



Oregon Health Authority/Business Oregon Grant Application

Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund: Emerging Contaminants Program

Meeting Date	Staff Contact	Email
September 8, 2026	Adam Hanks, City Administrator Brian Harmon, PW Director	Adam.Hanks@CoburgOregon.gov Brian.Harmon@CoburgOregon.gov

SUMMARY AND REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

In response to notification from the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), a recent City of Coburg water system sample test returned preliminary detection level of PFOS and PFOA. Neither contaminant is currently regulated for the City's water system but is being tested and monitored by OHA throughout the state for early detection to identify systems that would benefit from state funded programs to mitigate prior to the regulatory contaminate mitigation mandate of April of 2029.

This early detection provided the City with an opportunity to apply for the state funded program specifically designed for the emerging contaminants that were identified in the recent water samples.

Due to the time constraints between the time of the notification of the sample test results and the deadline for the grant application, the grant application was prepared, completed and submitted with dual signatures of Mayor Bell and the City Administrator. The total project cost is \$116,500, with \$106,500 requested as grant funds and \$10,000 as a City funding match (Water Fund)

Suggested Motion

I move to recognize and support the recent grant application submitted by staff in the amount of \$116,500 to the Oregon Health Department and Business Oregon for a Water System Treatment Feasibility Study to address the recent identification of PFAS/PFOS detected in the City of Coburg water supply.

BACKGROUND

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of different chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of commercial products since the 1940s – from everyday household items to food packaging – due to their heat, moisture, stain resistance, and non-stick qualities. PFOS and PFOA have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals, followed by PFHxS and PFNA. These chemicals do not break down in the environment

or human body and can accumulate over time. Attached to this staff report is an information sheet from the Oregon Health Authority website.

The early detection provides the City with the opportunity to develop solutions and seek funding options to ensure compliance with regulations set to be in effect in April of 2029.

Additional water sampling will be conducted quarterly in conjunction with and oversight of Oregon Health Authority as required by all Water System operators. These results may influence options and recommendations of the feasibility study and provide additional clarity in the months ahead.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking Council concurrence for the grant application and initial plan to address this newly identified contaminant.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

The grant application commits to a local match of \$10,000 that will be funded from the Water Fund. The remaining \$110,500 of the feasibility study funding will come from the grant if awarded. It is highly likely that the project will not commence until July of 2027, which means that the project will be included in the proposed FY28 budget rather than come from existing appropriations in the FY27 budget.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

No specific public involvement has occurred to the point due to the very recent notification of the initial testing results. City staff will consult with OHA staff regarding recommended community/customer engagement information as additional testing is completed and accurate data trends are established.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will update Council on the results of the grant application. If awarded, staff will work with Branch Engineering and identified sub-contractors to deliver a feasibility study that provides Council and staff with clear options to address these emerging contaminants with guidance, direction and oversight of the Oregon Health Authority.

It is likely that the study will lead to the identification of a capital project within the Water Fund that can be included in the FY28 proposed budget that will be presented to the Budget Committee in early May of 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Business Oregon Grant Application
2. Grant Application Scope of Work
3. Oregon Health Authority Notification of Sample Results – July 14, 2026
4. Oregon Health Authority – FAQ from OHA website