



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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February 28, 2017



The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) requests permission to apply for one federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which administers the Coastal Resilience Grants Program by March 15, 2017. As an eligible applicant, OWEB, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), will request federal funds for:

- Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion Project - The purpose of the Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion is to develop a suite of tools to assist landowners, communities, and others to improve and replace tide gates where necessary in order to support resilient coastal communities. Resilient coastal communities are those with reduced risks from coastal hazards, protected landscapes that support local economies, and enhanced ecological function of estuarine resources. Currently, discussion participants include landowners, state and federal agencies, agricultural organizations, counties, and conservation organizations. The Coastal Resilience Grants Program request is \$600,000.00, with a total project cost of \$900,000.

### **Coastal Resilience Grants Program Overview**

The Coastal Resilience Grants Program is a nationally competitive grant program which provides matching grants to eligible applicants for the implementation of projects that build resilient U.S. coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems. The program intends to build resilience by reducing the risk to coastal communities from extreme weather events and climate-related hazards.

Applications selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through cooperative agreements. Typical awards range from \$250,000 to \$1million and are not to

exceed the program's \$2 million cap. Federal funds awarded under this program must be matched with non-federal funds at a 2:1 ratio of federal to non-federal contributions. Non-federal contributions will come from OWEB through the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan. The anticipated project start date of successful applications is October 1, 2017.

**Agency Action**

On September 19, 2016, OWEB hosted the first tide gate discussion, which provided stakeholders an opportunity to discuss issues surrounding tide gates including costs, data needs, multiple benefits, outreach, process, and considerations for next steps. On November 21, 2016, OWEB and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership coordinated a tour of two tide gates – one traditional and one recently replaced, Muted Tidal Regulator. Following the tour, participants identified topics that need additional information to better understand the challenges related to Oregon's tide gate infrastructure.

From the first set of meetings and tours, OWEB staff, with assistance from ODFW and the Governor's Natural Resources Office, crafted a discussion summary and established subcommittees representing identified topics. From these subcommittee meetings, and a third large table meeting held on January 31, 2017, it was agreed that a grant to accomplish the following elements would provide stakeholder benefits: local community outreach, a statewide tide gate inventory, decision support tool to identify high priority project sites, and engineering and regulatory support that leads to on-the-ground projects.

**Action Requested**

OWEB requests permission to apply for a federal Coastal Resilience grant from NOAA for the Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion Project. If OWEB receives notification of a grant award for any portion of this application, the agency will work with LFO on federal funds expenditure limitation as appropriate. No new positions are associated with this request.

Sincerely,



Meta Loftsgaarden  
Executive Director

Attachment A: NOAA Notice of Funding

Attachment B: Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion Paper

Attachment C: Draft Oregon Tide Gate Proposal – Project Summary

Attachment D: Preliminary Project Budget

c: Jason Miner, Governor's Office

Paul Siebert, LFO

Cathy Connolly, DAS BAM

Renee Davis

Cindy Silbernagel

Jillian McCarthy