

completeness, eligibility and minimum requirements upon receipt of each application. The department shall return incomplete applications to the applicant. The department shall provide public notice by posting new funding applications on the department's website for a 60-day period prior to reviewing the applications. The department shall provide for the receipt of public comment on the applications during the 60-day period that applications are posted on the department's website.

(3) The department shall forward applications that have passed preliminary review, along with any comments received from applicants or the public, to a technical review team consisting of representatives of the Water Resources Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Business Development Department, affected Indian tribes, any collaborative body established by the Governor to address challenges, opportunities and priorities for the region affected by the project and additional experts as determined by the Water Resources Department. The technical review team shall conduct the initial scoring and ranking for the projects described in the applications, consider comments from applicants and the public and make loan and grant funding recommendations to the commission. The commission shall determine the final scoring and ranking of projects and make the final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account. Before the commission makes a final decision on an application, the commission shall offer one additional opportunity for public comment.

(4) The commission is not required to obligate all available account moneys during a funding cycle. Any available account moneys that are not obligated during a funding cycle shall be carried forward and be made available for projects in future funding cycles.

(5) The department shall document the ranking of all applications and make the application ranking publicly available after the funding decisions by the commission have been published. [2013 c.784 §7]

Note: See note under 541.651.

541.670 [1985 c.545 §6; 1987 c.855 §16; 1989 c.837 §22; renumbered 196.750 and then 196.885 in 1989]

541.673 Evaluation for public benefits of project. (1) Projects applying under ORS 541.669 for funding from the Water Supply Development Account shall be evaluated based upon the public benefits of the project. The evaluation must consider both positive

and negative effects of a project. The three categories of public benefit to be considered in the project evaluation are economic benefits, environmental benefits and social or cultural benefits. Each category of benefits shall be given equal importance in the evaluation of a project. The technical review team described in ORS 541.669 shall use the evaluation system to assign initial scores and rankings to projects. The Water Resources Commission shall use the evaluation system to assign final scorings and rankings to the projects. The commission shall award loan and grant funding from the account to the projects that have the greatest public benefit and will best achieve the outcomes described in ORS 541.677.

(2) The evaluation of economic benefits for a project shall be based on the changes in economic conditions expected to result from the project, including but not limited to conditions related to:

- (a) Job creation or retention;
- (b) Increases in economic activity;
- (c) Increases in efficiency or innovation;
- (d) Enhancement of infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses;
- (e) Enhanced economic value associated with tourism or recreational or commercial fishing, with fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes or with other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water in-stream; and
- (f) Increases in irrigated land for agriculture.

(3) The evaluation of environmental benefits for a project shall be based on the changes in environmental conditions expected to result from the project, including but not limited to conditions related to:

- (a) A measurable improvement in protected streamflows that:
 - (A) Supports the natural hydrograph;
 - (B) Improves floodplain function;
 - (C) Supports state or federally listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
 - (D) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; or
 - (E) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife;

(b) A measurable improvement in ground water levels that enhances environmental conditions in ground water restricted areas or other areas;

- (c) A measurable improvement in the quality of surface water or ground water;
- (d) Water conservation;