaries highlight TRT comments gathered by the Department during the application evaluation process and are prepared for the Commission's consideration and review. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grant Program Coordinator to request a review meeting and receive additional evaluation feedback. The evaluation summaries are listed in order of the TRT ranking.

The evaluation summary includes a combined public benefit score, which the TRT used to rank proposed projects. A table is also provided that shows a breakdown of the application score by category. An application could score up to 72 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 24 additional preference points; up to 12 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 12 points for collaboration (these are listed in the "Other" category). There is a maximum public benefit score of 240 points.

Next Steps

The Department is soliciting public comment on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation through 5:00 pm on September 12, 2022. Information on how to submit a public comment is available [here](#). Public comments submitted on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation will be presented to the Commission who will make a funding decision. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 17-18, 2022.

More Information

If you have questions please contact Grant Program Coordinator, Adair Muth, at 971-301-0718 or WRD_DL_waterprojects@water.oregon.gov.

2022 Applications

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Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration – Group 4

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Tumalo Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: \$2,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$8,706,808

Project Summary: The proposed project would restore 2.24 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water to Tumalo Creek during the irrigation season and Crescent Creek in the winter by enclosing 58,919 feet of open canal and laterals in HDPE piping. The conserved water would be protected instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water Program and would provide improved temperature conditions and water quantity for Endangered Species Act-listed species and native fish and wildlife. This portion of the project includes the West Branch Columbia Southern West Canal, Beasley Lateral, North Spaulding Lateral, and Spaulding Lateral. The pipe follows the existing canal alignment and would be installed in a compacted trench with 3 feet of cover to protect the pipe from freezing and damage. The surface would be restored with topsoil and seeding where appropriate.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 96

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
31	33	20	12

Economic: The application clearly described the proposed project’s improvements in efficiency by enclosing the delivery system and energy savings by eliminating pumping costs. Crop productivity and agricultural resiliency are anticipated to improve with a more reliable water supply. The application could have been improved by including the direct increases in economic activity and property values resulting from the proposed project.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the conserved water instream through the Department’s Allocation of Conserved Water (ACW) Program. The project would support high-quality cold-water habitat and improve flows important for fish recovery and the Oregon Spotted frog in Tumalo Creek. The application could have been improved by providing additional information to support the claims regarding conserving water during the winter in Crescent Lake.

Social/Cultural: Outcomes of the proposed project include eliminating the public safety risks associated with open canals in urban and residential areas. The application would have been improved with supporting information regarding efforts to engage tribal communities and other traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.

Summary: The proposed project is likely to achieve high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The review team noted that at times it was difficult to separate the benefits of this proposed project from past and future phases of piping district canals.

East Fork Irrigation District Sublateral Modernization Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: East Fork Irrigation District

County: Hood River

Funding Requested: \$822,995 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$1,878,295

Project Summary: The proposed project would install 15 pressure reducing stations, remove 14 waterboxes, and replace 11,200 feet of non-pressure rated pipe with pressure-rated pipe. This would eliminate overflows at the existing water boxes and allow East Fork Irrigation District to pressurize nine sub-laterals of the Eastside Lateral system and two sub-laterals on the Central Lateral system. The primary goals of this project are to increase summer stream flows for threatened salmon and steelhead and increase long-term irrigation water reliability. The project would legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water program.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 76

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
18	24	22	12

Economic: The application provided a clear explanation of the short and long-term economic benefits of the proposed project. The project enhances irrigation efficiency with an increase in automation and reduces the annual costs for the labor and equipment currently needed to monitor, adjust, and repair the sub-laterals. The application provided information regarding enhancement of agricultural yield in the Eastside Lateral, but the application could have been improved by providing information on the specific duration for the estimate.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the conserved water instream through the Department's Allocation of Conserved Water (ACW) Program. Improved summer flows provided by the proposed project are identified as methods to improve habitat in the Final ESA Recovery Plan. The application provided clear information regarding how the proposed project could contribute to ecosystem resiliency to climate change.

Social/Cultural: The application describes a high level of collaborative planning in the basin and the proposed project's role in supporting state and local priorities, including the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs offered support for the proposed project, noting its importance for benefiting threatened anadromous fish populations in the Hood River Basin. The application would have been improved by supporting the claimed benefits to the Hispanic communities and describing community engagement opportunities.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to demonstrate the likelihood of achieving a high standard of environmental and social/cultural public benefits. The review team anticipates moderate economic benefits resulting from the proposed project.

Mill Creek Park Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Stayton

County: Marion

Funding Requested: \$3,819,750 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$5,093,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would develop an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) system at Mill Creek Park to store approximately 480 acre feet (156 million gallons) of drinking water for the City of Stayton. The project would provide a redundant water source to improve municipal water security and drought resilience, enabling the City to meet peak seasonal demands and deliver water without interruption when the primary North Santiam River surface water supply is unavailable. The City is currently limited to approximately three days of stored water when their primary drinking water source is unavailable. Proposed activities include permitting, design, and construction of an ASR well, and associated water system improvements.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 37

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
10	8	16	3

Economic: The proposed project is an innovative approach to help diversify the City's water supply and would prevent economic loss by providing a stable drinking water supply. The application would have been improved by providing more details about the claimed increase in jobs anticipated from the proposed project.

Environmental: The proposed project is located within the Stayton-Sublimity Groundwater Limited Area (OAR 690-502-0180), where basalt aquifers are classified for exempt uses only. The project would inject water into the basalt aquifer and carry over water is likely to moderately enhance groundwater levels. The injected water would be of drinking water quality, which could lead to a benefit in groundwater quality, but quantitative benefits would have strengthened the claim. The applicant is not proposing to legally protect the water instream. The proposed project would require the development of a Seasonally Varying Flow (SVF) through the Water Resources Department.

Social/Cultural: The application provided clear information and details regarding critical public health and safety benefits of the project and the potential impacts should the project not occur. The proposed project is in alignment with the goals of the drought contingency plan, which was a collaborative basin planning effort, and provided linkage to recommended actions in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The application would have been improved by describing community engagement opportunities.

Summary: The application provided a clear description of the City's need for a redundant drinking water source. The review team anticipates moderate economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits resulting from the proposed project.

Klamath Irrigation District Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Automation Improvements

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Klamath Irrigation District

County: Klamath

Funding Requested: \$719,911 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$1,179,281

Project Summary: The proposed project would install Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA) components to provide data on flow rates, water elevations, and control device structures at Klamath Irrigation District's existing canals and pump stations. The SCADA system would also include automation components to allow for the remote operation of delivery system gates. The goals of this project are to better inform current operations and on-going planning efforts; improve the irrigation delivery system, water savings, and operational efficiency; and reduce operational spills, over-deliveries, and seepage.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 27

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
18	5	4	0

Economic: The application clearly described the improvements the SCADA components would provide both in efficiency by reducing waste and in energy savings by reducing pumping costs. The proposed project would provide needed improvement to the irrigation district's infrastructure and allow the irrigation district to extend the irrigation season. The application would have been strengthened by providing supporting information for the claims of increased economic activity.

Environmental: The proposed project would provide moderate improvement to water quality by reducing the amount of poor-quality water that flows from the Klamath Straits Drain to the Klamath River. The proposed project does not appear to result in water conservation but shift the use by reducing waste and extending the irrigation season. The application would have been improved by providing evidence or information to support claims of benefits to groundwater levels and referencing limiting factors in recovery plans.

Social/Cultural: The application clearly linked the proposed project to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy recommended actions. The application did not provide information regarding efforts to engage tribal communities and other traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities. The application would have been improved with more details on how the project would promote collecting scientific data and explaining how that information would be shared publicly.

Summary: The review team's evaluation assessed minor environmental and social/cultural public benefits resulting from the proposed project as described in the application. The review team observed that, in general, the application would have been strengthened with additional information and a more detailed description to explain how the claimed benefits would be achieved as a result of the project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating public benefits beyond those of a minor quality would be achieved.