

News Release

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DEQ, City of Lakeside Reach Agreement on \$2.1 Million Interim Financing Loan for Water Quality Improvement Project

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has signed an agreement with the City of Lakeside, north of Coos Bay, on a \$2,111,150 Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan to make improvements to the city's wastewater treatment system. The low-interest loan will provide short-term, interim financing for the \$3.5 million project.

The project, which is expected to begin this fall, will correct inflow problems in the system through pipe repairs and replacements and include the installation of new manhole liners, new pump systems and related equipment. In addition to major upgrades to the existing treatment plant, the project will also include construction of an off-site waste digester that will allow application of treated effluent on state-owned land near the Lakeside Airport.

The city is planning to obtain a grant and loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Program and needs to obtain interim financing until it receives monies from USDA. Once the federal monies are secured, the city will repay the loan to DEQ.

The project is expected to improve Ten Mile Creek's water quality. Currently, the city's wastewater system discharges directly into the creek. The system improvements will eliminate discharges into the creek during periods of low stream flow, when such discharges are not permitted. The treated effluent will be applied on state-owned grass lands at the airport. Reducing discharges to the creek is expected to eliminate the chlorine toxicity at the current discharge point. Ten Mile Creek is not listed as water quality limited stream but its source, Ten Mile Lake, is listed for aquatic weeds, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and temperature. The project will reduce the amount of nutrients and the level of oxygen demand in the creek, as well



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as reduce aquatic weeds and algae.

Lakeside's wastewater treatment system serves about 1,370 residents, with about 820 residential connections and 59 non-residential connections.

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program loans money to public entities across the state, helping communities complete a variety of water quality improvement projects. Loans have ranged from \$7,000 to \$35 million. DEQ administers the program, which is supported from annual grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), loan repayment and state-issued bonds.