



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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August 25, 2020

Greg Springman
Public Works Director, City of Sweet Home
1400 24th Ave.
Sweet Home, OR. 97386

Re: Review and Acceptance of the 2020 TMDL Implementation Plan Annual Report for City of Sweet Home

Dear Greg Springman,

Thank you for submitting the Sweet Home 2020 TMDL Implementation Plan Annual Report. The Department has reviewed your report and finds that the report complies with the annual reporting requirement.

While the city continues to support ongoing efforts that contribute to the protection of water quality, the city has reported limited progress regarding implementation of the Temperature TMDL. Specifically, assessing available aerial imagery to establish a baseline for documenting changes in riparian cover within the city, and promoting voluntary riparian protection and restoration actions on privately owned land within the city.

DEQ acknowledges current funding gaps, yet expects the city to make appreciable progress on implementing the strategies in its plan prior to the end of the current five year cycle (2018- 2023). DEQ expects the city to demonstrate that it is investing in efforts to effectively use adaptive management to address identified short falls.

The city reported that hiring new, additional staff to assist with implementation had recently been struck from the budget, and this was a key hurdle to fully implementing TMDL strategies. In the next annual report, please describe how much additional staffing is needed and how the city will address implementation if additional staff are not hired.

The primary mechanism for achieving temperature load allocations is the protection and restoration of system potential vegetation and effective shade. The greatest opportunities for reducing heat loads through riparian restoration are on tributaries to the Willamette River. The city of Sweet Home has unique opportunities within the South Santiam subbasin and within city limits to increase, and protect stream shade.

The city also reported potential impacts of COVID-19 associated challenges related to TMDL implementation. DEQ is committed to continuing to protect the environment, maintain compliance, and sustain a consistent statewide enforcement program. However, DEQ recognizes that measures to protect

public health and minimize economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 outbreak may temporarily impact your ability to comply with DEQ requirements.

Please visit our webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Pages/covid-19.aspx> for more information about documenting specific COVID-19 compliance hardships you're encountering and reporting them to DEQ, such as staffing and service shortages, availability of servicing and maintenance of pollution control equipment, disposal schedules, etc.

I would like to reaffirm that I am available as a resource to assist you as you move forward with TMDL implementation. Please feel free to contact me at (541) 687-7347 for assistance.

Best regards,



Priscilla Woolverton
Willamette TMDL Basin Coordinator

cc: Zach Loboy, Watershed Manager, DEQ
Trish Rice, City of Sweet of Home