



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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

April 15, 2021

GOLDEN RULE FARMS INC.
PO BOX 255
CHRISTMAS VALLEY, OR 97641

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-13363

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to deny application T-13363. 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 and in the Burns Times-Herald newspaper, 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 last date of newspaper publication.

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 503-986-0886 or Patrick.K.Starnes@ wrd.state.or.us if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Tamera Smith
Transfer Caseworker

Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer application file T-13363
J R. Johnson, District 10 Watermaster (*via email*)
Scott Montgomery, Agent for the applicant (*via email*)
Elizabeth Howard, Attorney for the applicant (*via email*)
Lisa Brown, Water Watch, commenter (*via email*)
Barbara Cannady, commenter (*via email*)
Karen Starbuck, commenter (*via email*)
Gerrit Jager, commenter (*via email*)
Abraham Puckett, commenter (*via email*)
Laurie K. Oconnor, commenter (*via email*)
Ben McCanna, commenter

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