

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 9/15/22      **LENGTH:** 20 minutes

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Disaster debris grant guidelines

**DECISION TYPE:** Input

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** Goal #19

**PRESENTER(S):** JIM QUINN (HE/HIM) RESILIENCE PLANNER

### PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

The Metro Council recently approve a new grant program to assist local governments with the costs of managing debris after a disaster, guidelines for implementing the program are now under development. This presentation will provide an overview of the program and the draft guidelines, and will provide an opportunity for committee input.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is looking for any input the committee may have on the draft guidelines, including how equity is addressed in the grant process.

### BACKGROUND

- Staff presented an overview of the proposed grant program prior to Council consideration at the RWAC meeting in February 2022.
- The Metro Charter, the Oregon Constitution and Oregon Statutes grant Metro broad authority for planning, managing and overseeing the regional solid waste system to protect public health and safeguard the environment. More specifically, Section 6 of the Metro Charter assigns to Metro the function of "metropolitan aspects of natural disaster planning and response coordination." Part of these responsibilities include disaster debris management and disposal. This work is guided by the Disaster Debris Management Plan that describes Metro's role in managing and coordinating debris operations and the 2030 Regional Waste Plan that establishes Disaster Resilience goals and actions.
- Extreme weather-related disasters are on the increase in our region, including those that generate significant debris. The possibility of wildfires, windstorms, ice storms, floods and other debris-generating disasters necessitates a commitment to planning and preparation for debris management.
- In February 2021, a severe winter weather incident generated a significant amount of debris in the region. Based on the after action report and conversations with local government representatives in the region, Metro staff developed the proposal to establish a disaster debris reserve and grant program.

- A new Metro Code Chapter 5.11 (see attached) establishing the disaster debris reserve and grant program was adopted by the Metro Council on July 28, 2022.
- Guidelines are now under development to detail how the reserve will be administered and how grants will be awarded.
- FEMA operates a public assistance grant program that identifies impactful disasters and reimburses local governments for 75% of eligible post-disaster expenses. The remaining 25% must be paid by the local and/or state government, called a local match. In Greater Portland, an eligible disaster is one that causes approximately \$1 million in public infrastructure damage. FEMA reimburses local governments for 75% of eligible debris removal costs. However, the FEMA program requires significant documentation and has a lengthy reimbursement process that could burden smaller local governments. Strategies that advance racial equity and speed recovery such as temporary debris sites where the public can bring their own debris and vouchers for free disposal at authorized disposal facilities are ineligible for FEMA reimbursement. Metro's disaster debris reserve and grant program will help fill these gaps.
- It is expected that in most cases there will be enough disaster debris reserve funds available to cover local jurisdictions' 25% local match, as well as incurred costs for strategies that are not FEMA eligible. If there are not enough funds, Metro will apply additional criteria to prioritize use of funds consistent with the goals, detailed in the draft guidelines.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Does the committee have any guidance on how equity is addressed in the proposed grant process?
- Does the committee have any other input on the proposed guidelines?

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- We will be consulting with other internal and external stakeholders on the draft guidelines, with the goal of finalizing them prior to October 26, 2022, when the grant program launches.
- The grant program guidelines will be provided to the committee when finalized.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- New Metro Code Chapter 5.11
- Draft guidelines