

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

In the Matter of the Proposed Water                    )     FINAL ORDER APPROVING A  
Management and Conservation Plan for                )     WATER MANAGEMENT AND  
City of Wasco, Sherman County                        )     CONSERVATION PLAN

**Authority**

OAR Chapter 690, Division 086, establishes the process and criteria for approving water management and conservation plans required under the conditions of permits, permit extensions and other orders of the Department. An approved water management and conservation plan may authorize the diversion and use of water under a permit extended pursuant to OAR Chapter 690, Division 315.

**Findings of Fact**

1. The City of Wasco (City) submitted a Water Management and Conservation Plan (plan) to the Water Resources Department (Department) on July 1, 2013. The required statutory fee for review of the plan was received by the Department on July 23, 2013. Submittal of the plan was required by a condition set forth under the City's previously approved plan (*Special Order Vol. 57, Pg. 55 issued on January 27, 2003*), and by a condition set forth in the final order issued on August 4, 2011, approving an extension of time for Permit G-11973.
2. The Department published notice of receipt of the plan on August 6, 2013, as required under OAR Chapter 690, Division 086. No comments were received.
3. The Department provided written comments on the plan to the City on October 15, 2013. In response, the City submitted a revised plan on February 21, 2014. Additional information was provided on November 24, 2014, to further clarify the revised plan.
4. The Department reviewed the revised plan and finds that while the system is fully metered; the City is not currently reading customer meters. Because the City is not gathering usage data at customer meters, it is currently unable to perform annual water audits, quantify non-revenue water (*i.e., water loss*) within its system or have a rate structure based on the quantity of water metered at service connections. Further, the City does not currently have a meter testing and maintenance program in place.
5. The City's revised plan includes conservation benchmarks to complete, within five years, the additional work (*identified in Finding of Fact #4*) necessary to satisfy the requirements of OAR 690-086.

This is a final order in other than a contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080, 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.

6. The Department finds that the conservation benchmarks to be completed by the City during the next 5 years (*as described in Findings of Fact #4 and #5*) is reasonable and appropriate, and that a Work Plan with a specific schedule for completion of the required conservation measures must be incorporated into the final order approving the City's revised plan.
7. The revised plan identifies ground water (*i.e., two wells*) as the source of the City's water rights, and accurately and completely describes that these wells are not located within the designated boundaries of any designated critical ground water area.
8. The water curtailment element included in the revised plan satisfactorily promotes water curtailment practices and includes a list of six stages of alert with concurrent curtailment actions.
9. In accordance with OAR 690-086-0900(3), with the inclusion of the scheduled Work Plan to complete additional work necessary to satisfy all conservation requirements within five years (*as described in Finding of Fact #6*), the revised plan is generally consistent with the relevant requirements under OAR 690-086-0125.
10. The City's revised plan demonstrates an anticipated need for 1.23 cfs of water to meet the City's overall water demands for the next twenty years. These projections are reasonable and consistent with the City's land use plan.
11. The increased diversion of water under Permit G-11973 will be needed during the next 20 years and is consistent with OAR 690-086-0130(7), as follows:
  - a. The City serves a current population of approximately 415. Because the City serves fewer than 1,000 people, additional requirements under OAR 690-086-0130(7)(a) do not apply at this time;
  - b. Considering that interconnection with other municipal water suppliers is not financially feasible due to the distance involved and the associated costs required to install infrastructure necessary to convey the water, and that redundancy from existing Well #1 under Permit G-11973 is needed to maintain a secure water supply should Well #2 become inoperable or otherwise unavailable, the increased diversion of water under Permit G-11973 is the most feasible and appropriate water supply alternative currently available to the City; and
  - c. The City does not hold any water use permits for which resource issues are identified under OAR 690-086-0140(5)(i), therefore, requirements under OAR 690-086-0130(7)(c) do not apply at this time.
12. As set forth under OAR 690-086-0900(4), any plan approval that contains a requirement for completion of additional work under OAR 690-086-0900(3) shall preclude additional diversion of water under an extended permit beyond the need quantified for the next two years.
13. Clarification provided by the City on November 24, 2014, indicates an instantaneous rate of 0.71 cfs (*out of the permitted 0.91 cfs*) under Permit G-11973 will be necessary to help meet the City's peak water demands for the next two years.

14. The Department finds that the quantity of water described in Finding of Fact #13 (*i.e.*, 0.71 cfs under Permit G-11973) is reasonable and necessary for the City to meet its water needs for the next two years.

### Conclusions of Law

The Water Management and Conservation Plan submitted by the City of Wasco, with the inclusion of the Work Plan, is consistent with the criteria in OAR Chapter 690, Division 086.

Now, therefore, it is **ORDERED**:

1. **Duration of WMCP Approval**: The City of Wasco's Water Management and Conservation Plan is approved and shall remain in effect until **June 22, 2020**, unless this approval is rescinded pursuant to OAR 690-086-0920.
2. **Work Plan Requirements**: To complete additional work necessary to satisfy all of the conservation requirements under OAR 690-086-0150, the City of Wasco shall accomplish and complete the following activities, as scheduled below:
  - a. **Beginning in Year 2015**:
    - Implement regular meter reading (*both customer and source meters*) and recording of water use data.
  - b. **By the end of Fiscal Year 2016/2017**:
    - Develop an annual water audit utilizing a systematic and documented methodology for estimating any un-metered authorized and unauthorized water use that includes a method to estimate the City's water loss; and
    - Conduct the City's first annual water audit using Year 2015 data. Each annual water audit will quantify the City's water loss.
  - c. **By the end of Year 2018**:
    - Develop and implement a scheduled meter testing and maintenance program;
    - Institute and implement the City's new rate structure under which customers' bills are based, at least in part, on the quantity of water metered at the service connection; and
    - If, upon completion of the first annual water audit, it is found that the City's water loss exceeds 10 percent, develop and implement a regularly scheduled and systematic program to detect leaks in the transmission and distribution lines.
3. **Development Limitations**: The limitation of the diversion of water under Permit G-11973 established by the Extension of Time approved on August 4, 2011, is removed, and subject to other limitations or conditions of the permit, the City of Wasco is now authorized to divert **up to 0.71 cfs** (*out of the permitted 0.91 cfs*) under **Permit G-11973**.
4. **WMCP Update Schedule**: the City of Wasco shall submit an updated plan meeting the requirements of OAR Chapter 690, Division 086 within 5 years and no later than **November 22, 2019**.

5. The deadline established herein for the submittal of an updated Water Management and Conservation Plan (consistent with OAR Chapter 690, Division 086) shall not relieve the City of Wasco from any existing or future requirement(s) for submittal of a Water Management and Conservation Plan at an earlier date as established through other final orders of the Department.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 22 day of June, 2015.



Dwight French  
Water Right Services Division Administrator, for  
Thomas M. Byler, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Mailing date: JUN 24 2015