Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding Applications

Project Summaries – 2024 Funding Cycle 2

July 25, 2024

Background

The Water Supply Development Account provides grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits (ORS 541.651-696). In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 5030, providing $50 million to the Water Supply Development Account to issue grants for irrigation modernization projects and $10 million for Water Project Grants and Loans. The application deadline for the second 2024 funding cycle was July 10, 2024. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received seven complete applications requesting a total of $9,279,591 in grant funding for Water Project Grants and Loans projects. OWRD received one complete application for irrigation modernization funding requesting $907,290 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are project summaries for complete grant applications received by July 10, 2024 for the second 2024 Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding cycle. The project summaries are adapted from submitted project applications. The application summaries are listed in alphabetical order by project name.

Next Steps

OWRD is soliciting public comment on the Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding applications through 5 pm on September 23, 2024. Information on how to submit a public comment is available on the website. Public comments submitted on applications will be considered by the Technical Review Team (TRT). The TRT will evaluate applications and make a funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission. OWRD will post the TRT funding recommendation for an additional public comment period. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is December 12-13, 2024.

More Information

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

Water Project Grants and Loans Applications Received

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost
Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement	North Unit Irrigation District	Deschutes	$1,971,924	$9,782,732
Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement	Union Soil & Water Conservation District	Union	$1,924,463	$7,267,790
Harbor Water Collector Disaster Mitigation Project	Harbor Water People's Utility District	Curry	$171,584	$1,715,838
Southside Well Water Storage	Harney Soil and Water Conservation District	Harney	$144,150	$188,150
Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project	Illinois Valley SWCD and Trout Unlimited	Josephine	$535,868	$669,890
Twickenham Irrigation Efficiency	Gabe Williams	Wheeler	$831,602	$1,674,206
Winston Reservoir Replacement	Winston-Dillard Water District	Douglas	$3,700,000	$7,038,500
		Total	**$9,279,591**	**$28,337,106**

Irrigation Modernization Funding Application Received

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost
Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping	Klamath Irrigation District	Klamath	$907,290	$3,629,159
		Total	**$907,290**	**$3,629,159**

2024 Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

2024 Irrigation Modernization Funding Application

2024 Water Project Grants and Loans Applications:

Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: North Unit Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $1,971,924

Total Project Cost: $9,782,732

Project Summary: This project would remove the existing screens and other related components located at the North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) main canal intake on the mainstem of the Deschutes River and replace them with new screens and components that are in compliance with state and federal standards. The new fish screens are intended to supply debris-free water to irrigators without harming aquatic life. The NUID diversion is responsible for maintaining minimum river flow consistent with legal instream requirements at North Canal Dam as well as ensuring the North Canal Dam Fish Ladder maintains sufficient supplies for fish migration. Through design features that would slow the approach velocity, shrink the mesh size for the screen, and provide a safe path to the fish ladder, the proposed fish screen would provide protection, survival, and restoration to native fish and other aquatic species, while securing water management operations for several irrigation districts.

Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Union Soil & Water Conservation District

County: Union

Funding Requested: $1,924,463

Total Project Cost: $7,267,790

Project Summary: The proposed project is within the Catherine Creek River Basin, near the confluence of the Grande Ronde River. The project goals are to (a) improve irrigation water use efficiency, (b) decrease the negative hydrologic effects associated with Elmer Dam in its current state, (c) improve fish passage for all native fishes at all water levels and provide unimpeded passage to approximately 40 of miles of critical spawning and/or rearing habitat for ESA-listed salmon, (d) increase aquatic habitat quality, and (e) increase climate change resiliency. The proposed project would improve the fishway and dam and make on-farm improvements to off-channel reservoirs and intakes, which would result in unimpeded fish passage and more natural hydrologic scenarios throughout this migration corridor for all native fishes.

Harbor Water Collector Disaster Mitigation Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Harbor Water People's Utility District

County: Curry

Funding Requested: $171,584

Total Project Cost: $1,715,838

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to protect a drinking water intake supplying water to approximately 4,300 customers on the South Bank of the mouth of the Chetco River. The proposed project would place 6-foot-deep layer of armoring riprap and barriers of submerged Douglas fir logs with attached root wads around the base of the Ranney Collector to provide structural support, encourage sediment deposition, decrease water velocity and the subsequent risk of increased erosion, and trap fines to provide further stability and future aquatic habitat for Endangered Species Act listed salmon. The riprap and large wood would prevent further erosion of the riverbank near the Harbor Water People Utility District's (PUD) sole drinking water intake.

Southside Well Water Storage

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Harney Soil and Water Conservation District

County: Harney

Funding Requested: $144,150

Total Project Cost: $188,150

Project Summary: The main goal of the proposed project is to get water to the hay fields to irrigate during hot months when water is limited from the Malheur River. The proposed project would install a submersible pump into a well that would pump water to the storage area. The storage reservoir would be built and lined with Bentonite and a pipeline would be installed with valves to supply water to and from the reservoir to the point of use for irrigation.

Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Trout Unlimited

County: Josephine

Funding Requested: $535,868

Total Project Cost: $669,890

Project Summary: The proposed irrigation modernization project at Sweet Cron Farm in Kerby would convert from flood and drip irrigation to center pivot irrigation on 33.4 acres. The project goals are to restore and maintain instream flow to benefit native fish populations and to provide an efficient water supply for irrigation. This strategic upgrade is expected to enhance water distribution by 30-50%, benefiting agricultural production. The applicant would legally protect 100% of the conserved water instream (approximately 0.14 cubic feet per second) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water program in a stream with Endangered Species Act listed fish species.

Twickenham Irrigation Efficiency

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Gabe Williams

County: Wheeler

Funding Requested: $831,602

Total Project Cost: $1,674,206

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to improve climate change resilience of agriculture and the ecosystem. Under this are three sub-goals/actions: to improve irrigation efficiency, increase agricultural production, and increase instream flow. The proposed project would consolidate pumps and upgrade two centrifugal pumps to one more efficient turbine pump, replace the mainline system, upgrade existing pivots for improved efficiency, reduce and/or replace handline and solid-set irrigation systems with pivots, consolidate corner irrigation sections under high efficiency pivots, and apply activated biochar to the fields to improve water retention, reduce fertilizer needs, and improve microbial conditions. The applicant would legally protect 50% of the conserved water instream in the John Day River (approximately 0.75 cubic feet per second) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water program. The applicant would apply 50% of the conserved water to place additional acreage into production which would improve the future viability of the agricultural operation.

Winston Reservoir Replacement

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Winston-Dillard Water District

County: Douglas

Funding Requested: $3,700,000

Total Project Cost: $7,038,500

Project Summary: The proposed project would replace the two existing water storage reservoirs that have a combined capacity of 1.5 million gallons with one welded steel tank reservoir that holds 2 million gallons. The project would benefit the rural communities of Dillard and City of Winston by improving water management, conserve water, improve drought resiliency, increase wildfire protection, and support aquatic habitat.

2024 Irrigation Modernization Funding Application:

Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Klamath Irrigation District

County: Klamath

Funding Requested: $907,290

Total Project Cost: $3,629,159

Project Summary: The proposed project would install piping materials along three miles of the A-3 Urban Canal, install an irrigation flow measurement device and automation to integrate with the District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, and address invasive weed species. The proposed project anticipates conserving 1000- acre feet of water annually and having multi-benefit effects for numerous stakeholders. The proposed A-3 Urban Canal piping project targets an area where significant seepage is identified and requires additional water deliveries to push water through the canal to meet irrigation demand.