

# MEMO



**TO:** Oregon Environmental Restoration Council Members  
**FROM:** Oregon Environmental Restoration Program Staff  
**DATE:** 4/10/2026  
**SUBJECT:** Interim Allocation Process and Continued Development for Agency Program Fund

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This memo provides the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council (OERC) with a between-meetings update on the initial interim allocation from the Agency Program Fund (APF) to eligible agencies, which was proposed by Geoff Huntington, Governor's Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, at the OERC's March 18, 2026 meeting.

The memo outlines 1) proposed changes to the anticipated timeline for the interim allocation of 2025-2027 APF dollars, and 2) upcoming OERC decisions for the ongoing development of the APF in preparation for full implementation in the 2027-2029 biennium, which will continue in parallel to the OERC's decision on the proposed interim allocation. Timelines outlined here have been adjusted to reflect OERC members' feedback in the March 18 meeting (and in a questionnaire that followed), both to ensure sufficient time for the OERC's deliberation and decisions and to allow agencies more time to develop needed information on proposed investments.

No action is needed from members at this time, however Oregon Environmental Restoration Program (OERP) staff want to ensure all members have these important updates well in advance of the next OERC meeting on May 6, 2026.

## Background

At the March 18, 2026, OERC meeting, the Governor's Office presented a proposal to allocate up to \$30 million in APF dollars during the 2025-2027 biennium for state agency work on critical natural resource issues that align with the Monsanto Settlement Agreement and statute. The process proposed for this allocation recognizes that the timelines associated with the identification of strategic priorities and adoption of program administrative rules would delay award, disbursement, and spending of funds to state agencies in a time of critical need and opportunity.

The OERC requested an opportunity to provide feedback to the Governor's Office to guide agency proposals for this interim allocation. On March 19, 2026, OERP staff sent a questionnaire to OERC members to facilitate their input. Questions and a synthesis of responses are included in [Appendix A](#). These were shared with the Governor's Office, who used the feedback to guide state natural resource agencies in their development of proposals to bring to the OERC for consideration in May 2026.

## 2025-2027 Interim Allocation Process and Timeline

The Governor's Office is coordinating state agencies in the development and submission of proposals for the interim allocation of Agency Program Fund dollars. Based on OERC feedback, agencies will be asked to provide information on 1) the requested amount of APF dollars, 2) description of the work to be completed, 3) alignment of the work with the Monsanto Settlement Agreement terms, and 4) anticipated outcomes of the work. The following process is anticipated for April – June 2026 (see Table 1 below for timeline details):

1. Agencies will develop high-level concepts and submit them to the Governor's Office for review and coordination into a single package of recommended agency concepts.
2. The Governor's Office will send the package of recommended concepts to OERP staff for distribution to the OERC and for public posting.
3. At the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting, recommended agency concepts will be presented to the OERC as an information agenda item. There will be no vote at this meeting. The OERC will be given an opportunity for

discussion with the Governor’s Office and with agencies and provide feedback or requests for additional information. The OERC will receive public comment on the package of agency concepts.

4. Agencies will refine concepts based on OERC feedback and submit finalized proposals to the Governor’s Office.
5. The Governor’s Office will send the finalized package of proposals to OERP staff to share with OERC and post online for public review and comment at least 10 days in advance of a special June 22, 2026, OERC meeting.
6. On June 22, 2026, the OERC will hear additional public comment and will vote on funding for final agency proposals.

**Table 1: 2025-2027 Interim APF Allocation Timeline**

March 25, 2026	APF proposal template sent to agencies by Governor’s Office
April 14, 2026	APF concepts due to Governor’s Office
April 22, 2026	APF concepts due to OERP staff
April 24, 2026*	APF concepts sent to OERC and posted publicly. Public comment opens
May 6, 2026*	APF concepts presented to OERC; OERC Q&A / discussion – <b>Information Item</b>
May 29, 2026	Deadline for Governor’s Office and agencies to finalize proposals
June 12, 2026*	Distribution and posting of final agency proposals for OERC funding consideration. Public comment period opens
June 22, 2026*	Special OERC meeting to vote on agency proposals – <b>Action Item</b>

\* indicates opportunity for public comment

**Continued Program Development for the 2027-2029 Biennium (and beyond)**

As the OERC considers this interim allocation of State Agency Program funds, OERP staff continue work on the design and buildout of the State Agency Program Fund and expect it to be fully implemented for the 2027-2029 biennium when the next Agency Program Fund allocation will be available for disbursement. At the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting, staff will share preliminary results from the state agency needs assessment and how they may help to inform eligible funding uses for the Agency Program Fund.

As work on strategic priorities ramps up, additional anticipated discussions and decisions for the OERC include:

- Option for separate set of strategic priorities for the APF and Community Impact Fund
- Process for committing multi-biennial awards of funds
- Proportion of commitment of multi-biennial funding to single biennial funding
- Program award timing within the state fiscal biennium
- Eligibility criteria for projects
- Process for the OERC making funding decisions
- Rule adoption

**Next Steps**

OERP staff will share initial agency concepts with the OERC once available and in advance of the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting. The May 6 OERC meeting will offer an opportunity for the OERC to provide feedback to agencies as they finalize concepts for final funding proposals that will be voted on at the special June OERC meeting.

## Appendix A

*The following provides the synthesized feedback from a questionnaire sent to the OERC on March 19, 2026.*

*At the March 18, 2026, OERC meeting, the Governor's Office presented a proposed process for the OERC's consideration for an initial allocation of 2025-2027 Agency Program Fund dollars. Due to time constraints during this meeting, the OERC had limited time to provide the Governor's Office with feedback on the proposed process and requested an opportunity to share feedback with the Governor's Office that could be used to guide development of agency proposals for the initial proposed allocation.*

*The below questionnaire was provided to the OERC at their request following the March 18, 2026, OERC meeting to provide initial feedback to the Governor's Office on agency proposals for the interim 2025-2027 Agency Program Fund allocation. Individual responses from OERC members were synthesized by staff and shared with the Governor's Office to provide additional guidance from the OERC in the development of a template for agency proposals.*

*Some feedback received in the questionnaire included topics likely requiring full OERC discussion before being incorporated into guidance for agencies. Those topics are included as a list in this appendix and may be revisited by the OERC at the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting.*

### **1. What questions for the Governor's Office do you have on the interim 2025-2027 Agency Program Fund framework?**

- Proposals should have clear alignment with the harm to Oregon wildlife or people of Oregon referenced in the settlement and statute.

### **2. In your opinion, what essential information or details need to be included in agency proposals for funding consideration?**

- Explain alignment to Monsanto Settlement Agreement nexus and alignment to DOJ's allowed uses.
- Describe the scope of the work to be completed (the who, the what, the why).
- Funding: Explain how this request expands, accelerates, or adds new capacity/partnerships and does not replace existing funding obligations. This could include programs/projects that have lost federal funding.
- Explain how there will be clear and significant co-benefits in this proposal.
- Explain how the proposal aligns with the agency's strategic plan.
- Describe the metrics that will be used to measure success and details on the expected timeline for success.

### **3. Are there any other comments you would like to share with the Governor's Office and / or state agencies that will be important to the development of agency proposals for the interim 2025-2027 Agency Program Fund allocation?**

- Communication and engagement are important considerations, especially given the expedited nature of this process; agency proposals should consider how public engagement will be included as part of the scope of work and there should be as many opportunities as possible for public comment and engagement within this interim process for allocating the APF dollars
- OERP staff should consider establishing clear communication with the Environmental Justice Council or other environmental justice groups on why this interim allocation is necessary

## **Feedback Received for Potential Additional OERC Discussion on May 6, 2026**

- Does this proposal include partnerships (with other agencies, local/special governments)?
- Can this particular appropriation have a significant impact in the next two years?
- These funds must be used in the spirit of this settlement to mitigate harms caused by chemical pollutants in ways that provide clear and direct benefits to the people, communities, and environments of Oregon. Proposed impacts must be specific, evidence-based, and measurable.
- The overall package will need to include geographic diversity (bringing needed benefits to different parts of the state, urban and rural)
- How will decisions be made for Agency Fund since we do not yet have concrete strategic priorities and criteria?
- Are PCBs (or PCB-like chemicals) the only pollutants to consider for their impact to Oregon wildlife or human health with this funding?
- Are we setting a precedent for other moments when the Fund may be asked to bypass rulemaking to allocate funding?
- Are we leaving the State open to negative perceptions of the process, liability, or future expectations we may not wish to face as a State?
- Ideally, projects that have an acute need or a short-term measurable impact should be prioritized with this round of selection.
- Applicants must explain how the project falls under the DOJ allowed use of these funds: Pollution Mitigation, Resource Restoration from Pollution Impacts, Protection of Human Health from Pollutant Impacts
- Explain how the project falls under the direct nexus to settlement evidence especially for these "one off" expedited ask. Such as the PCB exposure pathways (e.g., air, water, soil, food systems), affected populations or ecosystems, and how their project will address the documented harm in the settlement, not hypothetical risk or general ecological benefit. This should be used to rank and prioritize agency asks.
- A strong proposal will show new geographic reach, new population served, new intervention type, or accelerated timeline.
- Scientific & Technical Justification for the project including the evidence-based intervention or design that is being used to accomplish the disruption of the exposure route, mitigation, or restoration and who/what the targeted population or resource will be, as well as the measurable outcomes of the project (short term, medium term, long term) including any monitoring or evaluation of the anticipated outcomes and plan for reporting outcomes to this council and the public.
- Budget details (if what they've shared isn't specific enough)