

2009-11 Water Quality Budget Proposals



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting Oregon's water and improving water quality. Investing in clean water will pay off for Oregon's economy and quality of life. DEQ is requesting the following Water Quality Program budget policy packages for the 2009 Legislative Session:

Ongoing Implementation of Senate Bill 737

Senate Bill 737, passed in 2007, requires DEQ to consult with interested parties to develop by June 2009 a list of priority persistent pollutants that have a documented effect on human health, wildlife and aquatic life. The bill also requires DEQ to report to the Legislature in June 2010 on point, nonpoint, and legacy sources of priority persistent pollutants "from existing data" and source reduction and control methods that can reduce discharges. Additionally, SB 737 requires Oregon's large municipal wastewater treatment plants to develop plans by 2011 to reduce persistent pollutants through pollution prevention and toxics reduction.

Work began in July 2008 and is funded by a two-year surcharge fee on Oregon's 52 largest municipal wastewater plants. This package supports the ongoing work and associated Oregon Department of Justice costs for this program. It also requests General Funds (GF) to cover the increased costs of the limited-duration positions that were not fully funded by the surcharge.

(Request: \$320,000 GF)

Water Quality Program Support

Provide much-needed legal, rule and policy support to the program.. Also includes \$250,000 to cover a portion of the program's legal costs, which have exceeded the amount in the existing budget.

(Request: \$710,000 GF)

Drinking Water Protection

Continue federal funds to protect drinking water in Oregon.

(Request: Federal Funds, no GF requested)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Reauthorize bonds to leverage approximately \$45 million in federal funds to provide low-interest loans for community clean water projects, including wastewater treatment systems. Assist municipalities on water and wastewater infrastructure and opportunities for reducing their carbon footprints; conduct work associated with the required EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey; conduct additional outreach and marketing for the program, which EPA has requested. The new positions are proposed to be funded by an existing administrative account that comes from a 0.5% annual fee for all loans that are in the process of being repaid.

(Fully self-financed, no GF requested)

Marine Reserves

Monitor water quality, toxics in fish tissue and aquatic bugs in marine reserves; establish baseline trends over time; identify environmental impacts to organisms within marine reserves; and provide for anticipated rule revisions as a result of the creation of marine reserves.

(Request: \$700,000 GF)

Coastal Beach Bacteria Monitoring

Continue federal funds to monitor bacteria levels at Oregon's beaches.

(Request: Federal Funds, no GF requested)

Water Quality 401 Project Certification

Support timely and protective DEQ water quality review and technical assistance for removal/fill projects in rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. This package has an associated legislative concept that proposes to remove existing statutory exemptions for types of removal/fill projects that require a 401 Certification that must pay a fee and add a new fee table into the statutes. This package proposes to restore positions that are currently unaffordable, add staff and include resources for much-needed Information Technology work.

(Request: \$520,000 via Fees)

Last updated: 8/14/08
By: C Svetkovich
DEQ-08-WQ-030

Clean Water Plan Implementation

DEQ does not have the budget to pay for 2.0 existing positions that work on clean water plan (TMDL) implementation and monitoring work for 2009-11. DEQ proposes to restore the unaffordable positions, add new positions to focus on TMDL implementation in Oregon's Eastern Region, work on guidance and tools to help staff and communities with clean water plans, and fund collection of air deposition mercury data at two sites for two years in the Willamette Basin (for the development of Phase 2 of the Willamette Mercury TMDL).

(Request: \$1,150,000 GF)

Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships

Fully fund the work of five existing pesticide stewardship partnerships (PSPs) and begin PSPs in three other watersheds. To date, this work has been funded by competitive grants that have not been steady. DEQ is also requesting funding to conduct four pesticide collection events around Oregon per biennium.

(Request: \$1,020,000 GF)

Water Quality Program Enhancements

Support modernizing the Water Quality Program's information infrastructure. These resources are necessary to improve work methods and make current, accurate information easily accessible to DEQ staff as well as the public. Begin work on infrastructure project backlog that has built up over many years of inadequate resources combined with new work and increasing demands.

(Request: \$960,000 GF)

Water Quality Review for ASR Projects

Work with the state Water Resources Department, agricultural groups and other stakeholders to ensure that future Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Aquifer Recharge projects do not result in further degradation of shallow groundwater quality, but rather restore water quantity in depleted deep aquifers while simultaneously improving shallow aquifer quality.

(Request: \$200,000 GF)

Wave Energy

Support participation in the state's wave energy pre-application and settlement meetings without eroding the rest of the program's budget.

(Request: \$170,000 GF)

Restore Onsite Septic System Program

Restore 2.5 positions that are unaffordable in the 2009-11 biennium. These are existing positions that are responsible for the technical work necessary to process applications.

(Request: \$530,000 via Fees)

Monitoring for Climate Change

Enhance the existing Oregon Plan monitoring program to additional watersheds in the state and provide resources for DEQ to meet its agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for monitoring and analysis work in Coastal Coho habitat areas. In addition, DEQ proposes to increase the number of ambient monitoring sites primarily in agricultural areas by 21 and primarily in private forested areas by 21. This information will improve DEQ's assessment of the quality of rivers and streams in these areas. Additionally, the data will include reference sites to allow DEQ to track climate change impacts to Oregon's waterways.

(Request: \$990,000 GF)

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.

