

(b) Assisting local governments to mitigate losses resulting from reduced water supply for irrigation and retirement of water rights will enhance community efforts to facilitate and promote economic growth. [2017 c.748 §5]

**541.659 Loan and grant applicants.**

Loans and grants may be made from the Water Supply Development Account to persons as defined in ORS 536.007, Indian tribes as defined in ORS 391.802 and nonprofit organizations. If an applicant is required to have a water management and conservation plan, the plan must be submitted to the Water Resources Department and receive approval prior to department acceptance of an application for a loan or grant from the account. [2013 c.784 §4]

**Note:** See note under 541.651.

**541.660** [1967 c.567 §12; 1973 c.330 §8; 1973 c.674 §11; 1979 c.284 §166; 1985 c.414 §3; renumbered 196.735 and then 196.870 in 1989]

**541.662** [Enacted by 1973 c.330 §10 and 1973 c.674 §13; 1985 c.545 §7; renumbered 196.740 and then 196.875 in 1989]

**541.663 Preapplication conferences.**

(1) A prospective applicant for a loan or grant from the Water Supply Development Account may participate in a preapplication conference with the Water Resources Department.

(2) At the preapplication conference, the department shall inform the prospective applicant of the procedural and substantive requirements of a loan or grant application and of the scoring system used to evaluate loan and grant requests. The department shall assist the prospective applicant by identifying known issues that may affect project eligibility for a loan or grant from the account.

(3) Not less than 14 days before the preapplication conference, the prospective applicant must provide the department with adequate project information to prepare for the preapplication conference.

(4) The prospective applicant may request additional preapplication consultation with the department. [2013 c.784 §5]

**Note:** See note under 541.651.

**541.665** [1971 c.754 §14; renumbered 196.745 and then 196.880 in 1989]

**541.666 Form and contents of loan or grant applications.** Applications for a loan or grant from the Water Supply Development Account must be in a form prescribed by the Water Resources Department and must include the following:

(1) A description of the need, purpose and nature of the project, including what the applicant intends to complete and how the applicant intends to proceed.

(2) Sufficient information to allow evaluation of the application based upon the public benefit scoring and ranking of the project.

(3) Current contact information for the principal contact, fiscal officer and involved landowners.

(4) For applications involving physical changes or monitoring on private land, evidence that landowners are aware of and agree to the proposal and are aware that monitoring information is a public record.

(5) The location of the proposed project, using public land survey reference points, latitude and longitude, county, watershed, river and stream mile, if appropriate.

(6) An itemized budget for the project, including fiscal and administrative costs.

(7) A description of funds, services or materials available to the project.

(8) A project schedule, including beginning and completion dates.

(9) Any conditions that may affect the completion of the project.

(10) A completed feasibility analysis if appropriate.

(11) Suggestions for interim and long-term project performance benchmarks.

(12) If the application is for a grant, demonstrated in-kind and cash cost match of not less than 25 percent of the amount of the grant sought from the account.

(13) If the application is for a loan, evidence demonstrating ability to repay the loan and provide collateral.

(14) Letters of support for the proposed project.

(15) If required by the department, a description of consultations with affected Indian tribes regarding the project.

(16) Any other information required by the department. [2013 c.784 §6]

**Note:** See note under 541.651.

**541.669 Scoring and ranking of projects; funding decisions; rules.**

(1) The Water Resources Commission shall adopt rules establishing a system for scoring and ranking projects to determine which projects are to be awarded loans and grants from the Water Supply Development Account, including but not limited to the application of minimum criteria designed to achieve the outcomes described in ORS 541.677. The criteria shall be based on the public benefit categories described in ORS 541.673. The commission shall make the loan and grant funding decisions once each year. Applications must be filed with the Water Resources Department. The department shall accept an application for a loan or grant at any time, but shall establish a yearly deadline for the consideration of a pool of applications.

(2) The department shall conduct a preliminary review of applications to check for