



March 12, 2013

Oregon City – Metro Enhancement Committee
P. O. Box 3040
Oregon City, OR 97045

Attn: Michele Beneville

Re: Newell Creek Enhancement Project

Dear Committee Members:

In 2012, the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council (GOCWC) was awarded a Metro Enhancement Grant for \$20,000. This letter is to request an extension of time to expend the funds.

The purpose of the grant funding is to support the invasive plant removal and re-vegetation with native plants in the Newell Canyon area. This is a collaborative effort between Metro, the city of Oregon City (that are the principal owners of the properties) and the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD). The CCSWCD has contributed funds and contractor time to invasive plant removal within the 270 acres of riparian and upland property.

Because Metro and the CCSWCD had funds to expend before the end of fiscal year 2011-12, the work began using those monies. The weather wasn't favorable to the work needing to be done in the fall, which is important given the steep terrain of the canyon and safety of the workers. Therefore, there was a slight delay in beginning the fall phase of work.

The GOCWC had received another grant after the Metro Enhancement funds had been secured, which included a line item for pre-planning of the project. Given the specific nature of that line item, that grant was tapped for the first invoices for the project.

Weather and contractor availability affected the next round of work, which is now on track, but is potentially bumping up against the deadline to expend the OC-Metro Enhancement funds. We expect to expend the funds by the June 30, 2013 deadline, but want to be sure that unforeseen events do not cause us to lose this funding.

We respectfully request an extension of time to utilize that grant funds for Newell Canyon.

Sincerely,

Rita Baker, AICP
Coordinator