

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

In the Matter of Groundwater	)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
Registration Modification Application	)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF
T-13302, Linn County	)	RECOGNITION OF ADDITIONAL
	)	POINTS OF APPROPRIATION AND A
	)	MODIFICATION IN PLACE OF USE

**Authority**

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 537.610, 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 establish the process in which the holder of a certificate of registration may submit a request for recognition of modifications to the place of use, character of use or point of appropriation under a groundwater certificate of registration.

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 382 and 380 implement the statutes and provide the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating groundwater registration modification applications.

**Applicant**

STEPHEN DEMERGASSO  
30946 WYATT DR  
HARRISBURG, OR 97446

**Findings of Fact**

1. On December 6, 2019, DEMERGASSO FAMILY MARITAL DEDUCTION SHARE TRUST UAD 3/22/2009, filed a groundwater registration modification application for additional points of appropriation and to modify the place of use under Registration Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301). The Department assigned the application number T-13302.
2. On December 11, 2019, Registration Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301) was partially assigned from H L. ROSS to DEMERGASSO FAMILY MARITAL DEDUCTION SHARE TRUST UAD 3/22/2009.
3. Notice of the application for groundwater registration modification was published on January 7, 2020, pursuant to OAR 690-382-0600. No comments were filed in response to the notice.

Pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, any person may file a protest or standing statement within 30 days after the last date of publication of notice of this preliminary determination.

4. On June 15, 2020, the Department contacted the applicant by written correspondence to notify the applicant and the applicant's agent of a deficiency in the application. Table 2 indicates that the entirety of Registration Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301) would receive water from the additional points of appropriation, which included tax lot 401 that is not owned by the applicant. The Department requested that the deficiency be resolved by July 16, 2020. The agent submitted a revised Table 2 the same day, resolving the deficiency.
5. On July 23, 2020, the Department mailed a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-13302 to the applicant. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of August 24, 2020, for the applicant to respond. The applicant requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the transfer.
6. On August 6, 2020, the applicant requested to update the mailing address to Stephen Demergasso, 30946 Hyatt Dr., Harrisburg, OR 97446.
7. The portion of the groundwater registration to be modified is as follows:

**Registration:** Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301), in the name of H. L. ROSS (*partially assigned to DEMERGASSO FAMILY MARITAL DEDUCTION SHARE TRUST UAD 3/22/2009*)

**Use:** IRRIGATION of 6.0 ACRES

**Tentative**

**Priority Date:** APRIL 1941

**Quantity:** 154.3 GALLONS PER MINUTE; 15.0 ACRE FEET PER YEAR

**Source:** PUMP WELL

**Original Point of Appropriation:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
16 S	4 W	WM	2	NE NW	PUMP WELL - 5440 FEET NORTH 30 DEGREES 15 MINUTES WEST OF THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 2

**Original Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
16 S	4 W	WM	2	NE NW	6.0

8. Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-13302 proposes additional points of appropriation as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate distance from original point of appropriation in miles (mi.)
16 S	4 W	WM	2	NW NW	WELL 1 - 460 FEET SOUTH AND 890 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 2	0.2 mi.
16 S	4 W	WM	2	SW NW	WELL 2 - SOUTH 37 DEGREES 19 MINUTES EAST, 29.3 CHAINS FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 2	0.1 mi.
16 S	4 W	WM	2	SW NW	WELL 3 - 2080 FEET SOUTH AND 900 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 2	0.2 mi.

9. Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-13302 proposes to modify the place of use for a portion of the groundwater registration to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
16 S	4 W	WM	2	NE NW	0.9

***Review Criteria for Groundwater Registration Modification Applications [OAR 690-382-0700(2)]***

10. The proposed modifications would not result in enlargement of the groundwater registration.
11. The proposed modifications would not result in a state Scenic Waterway not receiving previously available water during periods in which streamflows are less than the quantities determined by the Department to be necessary to meet the requirements of ORS 390.835.
12. The proposed modifications would not result in injury to other water rights.

**Determination and Proposed Action**

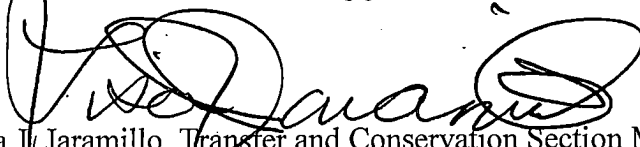
The additional points of appropriation and modification in place of use proposed in Groundwater Registration Modification T-13302 appear to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.610, 537.705, 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-382-1000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-382-0900, the modifications will be approved.

*If Groundwater Registration Modification T-13302 is approved, the final order will include the following:*

1. *The modifications to Registration Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301) proposed in Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-13302 are recognized. Recognition of the modifications shall not be construed as a final determination of the right to appropriate groundwater under the certificate of registration or modification. Such a determination will occur in an adjudication proceeding under ORS 537.670 to 537.695.*

2. *The use of the water is restricted to beneficial use at the place of use described, and is subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in Registration Application GR-1345 (Certificate of Registration GR-1301) and any related decree.*
3. *Water shall be acquired from the same aquifer (water source) as the original point of appropriation.*
4. *The quantity of water diverted at the new additional points of appropriation (Wells 1, 2, and 3), together with that diverted at the original point of appropriation (Pump Well), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (Pump Well).*
5. *The former place of use of the modified groundwater registration shall no longer receive water as part of the groundwater certificate of registration.*
6. *Water use measurement conditions:*
  - a. *Before water use may begin under this order, the water user shall install a totalizing flow meter, or, with prior approval of the Director, another suitable measuring device, at each new point of appropriation.*
  - b. *The water user shall maintain the meters or measuring devices in good working order.*
  - c. *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.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **OCT 21 2020**



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

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Corey Courchane. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 503-986-0825 or [corey.a.courchane@oregon.gov](mailto:corey.a.courchane@oregon.gov)

*Protests should be addressed to the attention of Water Rights Services Division, Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301-1266.*

**IMPORTANT:** Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

**Notice Regarding Service Members:** Active duty servicemembers have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free number.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Water Resources Department**  
725 Summer St NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
(503) 986-0900  
Fax (503) 986-0904

October 21, 2020

STEPHEN DEMERGASSO  
30946 WYATT DR  
HARRISBURG, OR 97446

**SUBJECT:** Water Right Transfer Application T-13302

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-13302. This document is an intermediate step in the approval process; water may not be used legally as proposed in the transfer application until a Final Order has been issued by the Department. Please read this entire letter carefully to determine your responsibility for additional action.

A public notice is being published in the Department's weekly publication, simultaneously with issuance of the Preliminary Determination. The notice initiates a period in which any person may file either a protest opposing the decision proposed by the Department in the Preliminary Determination or a standing statement supporting the Department's decision. The protest period will end 30 days after the Department's notice.

If no protest is filed, the Department will issue a Final Order consistent with the Preliminary Determination. You should receive a copy of the Final Order about 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If a protest is filed, the application may be referred to a contested case proceeding. A contested case provides an opportunity for the proponents and opponents of the decision proposed in the Preliminary Determination to present information and arguments supporting their position in a quasi-judicial proceeding.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, at [corey.a.courchane@oregon.gov](mailto:corey.a.courchane@oregon.gov) or (503) 986-0825, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corey Courchane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Corey Courchane  
Transfer Specialist  
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: T-13302  
Lanaya F. Blakely, District 2 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)  
William E. McGill, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

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