

**LANE COUNTY FY 14-15 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUEST INFORMATION FORM**

Due Date: March 1, 2014

Instructions: Complete all questions and submit to:
Budget Office, 125 E. 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401

Contact Person: Paula Bearden
Paula.Bearden@co.lane.or.us
541-682-3772

Agency/Organization Name: Watermaster Office, Oregon Water Resources Department

Contact Person and Title: Michael Mattick Watermaster **Email:** matticmj@ wrd.state.or.us

Mailing Address: 125E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: 541-682-3620

Amount Requested from County: \$ 5,000

Project/Service Name and Description:

Watermaster Support; Lane and Linn Counties; 10 Weeks, mid July through September.

This request is to partially fund a limited duration, part time Watermaster assistant. The position was last funded by Lane and Linn Counties in 2007, and only by Linn County in 2008.

The position mainly assists with the research of water right and well construction documents for the general public, and provides support to the Watermaster with records maintenance; stream flow measurements, well inspections; dam safety inspections; review of development plans; and coordination with local governments and watershed councils.

The primary function of the office is to enforce Oregon Water Law which usually entails settling water use disputes when there is not enough water to satisfy all demands. This is done through the use of water right records and the application of the Prior Appropriation Doctrine (the oldest right gets to use water the longest during a time of shortage). Much of this activity is centered on protecting instream water rights for the benefit that accrues to the public of continuing to have water in streams. In Lane County, most of this activity occurs in the Lake Creek Basin, a tributary to the Siuslaw River and in the Mohawk River Basin, a tributary to the McKenzie. This regulatory activity may take 2 weeks or two months each year, depending on the timing and amount of precipitation. However, the office responds to complaints County wide on a year round basis. The other high importance focus of the office is trying to protect ground water resources through the enforcement of well construction, maintenance and abandonment standards. The most time is spent responding to public inquiries regarding water right documentation, new applications, well construction records and water resources in general. Many inquiries are related to property transactions.

This one person office serves most of Lane, Linn, and a small portion of Benton Counties. Lane County already provides office space, telephone and internet access. A need exists for an assistant to help the public and local government staffs, when making decisions which rely on or impact water resources and to protect surface and ground water resources of the region. A part time assistant will help meet that need.

(to be completed by County Administration)

Advisory Committee Assigned for review: _____

Advisory Committee Recommendation: _____

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Project/Service Name:

Project/Service Budget:

- Include/describe other revenue sources that will be leveraged to implement this project/service.
- If this service has been provided in the past, please provide historical data of funding sources and project expenses.

Revenue	FY 13-14 Actual	% of Tot	FY 14- 15Request
Federal			
State			
Cities			
Other:	0	0	5000
TOTAL			5000
Expense			
Personnel			5000
Materials & Services			
Other:			
TOTAL			
Net Request			5000
FTE			0.1

Do any other entities, public or private, provide this service? Yes X I am employed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (a state agency). Linn County has provided financial assistance from 1998 through 2008. I am making the same request to them in hopes that the two counties will again support the position at a minimal level.

Describe the demand for this service and the impact on citizens/customers if this service is not provided.

Timely water right and well construction information is crucial to land owners facing water shortage problems. As they say "You don't know the value of water until your well runs dry"; and, real estate transactions will be delayed or cancelled, small dams may fail, important decisions will sometimes be made with weak knowledge of water resources. Even with this funding, staffing levels will still result in delayed responses, they will just not be so long.

Please attach additional information about this service and your organization you would like to tell us.

If this is an ongoing service, how do you plan to sustain the service beyond June 30, 2014?

I anticipate the economy improving and local government being able to more fully support the program in the future.

Please attach additional information about this service and your organization you would like to tell us.