

## ANALYSIS

### Item 56: Water Resources Department Strengthening Dam Safety

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**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$152,244 to implement the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Dam Safety Program grant and continue dam safety activities throughout Oregon.

**Analysis:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) grant annually to provide financial assistance to states for strengthening their dam safety programs. Funding may be used for various dam safety activities including personnel training, increased dam inspections, emergency action plans, and public outreach. The Water Resources Department (WRD) has applied for and received this grant every year since 2010, and considers it a vital financial resource to continue and strengthen dam safety throughout the state. WRD followed the interim legislative process for requesting approval to apply for the fiscal year 2022 NDSP grant and received retroactive approval to apply at the September 2022 meeting of the Emergency Board. On August 15, 2022, the Department was awarded \$152,244 for dam safety activities.

The grant is provided without a match requirement and will support WRD's Dam Safety Program which is responsible for ensuring the protection of public safety through the regulation of over 950 dams throughout Oregon. No additional state funds, or position authority are requested or necessary for the Department to implement this grant.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$152,244 in the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Water Resources Department in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Dam Safety Program grant.

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Oregon Water Resources Department  
Crawford

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**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$152,244 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) grant program.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request during the 2024 Legislative Session.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) is responsible for Oregon's Dam Safety Program. FEMA's NDSP grant program provides financial assistance to states for strengthening their dam safety programs.

WRD has received NDSP funding since 2010 and received approval at the September 2022 meeting of the Emergency Board to submit a NDSP grant application again. However, WRD was awarded more funds than was approved in the legislatively approved budget, necessitating this request. No additional match or position authority is required, and funds are available for use immediately.

**Legal Reference:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 460, section 4 (4), Oregon Laws 2023, for the Oregon Water Resources Department, Technical services, by \$152,244 for the 2023-25 biennium.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Water Resources Department**  
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**December 4, 2023**

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) respectfully submits this letter requesting Federal Fund expenditure limitation increase in the amount of \$152,244 for the fiscal year 2022 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) grant opportunity. The NDSP grant program provides financial assistance to states for strengthening their dam safety programs. Retroactive approval to apply for the funding was approved by the September 2022 Emergency Board. The Department has applied for and received this federal grant every year since 2010 and it is a vital financial resource for our continued work. As a result of the infusion of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds, in fiscal year 2022 the Department was eligible to receive more funds than what was approved in the legislatively approved budget, thus triggering the need for the letter process. We were notified of the award on August 15, 2022, and submitted our acceptance of the award on August 29, 2022.

## **Agency Action**

The grant requires administration by the Department's Dam Safety Program. The grant requirements are consistent with and would support the Department's dam safety activities authorized by ORS 540.443 to 540.491. No additional state funds are requested or necessary for the Department to apply for and implement this grant.

## **Action Requested**

The Department requests an increase in Federal Fund limitation in the amount of \$152,244 to support the activities of this grant award. No additional state funds or position authority are requested.

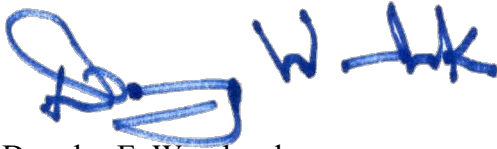
Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
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**Legislation Affected**

Amend Oregon Laws 2023, Chapter 460 (House Bill 5043), Section 4, Subsection 4, “Technical services,” increasing the Federal Fund limitation by \$152,244 for the 2023-25 biennium.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For additional information, please contact Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, at (503) 983-5801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Woodcock". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Douglas E. Woodcock  
Acting Director