

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14264, Marion County)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A CHANGE
)	FROM SURFACE WATER POINTS OF
)	DIVERSION TO A GROUNDWATER POINT
)	OF APPROPRIATION

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 540.505 to 540.580 establish the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to transfer the point of diversion, place of use, or character of use authorized under an existing water right. Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 380 implement the statutes and provides the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating transfer applications.

Applicant

SUN-RAY FARMS
PO BOX 100
INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351

Findings of Fact

1. On June 9, 2023, SUN RAY FARMS filed an application to change surface water points of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation under Certificates 44215, 83391 and 85864. The Department assigned the application number T-14264.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on June 13, 2023, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. On February 7, 2024, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-14264 to the applicant. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of March 8, 2024, 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.

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 the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later, of this preliminary determination.

4. The first right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 44215 in the name of H S K INCORPORATED (perfected under Permit S-34779)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 69.8 ACRES
Priority Date: NOVEMBER 21, 1969
Rate: 0.87 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 of one cubic foot per second per acre, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated and shall be further limited to a diversion of 2.5 acre feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year; and shall conform to such reasonable rotation system as may be ordered by the proper state officer.
Source: WILLAMETTE RIVER, tributary of COLUMBIA RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	7	POD 1 - 620 FEET SOUTH AND 2610 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF THE NW1/4 NW1/4 IN SECTION 27

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Acres
8 S	4 W	WM	27	NW NW		40.0
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	7	29.8
TOTAL						69.8

5. Transfer Application T-14264 proposes to change from a surface water point of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation approximately 350.0 feet east as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	WELL A - 530 FEET SOUTH AND 1030 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 28

6. The second right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 83391 in the name of SUN RAY FARMS (perfected under Permit S-50043)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 6.1 ACRES AND SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 34.9 ACRES
Priority Date: JUNE 16, 1987
Rate: 0.51 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, is limited to a diversion of ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second, 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, provided further that although declared herein to be for

supplemental water supplies, be exercised at times when water is available in the ground water supply provided that the total quantity diverted from all sources of supply does not exceed the limitation allowed herein.

Source: WILLAMETTE RIVER, tributary to COLUMBIA RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	7	POD 2 - 620 FEET SOUTH AND 1310 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 28

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
8 S	4 W	WM	21	NE SE	63	1.8
8 S	4 W	WM	22	NW SW	63	4.3
TOTAL						6.1

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
8 S	4 W	WM	21	NE SE	63	6.3
8 S	4 W	WM	22	NW SW	63	23.0
8 S	4 W	WM	22	SW SW	63	5.6
TOTAL						34.9

7. Transfer Application T-14264 proposes to change the surface water point of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation approximately 350.0 feet east as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	WELL A - 530 FEET SOUTH AND 1030 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 28

8. The third right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 85864 in the name of SUN RAY FARMS (perfected under Permit S-41803)

Use: SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION of 160.0 ACRES

Priority Date: FEBRUARY 28, 1977

Rate: 1.50 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, is limited to a diversion of ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated from direct flow, 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 from direct flow and storage from reservoirs constructed under Permits R-1625 and R-5363, provided further that the right allowed herein shall be limited to any deficiency in the available supply of any prior right existing for the same land and shall not exceed the limitation allowed herein, and is subject to the terms and conditions of contract No. 7-07-10-W0026, or a satisfactory replacement, between the

Bureau of Reclamation and the applicant, a copy of which is on file with the records of Water Resources Department.

Source: WILLAMETTE RIVER and WILLAMETTE BASIN PROJECT RESERVOIRS, constructed under PERMITS R-1625 and R-5363, tributaries to the COLUMBIA RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	7	POD 2 - 620 FEET SOUTH AND 1310 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 28

Authorized Place of Use:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION							
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	DLC	Acres
8 S	4 W	WM	21	NE SE		63	4.0
8 S	4 W	WM	21	SE SE		63	23.0
8 S	4 W	WM	22	NE SW		63	0.5
8 S	4 W	WM	22	NW SW		63	11.0
8 S	4 W	WM	22	SW SW		63	34.4
8 S	4 W	WM	27	NW NW			10.0
8 S	4 W	WM	27	SW NW			40.0
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	7		29.8
8 S	4 W	WM	28	SE NE	6		7.3
TOTAL							160.0

- Transfer Application T-14264 proposes to change from a surface water point of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation approximately 350.0 feet east as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
8 S	4 W	WM	28	NE NE	WELL A - 530 FEET SOUTH AND 1030 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 28

Transfer Review Criteria [OAR 690-380-0100(14), 690-380-2130 and 690-380-4010(2)]

- Water has been used within the last five years according to the terms and conditions of the right. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the rights are subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
- A water delivery system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing rights was present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-14264.
- The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
- The proposed point of appropriation meets the requirements of ORS 540.531 and OAR 690-380-2130(2).
- The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.

15. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
16. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

The change from surface water points of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation proposed in Transfer Application T-14264 appears to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-2130 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the transfer application will be approved.

If Transfer Application T-14264 is approved, the final order will include the following:

1. *The change from surface water points of diversion to a groundwater point of appropriation proposed in Transfer Application T-14264 is approved.*
2. *The right to 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 Certificates 44215, 83391 and 85864 and any related decree.*
3. *Approval of this transfer application does not constitute nor grant legal access onto or through another person's property for purposes of accessing the new point of appropriation.*
4. *Water right Certificates 44215, 83391 and 85864 are cancelled.*
5. *The quantity of water diverted at the new point of appropriation (Well A) shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original points of diversion (POD 1 and POD 2).*
6. *The well from which water is taken under the right shall be constructed so that the use of the well will affect the surface water source similarly to the use of the original authorized points of diversion.*
7. *The use of water under this right shall be subject to regulation consistent with other water rights from the surface water source and to all other applicable conditions and restrictions that existed at the original points of diversion.*
8. *All applicable restrictions that existed at the original points of diversion shall apply to the proposed well.*
9. *The original date of priority shall be retained. However, if within 5 years after approving this transfer, the Department finds that the transfer results in substantial or undue interference with an existing groundwater right due to use of the well, that would not have occurred in the absence of the transfer, the new point of appropriation shall be subordinate to the existing right injured by the transfer.*

10. The original point of diversion of surface water shall not be retained as an additional or supplemental point of diversion under the transferred portion of the right. However, if within five years after approval of the transfer, the Department receives a transfer application to return to the last authorized surface water point of diversion, the application shall be approved.

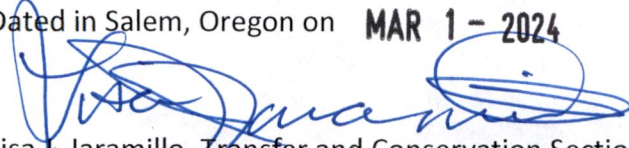
11. Water Use Measurement Conditions:

- 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 point of appropriation (new and existing).
- 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.

12. Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2025**. A Claim of Beneficial Use prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner shall be submitted by the applicant to the Department within one year after the deadline for completion of the changes and full beneficial use of the water.

13. After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, new certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued.

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **MAR 1 - 2024**


Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for
DOUGLAS E. WOODCOCK, ACTING DIRECTOR
Oregon Water Resources Department

This draft Preliminary Determination was prepared by Kim French. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 503-979-9607 or Kim.R.French@water.oregon.gov.

Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 540.520(6) & (7) and OAR 690-380-4030, within 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later, any person may file, jointly or severally, a

protest expressing opposition of approval of the transfer application and disagreement with this Preliminary Determination or a standing statement in support of this Preliminary Determination. If this Preliminary Determination determines that a change in point of diversion or appropriation would result in injury, the applicant may file a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under OAR 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050. Protests and standing statements must be received by the Water Resources Department within 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later.

Protests must be in writing and received in hard copy form with the appropriate statutory protest filing fee; protests cannot be filed by electronic mail. [OAR 690-002-0025(3) and 690-380-0100(9)]. The protest must include the following:

- The person's name, address, and telephone number;
- All reasonably ascertainable issues and all reasonably available arguments supporting the person's position by the close of the protest period. Failure to raise a reasonably ascertainable issue in a protest or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the Department an opportunity to respond to the issue may preclude consideration of the issue during the hearing;
- If you are the applicant, a protest fee of \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$950 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.

Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of OAR 690-380-4030(5), the Department shall provide to persons who have filed standing statements as defined under OAR 690-380-0100(11) notice of any differences between the Department's Preliminary Determination and the Final Order, notice of a hearing on the application under OAR 137-003-0535, and an opportunity to request limited party status or party status in the hearing.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;

- A statement that the requester supports the preliminary determination as issued.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been filed under OAR 690-380-4030. In accordance with OAR 690-380-4200, notice and conduct of the hearing shall:

- Be under the applicable provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550, pertaining to contested cases, and the hearing shall be held in the area where the rights are located unless all parties stipulate otherwise; and
- If a protest has asserted that a water right to be transferred has been forfeited through non-use, include the notice and procedures described in OAR 690-017-0500 to 690-017-0900.

If after hearing the Department issues a proposed Final Order finding that a change in point of diversion or appropriation will result in injury, the applicant may file a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under OAR 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050 within 15 days of receipt of the proposed order. Notwithstanding 690-002-0175, if the applicant files a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050, the deadline for filing exceptions to the proposed order shall be 30 days after the Department provides notice to the parties that the transfer does not meet the requirements of 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050.

If you do not request a hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear, or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a final order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a *prima facie* case upon default.

You may be represented by an attorney at the hearing. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions, or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 690-137-0555, an agency representative may represent partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public, or private organizations if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

Notice Regarding Servicemembers: Active-duty servicemembers have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military

Department at 971-355-4127, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

If you have questions about how to file a protest or if you have previously filed a protest and you want to know the status, please contact Will Davidson at 503-507-2749.

If you have questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.

Address any correspondence to: Oregon Water Resources Department, Transfer and Conservation Section, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem OR 97301-1266.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

Phone 503 986-0900

Fax 503 986-0904

www.oregon.gov/owrd

March 1, 2024

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

Applicant

SUN RAY FARMS

PO BOX 100

INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14264

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14264. 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.

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.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 503 979-9607 or Kim.R.French@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kim French

Transfer Specialist

Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: T-14264

Gregory J. Wacker, District 16 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
William E. McGill, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

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