

Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program
Evaluation for September 2, 2008 Applications

APPLICANT:	Mosier Watershed Council		
STUDY TYPE:	Storage Other Than Above-Ground (including Aquifer Storage and Recovery [ASR])		
APPLICATION NO.:	GB0016 09		
STUDY NAME:	Mosier Aquifer Recovery Feasibility Study		
BASIN:	Hood	WRD DISTRICT:	3
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$167,224	TOTAL COST:	\$806,259

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

Groundwater levels have been declining in the agriculture-dependent Mosier Valley since significant irrigation pumping began in the 1960s. In 2005, the Mosier Watershed Council, in partnership with the U.S. Geologic Survey, initiated Phase I of a geologic study and ground modeling process to determine Mosier's sustainable groundwater yield. Phase I is to be completed in December 2008.

Phase II of the study, associated with this grant application, is to evaluate the feasibility of implementing Artificial Recharge (AR) or Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to maintain that sustainable yield. Hydrogeological, physical, regulatory, ecological and economic feasibilities of AR or ASR and other alternatives are to be considered. The goal is to meet the long-term water needs of the residents and agricultural economy of Mosier Valley, predicted to be approximately 1,900 acre-feet per year, in a sustainable way that will reverse the current groundwater decline and the resulting decline in Mosier Creek base flows. Achievement of that goal will be based on evaluating the feasibility of pursuing AR or ASR or above-ground storage and conservation alternatives.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team recognized that the top two basalt aquifers have limited use, and declines in the third basalt aquifer indicate water supply problems. The team generally found the applicant had clear tasks, goals, and anticipated outcome for the study. The applicant demonstrated wide community involvement, including having 11 letters of support from diverse interests. The feasibility study will utilize the U.S. Geologic Survey groundwater model to clarify underground storage opportunities.

The application mentioned evaluating above-ground storage options and conservation potentials. These activities are not described in the budget elements and the team considered recommending that the grant be restricted to the AR/ASR, but ultimately did not recommend this restriction.

The study is a priority for funding under SB 1069 because it is identified on the Department's statewide water assessment and inventory of potential conservation opportunities. The study could begin in January 2009 and be completed by May 2010.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Fund: High Priority at \$167,224.

COMMENTS:

None received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Do Fund at \$158,863; contingent on contract negotiations to ensure that all provisions of the statute are met.

The staff recommendation reflects a 5 percent across the board funding reduction on all studies.

Commission Action:

On December 5, 2008, the Water Resources Commission took action to:

“Release funding to all feasibility study applicants the Commission authorized at its’ November 20 meeting, at a level representing 95% of staff recommendations, and move forward with grant agreement negotiations and signatures.”

This feasibility study received an award amount of \$150,919.