



Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Evaluation Summaries – 2020 Funding Cycle



September 24, 2020

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 2020 application deadline was May 28, 2020. The Department received 12 complete applications requesting a total of \$18,828,217 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the 2020 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 for 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 October 2, 2020. 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 19-20, 2020.

More Information

If you have questions please contact Grant Program Coordinator, Becky Williams, at 503.986.0869 or WRD_DL_waterprojects@oregon.gov.

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Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration - Group 3

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Tumalo Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: \$1,200,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$5,871,548

Project Summary: The proposed project would enclose open, porous irrigation canals into a closed piping system resulting in water conservation, improvements to water delivery reliability and efficiencies, energy conservation, and improvements to public safety. The project work proposes to enclose the Tumalo Irrigation District's Allen Lateral, as well as its sub-lateral and conserve approximately 4.2 cfs of water, which has been previously lost to seepage and evaporation. The conserved water would benefit Endangered Species Act and native fish species and is anticipated to contribute to improved surface water temperatures in the basin. The conserved water would be legally protected instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 81

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
28	25	16	12

Economic: The proposed project outcomes anticipate that jobs would be retained and created, ranging from short-term construction jobs to longer-term agricultural related jobs. Energy and operational savings are likely as a result of improved infrastructure and implementation of efficiency upgrades. Crop productivity is anticipated to improve as a result of a more reliable water supply. Additional details to substantiate the claims of improvements to the recreational industry, as a result of the legal protection of water conserved, would improve the application.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the conserved water instream. The project will improve biologically important flows in Tumalo Creek, which is a key tributary to the Middle Deschutes River. The addition of high-quality cold water will likely improve streamflow temperatures in Tumalo Creek. The current streamflow conditions and the anticipated improvements in ecosystem resiliency through downstream impacts are clearly demonstrated.

Social/Cultural: The project is a result of highly collaborative basin planning efforts. Outcomes of the proposed project include eliminating the public safety risks associated with open canals in highly used recreation areas. The application could be improved with supporting information regarding efforts to engage traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities and to provide them an opportunity for meaningful input.

Summary: Throughout the application current conditions and the anticipated public benefits were thoroughly described and detailed, which provided the review team with a clear understanding of the likely change in conditions. The proposed project outcomes were evaluated as likely to achieve high to moderate public benefits in all public benefit categories.

Eastside Lateral Pipeline and Water Conservation Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: East Fork Irrigation District

County: Hood River County

Funding Requested: \$2,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$7,654,594

Project Summary: The project proposes to replace 6 miles of open irrigation canals with HDPE pipe and eliminate 14 end spills that currently lose an estimated 6 cfs on the Eastside Lateral Canal within the East Fork Irrigation District in the Hood River Basin. The project anticipates increasing summer stream flows for threatened salmon and steelhead, and increasing long-term irrigation water reliability. The anticipated benefits of eliminating end spills and piping the open canal would leave this water in the river, providing a positive impact on spawning and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act listed spring Chinook, Coho and winter steelhead. The project proposes to legally protect 50 percent of the conserved water instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water. Additionally, an anticipated project outcome is the ability to deliver water more efficiently to increase reliability and the resiliency of local agriculture in a changing climate.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 79

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
19	27	21	12

Economic: The application clearly described the anticipated job creation associated with construction activities. Additionally, the project's impact to the retention of jobs important to the area and the economic impact was well described and quantified. The project proposes to improve operational efficiency in terms of time, labor, and energy related to maintenance. The application provided a clear explanation of how this project improves efficiency due to eliminating end spills which currently must be monitored, requiring daily adjustment of diversion to maintain sufficient delivery. Conservation of water resulting from infrastructure upgrades are likely to produce a significant effect on the long-term viability of farmland.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 50 percent of the conserved water instream. The review team noted that a greater percentage of conserved water protected may be required based on the criteria of the Allocation of Conserved Water program and recommends the applicant fully understand all applicable criteria. The application quantifies the anticipated impact of conserved water at low-flow periods which serves to demonstrate the potential impact of protected water, in addition to illustrating the relative importance for fish. The elimination of end spills would be likely to improve water quality by reducing turbidity and lowering temperatures. The proposed project outcomes anticipate increased streamflows promoting ecosystem resiliency.

Social/Cultural: The application was strengthened by describing the collaboration with tribes and other community groups to meet watershed goals identified in multiple plans. The project proposes to improve the scenic value of farmland and irrigated agriculture. The application would be improved by showing how the project directly results in measureable improvements for environmental justice communities.

Summary: The project proposal included well documented current conditions and the anticipated public benefits likely to occur as a result of the project. The public had opportunity to provide input and engage on the proposal and the project was identified by a collaborative basin planning group as a priority. The proposed project outcomes were determined to achieve public benefits meeting a high standard of quality in all categories.

Lone Pine Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Lone Pine Irrigation District

County: Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson

Funding Requested: \$1,600,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$9,200,259

Project Summary: This Project proposes to pipe and pressurize the currently open canal system, and construct a new river crossing for the delivery system. The proposal seeks to address the watershed problems and resource concerns such as water loss in District conveyance systems, water delivery and operation inefficiencies, instream flow for fish, and improved public safety. The piped and pressurized system would eliminate evaporation losses and seepage losses from the open unlined canals. The project proposes to conserve 3.7 cfs and legally protect the conserved water instream.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 51

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
17	16	11	7

Economic: The application provided information on job creation that was specific and supported by data. The project outcomes anticipate improvements in water, energy, and operation and maintenance efficiency related to the proposed infrastructure. The project is also likely to enhance farmland by allowing for pressurized delivery, more efficient irrigation use and improvements to public safety by eliminating dangerous canals. The application would be strengthened by additional detail to support claims of improved economic activity and crop productivity as a result of this project.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of conserved water instream. Eliminating end spills will reduce contamination from irrigation runoff and increasing water instream is likely to achieve an important improvement in water quality for a river that is temperature impaired. The project will result in delivery of irrigation water on demand with piping, leading to improved irrigation efficiency. The application would be improved by more clearly explaining the connection of this project to the anticipated improvements in ecosystem resiliency.

Social/Cultural: The project promotes public safety by reducing the risk of injury or drowning in canals, promotes local food systems by ensuring a reliable water supply for irrigation, and promotes the local priority of improving streamflow in the Deschutes River. The review team noted that it was unclear what changes would result to underserved communities or if environmental justice communities were consulted or engaged in project planning.

Summary: The proposed project is ready to be implemented and has demonstrated feasibility. The application provided clear information and details regarding the critical public benefits most likely to be achieved. The evaluation indicated that a consistent moderate level of public benefits would be likely in each category as a result of the proposed project.

Prineville Airport Area Aquifer – Dedicated ASR Well #1 and #2

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Prineville

County: Crook

Funding Requested: \$2,876,174 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$3,834,900

Project Summary: The proposed project is to construct two dedicated Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells, and 1660 feet of new conveyance piping to connect the wells to the City's system, which is part of the City's larger overall ASR program. The proposed ASR wells are to be located near the Crook County Airport within the Lower Crooked River Basin. These dedicated ASR wells would play a key role in the City's overall ASR Program by allowing the annual storage of an additional 260 million gallons of water that will be used to meet the City's growing peak summertime water demands, and in turn is expected to encourage economic development in the region and ease peak demand stress on existing water sources. Without the City's development of a new source of water the summertime demand could exceed the City's available capacity by 2025.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 38

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>				
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other	
19	6	11	2	

Economic: An outcome of the proposed project is an enhancement to the City's water infrastructure by providing additional water storage capability. The application describes the ability to attract business development as an important anticipated outcome of the increased water supply. The application could be improved with supporting information to document the water demand for future business development. The application could be improved with considering improvements in system efficiency as a result of this project.

Environmental: The project is anticipated to legally protect water instream which is released from the Prineville reservoir through the application of mitigation credits. The review team noted that the legal protection of water would not be expected to produce an overall change in conditions that supports, enhances, or improves an overall instream benefit. The project is anticipated to result in greater out-of-stream water use, and the review team also commented that the application could be improved with considering the potential for water conservation measures. Potential loss of injected water to the aquifer system may help stabilize groundwater declines. The application could be improved by describing the measurable improvements to groundwater and surface water quality as a result of this project.

Social/Cultural: Anticipated benefits to public health as a result of this project include resiliency and redundancy of the water system for emergency preparedness. Groundwater-level data collected as part of the project could be useful for broader understanding of the aquifer system. The application provided documentation of support from multiple groups of diverse interests. The application would be improved by engaging underserved and underrepresented members of the community, and detailing how the project would improve conditions for members of these communities.

Summary: The application provided clear information and details regarding the high likelihood of economic public benefits as a result of the proposed project. While moderate social/cultural public benefits may be achieved, the review team's evaluation assessed minor environmental public benefits as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Muddy Creek Water Use and Restoration Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Lake County Watershed

County: Lake

Funding Requested: \$462,913 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$816,154

Project Summary: The goal of the Muddy Creek Water Use and Restoration Project includes maintaining the water right permit for irrigation at the Shine Brother's Ranch by addressing fish passage and habitat restoration for Goose Lake red band trout, a state listed species of concern. A 75-foot rock ramp roughened channel fish passage would be constructed at the spillway of the reservoir to restore 1.5 miles of stream channel habitat. The planned improvements would expand fish spawning and rearing habitat by 6 miles, resulting in compliance with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements, combined with streambank stabilization efforts, riparian improvement actions, and is anticipated to sustain the working landscape on the cattle ranch for years to come.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 25

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
6	8	8	3

Economic: The project is anticipated to produce improvements to infrastructure and farmland, and enhance public resource lands with restoring creek and fish habitat. While the application provided a clear explanation of construction activities likely to result in short-term job creation, additional information is needed to explain benefits the project provides for long-term benefits to jobs and economic activity for the public. The application would be improved with additional detail in how the proposed project might enhance the economic value of the campground associated with tourism, recreation, and fishing.

Environmental: A strength of the proposed project is the likely restoration of riparian habitat and improvement of watershed connectivity by creating fish passage. The project is anticipated to improve water quality and to address other limiting ecological factors. Information about current water quality in the creek, and a proposal for quantifying the anticipated changes which may occur due to riparian restoration work, would have improved the proposal. The limited ecological factors in the watershed are clearly described and additional information about Muddy Creek would have clarified its relationship to the watershed. Exploring opportunities for water conservation or protection would strengthen the proposal.

Social/Cultural: The project retains scenic and recreational value of the area, and promotes local food systems by ensuring that pastures for grazing of livestock can continue to be irrigated. The application was strengthened by providing evidence of cooperative work between community groups, the local government, and private land owners. The application could be strengthened by providing more information on how the project benefits underserved communities. The proposal could be improved with a description of the methods for sharing data and project outcomes beyond those collected and monitored as requirements of the project work.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to demonstrate the likely achievement of moderate environmental and social/cultural benefits. Additional details would further serve to explain the current conditions and quantify the extent of the potential enhancements. Based on the information provided, the review team anticipates the achievement of minor economic public benefits as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Highland Ditch Piping Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Badger Improvement District

County: Wasco

Funding Requested: \$2,250,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$3,000,000

Project Summary: This proposed project would pipe roughly 14,000 feet of the irrigation ditch with a 30-inch PVC or HDPE pipe. The current open ditch is in steep terrain, and surrounded by the Badger Creek Wilderness Area in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The ditch is difficult to access and repair, and is subject to possible washout due to debris filling the ditch. As this ditch is the main supply of irrigation water to farmers in the area, a ditch failure would threaten the economic stability of agriculture in the area. Additionally, installing a pipe would help prevent washouts which negatively affect fish habitat in Badger Creek due to large amounts of dirt and debris filling the creek. The project proposes to conserve water by improving the overall efficiency of Badger Improvement District's irrigation system and eliminating leaching and seepage in the existing ditch. The project proposes to legally protect up to 0.5 cfs of the conserved water in Badger Creek through Allocation of Conserved Water.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 23

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
9	7	5	2

Economic: The project is likely to maintain a more reliable water supply leading to supporting agricultural jobs, but the application did not provide sufficient information on how the project would improve economic activity. Additional information for potential irrigation efficiencies to support innovative system improvements would have strengthened the proposed project. The application would be strengthened with updated engineering designs and cost analysis.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 50 percent of the conserved water instream benefitting water-limited Badger Creek. The review team noted that a greater percentage of water protected may be required based on criteria of the Allocation of Conserved Water program and recommends the applicant fully understand all applicable criteria. Reduced sedimentation and stream temperatures are possible benefits of the project. Including an evaluation of the natural springs discharge potential into Badger Creek instead of the existing pipeline may further describe project outcomes. Additional detail about the flow benefits to Badger Creek would have strengthened this section.

Social/Cultural: An improvement to public health and safety is an anticipated outcome of the proposed project based on the potential for failure of the ditch in steep terrain. As a low income area, the application would be improved with supporting details to describe the potential benefits of improved conditions which may result from the proposed project. Additional information to describe how this project promotes state and local priorities would improve the project proposal. Generally, the review team noted that the application would be improved with more information and evidence to support engagement and improved conditions with underrepresented communities.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to demonstrate the likely achievement of moderate economic and environmental benefits. Additional details would further serve to explain the current conditions and quantify the extent of the anticipated outcomes. Based on the information provided, the review team anticipates the achievement of minor social/cultural public benefits as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Currant Creek Flow Augmentation and Fish Passage Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Young Life

County: Wasco and Jefferson

Funding Requested: \$2,289,165 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$3,250,705

Project Summary: The proposed project would reconstruct the Currant Creek dam's spillway using a labyrinth weir design to safely pass a catastrophic flood event and raise the existing dam by 6.5 feet resulting in an additional 434 acre-feet of storage capacity. The project would provide increased stream flow at key times through a Seasonally Varying Flow prescription and an instream flow augmentation of approximately 108.5 acre-feet of legally protected water, as well as construct a new fish passage channel around the falls on Muddy Creek. The project seeks to increase water supply reliability for Young Life operations, improve streamflow and habitat conditions for fish and wildlife in Currant and Muddy Creeks, including opening 11 miles of instream habitat for threatened steelhead within the John Day River system. Completion of the proposed project would promote the safety and future viability of the Young Life operations, open up much needed high-quality habitat for anadromous species, and provide a pathway for improving instream conditions through increased dam release rates during key periods.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 20

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
7	6	4	3

Economic: The application provided a generous amount of information on the economic benefits of the project to the Young Life operations; however, benefits to the general public were not well supported. The project proposes to increase reservoir storage and likely result in an improvement to its infrastructure. The application would be improved by clearly explaining the need for additional water supply to sustain or improve the current economic conditions.

Environmental: Anticipated environmental benefits resulting from this project include addressing fish passage, legal protection of water instream through the 25 percent instream requirement, and an improved dam release schedule as determined by the Seasonally Varying Flow requirement. The application would be strengthened by describing how this proposed project might ensure that cattle are restricted from the riparian areas. Information describing plans to measure released and legally protected water downstream would help quantify potential outcomes. The project would be strengthened by including information of how environmental benefits associated with water quality will be measured.

Social/Cultural: The application describes the contribution of operations to the community, though additional detail would clarify the change anticipated as a result of this project. The review team noted that the anticipated benefits would primarily be to the private landowner and the benefits the general public are less clear. The application would be strengthened with additional detail explaining how underrepresented environmental justice communities were engaged and the benefits as a result of the proposed project.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to explain the likely achievement of moderate economic benefits. Additional details would further serve to explain the current conditions and the connection of the proposed project in achieving public benefits. Based on the information provided the review team anticipates the achievement of minor environmental and social/cultural public benefits as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Marks Creek Riparian Meadow Restoration

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Crooked River Watershed Council

County: Crook

Funding Requested: \$134,240 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$416,066

Project Summary: The proposed project is located on Marks Creek which is a tributary to Ochoco Creek upstream of the Ochoco Reservoir. The project proposes to meet water needs, ecological needs, and Crook County economic needs by installing fish screens at points of diversion which currently have no fish screening, and create irrigation improvements by converting open ditches to a closed piping system. The project anticipates benefits to resident red band trout by improving habitat access and instream conditions.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 20

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
9	5	5	1

Economic: The application proposes that the project will result in job retention and increased economic activity. The review team appreciated information detailing an intention to use local contractors for project work. The application would be strengthened by providing greater detail on how more efficient irrigation and improved farmland on the property creates wider reaching economic benefits for the public.

Environmental: The proposed project is likely to contribute to ecosystem resiliency from improved fish passage and wetland restoration. The application proposes that water quality benefits will result from enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); however, because the enrollment and activities associated with CREP was not included in the tasks list, it was uncertain to the review team if those activities and anticipated benefits would be a result of this project. A more detailed explanation of how the project would achieve the claimed environmental benefits would have strengthened the application.

Social/Cultural: Benefits to supporting local food systems are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Additionally, public safety may be improved as a result of modifications to the culvert under Highway 26.. The review team noted that very little information was included in the application to describe current conditions and how the expected benefits are a result of the proposed project.

Summary: The application provided information to explain the likely achievement of moderate economic benefits as a result of the proposed project. Based on the information provided, minor environmental and social/cultural public benefits are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Including clear information and additional details would explain the current conditions and quantify or demonstrate the likelihood of public benefits. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Fishhawk Lake Storage Protection

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Fishhawk Lake Reserve & Community, Inc.

County: Clatsop

Funding Requested: \$2,687,342 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$3,583,123

Project Summary: The project proposes to construct a new combined spillway and fish ladder on the west side of Fishhawk Lake dam. The combined spillway and fish ladder is designed to protect the long-term integrity of the dam structure and to provide for the continued storage of water in Fishhawk Lake. The improvements would reduce the risk for properties downstream of the dam from a catastrophic dam failure. The proposal anticipates that the spillway and fish ladder design will promote and improve fish habitat in Fishhawk Lake, reduce the fluctuation of lake levels, allow for cooler water temperatures in the lake, and improve downstream habitat by restoring peak and ecological flows.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 19

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
7	3	8	1

Economic: The project proposes to improve the dam and spillway at Fishhawk Lake, reducing the risk for dam failure and improving the dam infrastructure. The project proposal does not provide information to support job creation beyond temporary construction jobs and limited positions at Fishhawk Lake. Because access to the lake appears to be restricted to residents, with no public access allowed and short term rentals are prohibited, the benefit to the public other than property owners is not clearly described. The review team observed that economic benefits claimed in the application appear to primarily provide a benefit to the private landowners who have access to the lake.

Environmental: The application proposes that improving the spillway would provide for more consistent lake levels and more consistent releases, while improving the fish ladder structure would help with fish migration. The review team observed that water releases from the lake are not managed for fish and wildlife. The project proposal would be improved by providing data on temperature impacts caused by this impoundment, and addressing the impacts of sediment accumulation and dredging on native species that utilize the lake for spawning and rearing. The review team noted that claims that juvenile fish “may be injured or killed when swept over it at high flows” are unsupported.

Social/Cultural: Improvements to the dam and spillway are likely to benefit public health and safety due to the potential for dam failure. Many public comments were received in support of the project by the Fishhawk Lake community. The project would be strengthened by greater collaboration and a focus on how the project can provide social/cultural benefits to the general public and downstream communities. The proposal would be improved by describing engagement and potential improvements in conditions that would result from this project for environmental justice communities.

Summary: The proposed project demonstrates the likely achievement of moderate economic and social/cultural benefits primarily associated with the potential for dam failure. Benefits to the environment were considered minor as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Tri City Water System Improvements Project

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Tri City Water and Sanitary Authority

County: Douglas

Funding Requested: \$1,650,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$2,200,000

Project Summary: The project proposes to construct a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank and 2,600 feet of a new 8-inch water supply pipeline that would address known deficiencies to protect the substantially low-income community. The anticipated benefits of improving the water supply infrastructure to the Tri City community would ensure that it could continue to grow and thrive into the future and improve public health and safety, and enable economic and community growth. The project proposes to install a comprehensive data-driven water leak reduction and water conservation program that aims to reduce water losses by over 50% over the next five years. Economic development would be enabled by removing the risk of a development moratorium that would enable up to 100 residential homes to be developed without risk of fire losses.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 18

<u>Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown</u>			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
10	1	7	0

Economic: The application proposes to improve infrastructure, creating redundancy in the water delivery system using innovative and efficient technologies. The application proposes that the project will provide the resources necessary to increase home building in the area which would provide short-term construction jobs and possibly long-term residential growth. The application would be strengthened by providing evidence for long-term job creation and benefits to economic activity.

Environmental: Water conservation through infrastructure improvements are proposed as a result of this project. The project as proposed would achieve few environmental benefits. This section was largely incomplete and the proposed environmental benefits included in the application were generally unsupported. Additional research and collaborative efforts may identify opportunities to achieve environmental public benefits are recommended.

Social/Cultural: The application provided a clear explanation of potential social benefits for minority communities as a result of the project. The proposal to restructure water rates is likely to provide important assistance to low-income residents. The application proposes to provide a more stable water supply system which would improve public health and safety, especially related to fire protection. The project would be strengthened by more public engagement to encourage conservation.

Summary: The proposed project demonstrates the likely achievement of moderate economic and social/cultural benefits. Benefits to the environment were considered minor as a result of the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Gran Moraine Winery – Rainwater Collection, Use and Reuse

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Gran Moraine Winery

County: Yamhill

Funding Requested: \$403,383 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$539,633

Project Summary: The project proposes to collect rainwater through a series of storage tanks and pumps, treat the rainwater with existing water treatment infrastructure, add a reverse osmosis treatment system, if needed, and reuse the process water with an agricultural partner. The project anticipates collecting 150,000 gallons of rainwater annually for domestic and irrigation purposes, to offset the need for trucking in water and to reduce the operation's carbon footprint.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 13

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown			
Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
9	2	2	0

Economic: The application describes an innovative infrastructure enhancement that would result in more efficient water use from a source other than surface water or groundwater. Public benefits related to job creation or retention, economic activity, recreation and tourism, and irrigation were not well described or supported. The review team observed the potential for a broader collaboration with other local wineries to investigate shared opportunities. The review team noted that the application would be improved with greater preparation and by including thorough descriptions and supporting details.

Environmental: The application as submitted lacked information to support the proposed environmental benefits. Additional explanation to support and quantify the anticipated reductions in groundwater use as a result of the project, benefits to ecosystem resiliency, influent and effluent treatment, and system maintenance would strengthen the application. The project would be strengthened by proposing conservation measures to reduce water use.

Social/Cultural: The social/cultural benefits proposed by the application were lacking supporting information. Information to describe and support the potential for scenic benefits to be improved and how data would be made publicly available would have improved the application.

Summary: The proposed project is likely to achieve moderate economic benefits. As described in the application, minor environmental and social/cultural benefits are anticipated. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.

Basalt Well Project at the Miller Road Treatment Plant

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Scappoose

County: Columbia

Funding Requested: \$1,275,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: \$1,700,000

Project Summary: The objective of the Basalt Well Project is to provide the City of Scappoose with a source of groundwater that will diversify the City's water supply. The project proposes to construct a basalt well at the City's existing water treatment plant site to provide a much needed additional water supply. The location selected reduces the impact on, and interference with, the City's existing alluvial wells. Water from the basalt well would be conveyed directly to the existing treatment plant before being delivered to City customers. The project would allow the City to rely on an a more dependable groundwater source and move away from using its existing surface water source, which has experienced declining flows in the summer months when demands are highest.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 11

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
5	1	4	1

Economic: The application would have been improved by providing detail on what type of jobs would be created with an explanation of whether these were permanent or temporary jobs. Additional information regarding the type of businesses interested and the extent of interest, or whether a commitment had been reached, would have documented the likelihood of development and increased economic activity. The review team noted that the information regarding current water demands, future water demands, and how this project will provide solutions for both could be clarified.

Environmental: The application indicates that the City will be moving away from reliance on their surface water source, but does not provide specific values for reduction of use. As the City is not officially protecting water instream, the likelihood of the reduction in surface water use is not a guaranteed result of this project. Groundwater levels are likely to decline as a result of this project and the likelihood of the proposed project to meet the described need was not supported. Additional research and testing would provide valuable information to provide more robust estimates of groundwater availability and well production rates, which would strengthen the project proposal.

Social/Cultural: The project will result in redundancy of the City's drinking water supply with the potential to improve drinking water quality. The application would be improved by providing better examples of specific social/cultural benefits and by improving collaboration with community groups. The benefits to recreation and scenic values are not supported, and the review team observed these are not a direct result of the implementation of the project.

Summary: The review team observed that additional work to determine the feasibility of the project, secure permits and regulatory approvals, and determine how this project addresses the current and future needs of the City would improve the likelihood of achieving public benefits and provide supporting evidence. The proposed project is likely to achieve minor public benefits in the three public benefit categories. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating that more than minor public benefits are likely to be achieved.