

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OF THE
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Allocation of Conserved)
Water Application CW-124,)
Yamhill County)
)
)
)

FINAL ORDER OF APPROVAL ON
COMPLETION OF ALLOCATION OF
CONSERVED WATER CW-124

Applicant

Willamette Valley Land, LLC
c/o Paul Kuehne
PO Box 99
Lafayette, OR 97127

Applicable Law

Any person or group of persons holding a water use subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505 may submit an application for an Allocation of Conserved Water to the Water Resources Commission for a conservation project that has not yet been implemented or was implemented within five years prior to the submission of the application. ORS 537.465. Under the Allocation of Conserved Water Program, a portion of the water proposed to be conserved by an applicant may be used on additional lands, put to a different use, or be leased or sold to another user. OAR 690-018-0010. A portion of the water conserved is allocated to the state to be converted to an instream water right or to revert to the public for appropriation by other water users. ORS 537.470(3).

An application for an allocation of conserved water shall include: (a) A description of the measure as implemented and the date on which the measure was implemented; (b) A description of the diversion facilities before the conservation measure was implemented and the amount of water that was diverted at the facilities before the conservation measure was implemented; (c) The amount of water needed to supply existing rights after implementation of the conservation measure; (d) The amount of water conserved by implementing the conservation measure; (e) The proposed allocation and use of the conserved water if different from the allocation specified in ORS 537.470; (f) The intended use of any water allocated to the applicant and the proposed location of use; (g) The applicant's choice of priority date for the conserved water; (h) Evidence that the measure was implemented within five years prior to the date of filing the application; and

This final order is subject to judicial review by the Court of Appeals under ORS 183.482. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.482(1). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-003-0675, you may petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

(i) Any other information the commission considers necessary to evaluate the application. ORS 537.465.

After determining any quantity of water needed to mitigate the effects on other water rights, 25-percent of the conserved water shall be allocated to the state and 75-percent to the applicant unless the applicant proposes a higher allocation to the state or more than 25-percent of the funds used to finance the conservation measures comes from federal or state sources not subject to repayment. ORS 537.470(3).

If an application for the allocation of conserved water is approved, the Department shall issue orders describing the changes in the original water rights. Once the conservation project is finalized, the Department shall issue new certificates preserving the previously established-priority date of the rights to reflect the unaffected portion of the water rights and new certificates reflecting the changes for the portions of the water rights involved in the conserved water application. ORS 537.470(6).

ORS 537.455 to 537.500 authorize and establish the process by which a water right holder may submit a request for an allocation of conserved water. OAR Chapter 690, Division 18, implements the statutes and provides the Department’s procedures and criteria for evaluating allocation of conserved water applications. OAR Chapter 690, Division 077 provides additional criteria for evaluating proposed instream water rights.

Findings of Fact

1. On April 6, 2021, Willamette Valley Land, LLC (Applicant) filed an allocation of conserved water application under Certificate 48511. The Department assigned the application number CW-124.
2. The conservation project involves conversion from overhead and big gun sprinklers to drip irrigation. The conversion from overhead and big gun sprinklers to drip irrigation is a proven technology for conserving water.
3. Application CW-124 proposes a rate reduction of approximately 0.125 cubic foot per second (cfs) and proposes to reduce the annual volume by 25.3 acre-feet (AF).

Conserved Water Description										
Certificate	Certificate				Needed				Conserved Water	
	Rate		Duty		Rate		Duty		Rate	Duty
	Maximum CFS	CFS/AC	Maximum AF	AF/AC	Maximum CFS	CFS/AC	Maximum AF	AF/AC	Maximum CFS	Maximum AF
48511	0.150	1/80	30.0	2.5	0.025	0.002	4.7	0.39	0.125	25.3

4. The portion of the first right to be modified by CW-124 is as follows:
 - Certificate:** 48511 in the name of HERBERT C. COLEMAN (perfected under Permit S-41341)
 - Use:** IRRIGATION of 12.0 ACRES

Priority Date: JANUARY 25, 1977

Rate: 0.15 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Limit/Duty: The amount of water used for irrigation, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, shall be limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH (1/80) of one cubic foot per second per acre, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated and shall be further limited to a diversion of not to exceed 2.5 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: SOUTH YAMHILL RIVER, tributary to the YAMHILL RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

Authorized Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
4 S	4 W	WM	31	SE SE	59	4.5
4 S	4 W	WM	32	SW SW	59	7.2
4 S	4 W	WM	32	SE SW	59	0.3
Total						12.0

5. Certificate 48511 does not list a period of use; therefore, pursuant to the Yamhill River Decree, the irrigation season of use is April 1 to November 1.
6. Water has been used within the five-year period prior to submission of the allocation of conserved water application, and no evidence is available that would demonstrate that the right is subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
7. A pump, pipeline, and sprinkler system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing right were present within the five-year period prior to submittal of the application.
8. The Applicant requests that the conserved water be allocated as follows:

Certificate	State's Portion			Applicant's Portion			Conserved Water		
	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF
48511	25	0.031	6.3	75	0.094	19.0	100	0.125	25.3

9. The Applicant proposes that its portion of the conserved water be allocated for an out-of-stream use within Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 4 West, W.M. and Section 6, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, W.M.
10. The Applicant requests that the priority date for any conserved water be one minute junior to the originating right.
11. The Applicant funded 100% of the conservation project.

12. The Applicant submitted a completed Land Use Form from Yamhill County that indicated the proposed use was allowed outright or is not regulated by Yamhill County's comprehensive plan.
13. The implementation of the conservation measures began no earlier than July 2017. The Applicant asserted it attempted to identify and resolve the concerns of water right holders in the area, governmental entities and other organizations.
14. The Applicant proposes that any instream water right created be for the purposes of conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, and other ecological values.
15. The Applicant requested the Department protect the new instream water right created from the conserved water under Certificate 48511 at the authorized point of diversion on the South Yamhill River.
16. The Applicant submitted a Notice of Completion with the application indicating the project was complete. The Applicant requested the deadline for submitting Request for Finalization of the allocation on or before July 31, 2022.
17. The application meets the requirements of OAR 690-018-0040.
18. The Department has determined the proposed instream flows are necessary to support instream flow uses. Instream Water Right Certificate 72977 exists in the stream reach where the proposed instream water right is to be protected and is for the same instream flow purposes. The priority date of Certificate 72977 is August 5, 1993. Replacing a portion of Certificate 72977 with an earlier priority date supports the public benefits.
19. Notice of the proposed conservation project was published in the Department's weekly notice on May 4, 2021, and in the *News Register* newspaper on May 4 and 11, 2021, as required under OAR 690-018-0050(1)(a) and (2). No comments were filed in response to the notices.

On June 24, 2021, the Department issued a Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Allocation of Conserved Water application CW-124 and mailed a copy to the Applicant on June 25, 2021. No protests were filed within 60 days from the date of mailing the Preliminary Determination. OAR 690-018-0050(6).

Allocation of Conserved Water Review Criteria [OAR 690-018-0050]

20. The proposed allocation of conserved water will result in a reduced diversion of the use allowed under the existing right pursuant to OAR 690-0018-0050(4)(a). (Finding of Fact #3).
21. On May 3, 2021, the District #22 Watermaster performed a review of the proposed Allocation of Conserved Water Project. The Watermaster determined that the conservation project would not harm other water rights; therefore, no quantity of conserved water is needed to mitigate for harm to other water rights. OAR 690-018-0050(4)(b) and (d).

22. The conservation project is consistent with the local comprehensive land use plan requirements established in OAR 690-005-0045. (Finding of Fact #12). OAR 690-018-0050(4)(c).
23. Pursuant to OAR 690-018-0050(4)(e), the new reduced rate and duty for the existing uses involved in Allocation of Conserved Water Application CW-124 under Certificate 48511 are as follows:

Originating Certificate	Rate		Duty	
	Maximum CFS	CFS/AC	Maximum AF	AF/AC
48511	0.025	0.002	4.7	0.39

(Finding of Fact #3).

24. Pursuant to OAR 690-018-0050(4)(e), the priority date, rate and volume allocated to the State for instream use is as follows:

Priority Date	Maximum Rate	Maximum Duty (Volume)
January 25, 1977, <i>plus one minute</i>	0.031 cfs	6.3 AF

(Finding of Fact #8 and #10).

25. As required by OAR 690-018-0050(4)(f), the Department has determined that the instream right created will support public benefits. (Finding of Fact #18).
26. Pursuant to ORS 537.470(3) and OAR 690-018-0050(4)(g), the amount of water allocated to the Applicant does not need to be adjusted because the Applicant funded 100% of the project. (Finding of Fact #11). The priority date, rate and volume allocated to the Applicant is as follows:

Priority Date	Maximum Rate	Maximum Duty (Volume)
January 25, 1977, <i>plus one minute</i>	0.094 cfs	19.0 AF

(Finding of Fact #8 and #10).

27. The new instream water right created will be protected in the South Yamhill River at the authorized point of diversion as described in Finding of Fact #4, at approximately River Mile 17.6. OAR 690-018-0050(4)(h); OAR 690-077-0015(8).
28. To prevent enlargement, the period of use for water to be protected instream must be adjusted so the annual volume limitation is not exceeded. By reducing the period of use, the conserved water may be protected at the full rate without enlarging the right.
29. The instream right shall allow the use and protection of flows as follows:

Source: South Yamhill River, tributary to the Yamhill River

Priority Date	Period	Rate (cfs)	Volume (acre-feet)
1/25/1977, <i>plus one minute</i>	July 1 through October 10	0.031	6.3

At the authorized point of diversion at approximately River Mile (RM) 17.6:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

30. The amount and timing of the proposed instream flows are allowable within the limits and use of the original water right. OAR 690-077-0015(10).
31. The protection of flows at the authorized point of diversion is appropriate, considering:
 - a. The instream water use begins at the recorded point of diversion;
 - b. The location of confluences with other streams downstream of the point of diversion.
 - c. There are no known areas of natural loss of streamflow to the river bed downstream from the point of diversion; and
 - d. Any return flows resulting from the exercise of the existing water right would re-enter the river downstream of the point of the instream water right.

OAR 690-077-0015(8).
32. The combination of instream rights for the proposed point on the South Yamhill River does not exceed the amount needed to provide increased public benefits and does not exceed the estimated average natural flow or level occurring from the drainage system. OAR 690-077-0015(4) and (11).
33. The existing instream water rights established pursuant to ORS 537.341 (minimum flow conversion) or ORS 537.336 (state agency process), within the proposed reach on the South Yamhill River are sufficient to protect the monthly quantities of water necessary for supporting aquatic life and anadromous and resident fish habitat, but are not always met. By replacing a portion of these instream water rights, any instream water right created as a result of this allocation will provide protection of stream flows identified as necessary for supporting aquatic life and anadromous and resident fish habitat under an earlier priority date.
34. By adding to other instream water rights established pursuant to ORS 537.348 (instream transfer process) and ORS 537.470 (allocation of conserved water process) located within the proposed reach, any new instream water rights established by this conserved water project would provide protection for additional flows identified as necessary for conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, and other ecological values. OAR 690-077-0015(11).
35. The areas within which the conserved water is proposed to be used for out-of-stream uses are within Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 4 West, W.M. and Section 6, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, W.M. (Finding of Fact #9). OAR 690-018-0050(4)(h).
36. The project was completed in July 2017. The deadline for submitting a Request for Finalization is July 31, 2022. (Finding of Fact #16). OAR 690-018-0050(4)(i).
37. No other conditions or limitations are needed to prevent or mitigate for harm to existing water rights. (Finding of Fact #21). OAR 690-018-0050(4)(j).

Conclusions of Law

The project described in Allocation of Conserved Water Application CW-124, is consistent with the criteria in ORS 537.455 to 537.500, and OAR Chapter 690, Divisions 018 and 077.

1. The proposed change will result in a reduced diversion for the uses allowed under the original water right. Findings of Fact #3 and #20.
2. The proposed allocation of conserved water will not harm existing water rights. Findings of Fact #21 and #37.
3. The application is consistent with the requirements established in OAR 690-005-0045. Finding of Fact #22.
4. The changes proposed in CW-124 are approved.
5. The quantities of water conserved and allocated are as follows:

Certificate	State's Portion			Applicant's Portion			Conserved Water		
	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF	Percentage	Maximum Rate (CFS)	Max. Duty (Volume) AF
48511	25	0.031	6.3	75	0.094	19.0	100	0.125	25.3

6. The right to the use of the water is restricted to beneficial use at the places of use described and is subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in Certificate 48511 and any related decree.
7. Water Right Certificate 48511 is cancelled. Upon finalization a certificate will be issued for that portion of the water right not affected by this Allocation of Conserved Water application
8. All conserved water, both the Applicant's portion and the State's portion shall be managed instream until a Request for Finalization is submitted as follows:

South Yamhill River, tributary to the Yamhill River

Priority Date	Period	Rate (cfs)	Volume (acre-feet)
January 25, 1977, plus one minute	July 1 through October 10	0.125	25.3

At the authorized point of diversion at approximately River Mile (RM) 17.6:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

Upon Filing the Request for Finalization:

9. The project is complete, and no additional time is needed for finalization.

10. A new Certificate will be issued for that portion of the water right not affected by this Allocation of Conserved Water application. A superseding Certificate will be issued for the existing use and place of use at the reduced rate and duty as follows:

Originating

Certificate: 48511 (perfected under Permit S-41341)

Use: IRRIGATION of 12.0 ACRES

Priority Date: JANUARY 25, 1977

Rate: 0.025 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Limit/Duty: The amount of water used for irrigation, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, shall be limited to 1/480 of one cubic foot per second (0.002 cfs) per acre, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated and shall be further limited to a diversion of not to exceed 0.39 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year, limited to an annual volume of 4.7 acre-feet.

Source: SOUTH YAMHILL RIVER, tributary to the YAMHILL RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

Authorized Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
4 S	4 W	WM	31	SE SE	59	4.5
4 S	4 W	WM	32	SW SW	59	7.2
4 S	4 W	WM	32	SE SW	59	0.3
Total						12.0

11. Water use measurement conditions:
- Before the use of the Applicant's portion of conserved water, the water user shall install a totalizing flow meter, or, with prior approval of the Director, another suitable measuring device, at each point of diversion.
 - The water user shall maintain the meters or measuring devices in good working order.
 - The water user shall allow the Watermaster access to the meters or measuring devices; provided however, where the meters or measuring devices are located within a private structure, the Watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
12. The Applicant's portion of conserved water (0.094 cfs, 19.0 AF) shall be used and managed instream until a Notice of Use or Disposition is received pursuant to ORS 537.490 and OAR 690-019-0090. The water shall be managed instream as follows:

South Yamhill River, tributary to the Yamhill River

Priority Date	Period	Rate (cfs)	Volume (acre-feet)
January 25, 1977, plus one minute	July 1 through October 10	0.094	19.0

At the authorized point of diversion at approximately River Mile (RM) 17.6:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

13. The proposed areas within which the Applicant's portion of conserved water is proposed to be used for out-of-stream uses are within Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 4 West, W.M. and Section 6, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, W.M.
14. The Department shall issue a new instream water right certificate for the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat and other ecological values as follows:

Source: South Yamhill River, tributary to the Yamhill River

Priority Date	Period	Rate (cfs)	Volume (acre-feet)
1/25/1977, plus one minute	July 1 through October 10	0.031	6.3

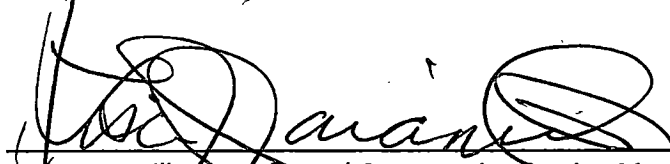
At the authorized point of diversion at approximately River Mile (RM) 17.6:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
5 S	4 W	WM	6	SE NE	37	1600 FEET SOUTH AND 480 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

Within the specified stream reach, the amount of water to which this right is entitled shall not exceed the quantity of water legally available at the original points of diversion. Stream channel losses and gains calculated based on available data and the use of water by senior appropriators will determine the amount of water to which this right is entitled downstream from the original point of diversion within the specified stream reach.

The instream right established by this allocation shall replace a portion of instream water rights established pursuant to ORS 537.341 OR 537.346 and be in addition to instream water rights established pursuant to ORS 537.348 or 537.470 unless otherwise specified in an order approving a new instream water right under these statutes.

Dated at Salem, Oregon AUG 31 2021


 Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for
 THOMAS M. BYLER, DIRECTOR
 Oregon Water Resources Department

Mailing Date: SEP 01 2021