



Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of CSWCD's Conservation Loan Program, and DEQ Loan R22407

For CSWCD website re: public hearing scheduled for January 17, 2017

Written 12/23/16

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) has been approved by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a Local Community Loan through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The loan will provide funding for the District's Conservation Loan program, which made its first loan in 2012. The Conservation Loan program provides loans to landowners in Clackamas County for the design and installation of a variety of conservation practices to address water quality and water conservation concerns, and for the purchase of conservation-related equipment. Examples of conservation loans made to date include: irrigation improvements; water quality projects; habitat restoration projects; and nonpoint source best management practices.

The Conservation Loan program focuses on commercial agricultural and nursery producers, small farmers, and woodlot owners. Applicants must agree to work with CSWCD or with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to ensure that the conservation practice is properly designed, installed, and maintained.

DEQ will disburse CWSRF loan funds to CSWCD on a reimbursement basis upon receiving documentation of incurred eligible project costs. CSWCD has been approved by DEQ for up to \$542,000 in funding, to be repaid at an interest rate of 1.31% per year over 10 years beginning in 2020. The District will secure the loan with property tax revenue and will repay DEQ using loan payments received from the borrowers.

The CSWCD Conservation Loan program has enabled CSWCD to serve its constituents while also helping CSWCD and DEQ achieve water quality objectives. This new loan from DEQ will support the continuation of the Conservation Loan Program.