

Water/Wastewater

Overview

While some jurisdictions have sufficient infrastructure to meet both current demand and future needs, many of the water and wastewater treatment facilities in the region are aging. Some have reached or are exceeding capacity and overuse of this infrastructure will ultimately limit its productivity and livability. Some systems are dealing with compliance issues that can be challenging to address as these systems represent some of the most costly systems for local governments.

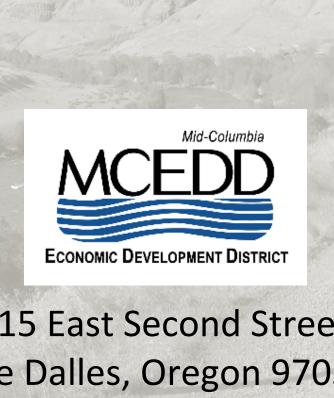
Since adoption of our last economic development strategy, a number of cities and unincorporated communities have made significant strides in upgrading systems or accessing technical assistance that will accommodate current and future growth. However, our expanding economy will continue to place strains on this critical infrastructure and drive demands for well-functioning water and wastewater systems. In addition, increasingly we are faced with water access, storage and groundwater concerns. However, we have been a highly innovative region in our approach to dealing with these constraints. In many areas- from our Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Wy'East RC&D to the Farmer's Irrigation Districts- we are a leader in innovative practices and products.

Infrastructure: Water/Wastewater Action Plan

Priorities

	Collaborators	Timeline
4.1Strategy: Address water and wastewater system constraints to economic		
development and to increase economic resiliency		
4.1.1 Inventory water and wastewater systems regionally.	Water districts, cities,	Mid-term:
a) Assess current capacity and identify systems with room for growth.	MCEDD, county ec dev	assess
b) Provide mechanisms to support public awareness of facility		Awareness:
capabilities- eg regional website page		Long term
4.1.2 Prioritize and upgrade key water systems to address economic	Water districts, cities,	Annual
development constraints, focusing on:	MCEDD, county ec dev	
a) Systems serving industrial parks		
b) Redundancy for systems accessing water through sensitive ecological areas.		
c) Investments into facilities to keep pace and support growth in key industry sectors, such as food processing		
4.1.3: Address aging septic systems. Provide technical assistance to small	States, local partners	Long term
unincorporated areas.	TBD	
4.1.4: Provide technical assistance and grant administration to support key	MCEDD	Ongoing
water/wastewater system projects. Host regional wastewater		
conversations to identify opportunities for collaborative management.		
4.2 Strategy : Advocate for funding into innovative products and practices in the		
region and proliferate best practices		
4.2.1 Support innovation of technologies in irrigation and improving tools	Wy'east, FCA, soil/	Immediate-
to support management of water resource (eg scientific irrigation	water conservation	long term
scheduling-Wy'East)	districts, watershed	
	councils, industry	
4.2.2 Engage with and support Irrigation districts and Watershed Council		Ongoing
projects.	irrigation districts,	
	county ec dev	
4.3Strategy: Support Watershed councils in addressing water resource concerns,	Councils, local govt,	Ongoing
such as declining aquifers.	county ec dev, MCEDD	

	NCRST,	
4.4Strategy: Encourage state/federal money and grants at low interest for water/wastewater projects in the region.	Local advocacy entities	Current and next legislative session
4.5Strategy: Further develop efforts focused on water conservation.		
4.5.1 Encourage recycling techniques/sustainable practices to decrease effluent.	Industry associations, university, state	Mid term
4.5.2 Focus initially on large businesses and large municipal water users.	Industry associations, state	Mid term



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