

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14044, Curry County)	PROPOSING DENIAL OF AN ADDITIONAL
)	POINT OF DIVERSION AND A CHANGE IN
)	PLACE OF USE

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:

GEORGIA MAYEA
JULIE KELLEHER
93773 ELK RIVER RD
PORT ORFORD, OR 97465

Findings of Fact

1. On July 15, 2022, Georgia Mayea and Julie Kelleher filed an application for an additional point of diversion and to change the place of use under Certificate 26303. The Department assigned the application number T-14044.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on August 2, 2022, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. The transfer application did not include a transfer application map that meets the requirements of OAR 690-380-3100. Specifically, the location identified as being where land is to be moved “from” was missing.
4. On February 27, 2023, the applicant’s agent sent an email with a revised map that meets the map requirements of OAR 690-380-3100 and a revised Table 2 to more accurately reflect the changes being made to the water right.
5. On August 2, 2023, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to deny Transfer Application T-14044 to the applicant. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of September 1, 2023, for the applicant to

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.

respond. The applicant requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination, and to pursue Consent to Injury for Instream Certificates 59869 and 78508, and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the transfer.

6. The portion of the right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 26303 in the name of N. B. MARSH (perfected under Permit S-21647)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 6.0 ACRES
Priority Date: JULY 31, 1952
Rate: 0.075 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 not to exceed 2.5 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.
Source: ELK RIVER, tributary to the PACIFIC OCEAN

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
32 S	15 W	WM	27	NW SE	(POD 1) - 1670 FEET NORTH AND 1705 FEET WEST OF THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 27
32 S	15 W	WM	27	SE SE	(POD 2) - 1006 FEET NORTH AND 1262 FEET WEST OF THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 27

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
32 S	15 W	WM	27	NE SE	3.0
32 S	15 W	WM	27	NW SE	3.0
TOTAL					6.0

7. Transfer Application T-14044 proposes an additional point of diversion to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Distance from authorized POD	
						POD 1	POD 2
32 S	15 W	WM	27	SE SE	POD 5 - 584 FEET NORTH AND 940 FEET WEST FROM THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 27	1340 feet upstream	250 feet upstream

8. Transfer Application T-14044 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
32 S	15 W	WM	27	SE SE	6.0

9. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that a fish screening and/or by-pass device is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and/or safely transport fish back to the body of water from which the fish were diverted and that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screening and/or by-pass device. This diversion may be eligible for screening cost share funds.

Transfer Review Criteria [OAR 690-380-4000(14), 690-380-4010(2) and 690-380-2110(2)]

10. Water has been used within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-14044 according to the terms and conditions of the right. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the right is subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
11. A water delivery system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing right was present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-14044.
12. The water right is subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
13. The proposed point of diversion diverts water from the same source of surface water as the authorized points of diversion, as required by OAR 690-380-2110(2).
14. The proposed changes would not result in enlargement of the right.
15. Two instream water rights, Certificates 59869 and 78508 exist for the reach of the river in which the authorized point of diversion would be moved upstream, and stream flows within the reach are frequently below the levels allocated under the instream water rights. Thus, the instream water rights would be injured as a result of the proposed change in point of diversion.
16. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

The additional point of diversion and change in place of use as proposed in Transfer Application T-14044 cannot be affected without injury to instream Water Right Certificates 59869 and 78508. Pursuant to ORS 540.530, the application will be denied unless, on the recommendation of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department consents to injury of the instream water right, pursuant to OAR 690-380-5050, or protests are filed pursuant to OAR 690-380.

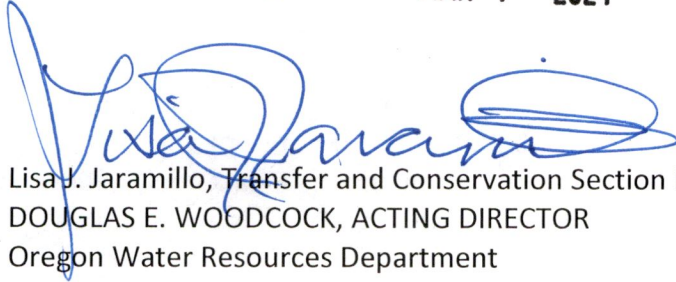
If the transfer is approved on the recommendation of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to consent to the injury, the changes and subsequent use of water shall be subject to any conditions identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as necessary to ensure that the transfer results in net benefit to the resource and to the following conditions:

1. *The additional point of diversion and change in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14044 are 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 Certificate 26303 and any related decree.*
3. *Water right Certificate 26303 is cancelled. A new certificate will be issued describing that portion of the right not affected by this transfer.*
4. *The quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of diversion (POD 5), together with that diverted at the original points of diversion (POD 1 and POD 2), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original points of diversion (POD 1 and POD 2).*
5. *Water shall be acquired from the same source of surface water as the original points of diversion.*
6. *The former place of use of the transferred right shall no longer receive water under the right.*
7. *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 diversion (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.*
8. *Prior to diverting water, the water user shall install a fish screening and/or by-pass device, as appropriate, at the new point of diversion consistent with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) design and construction standards. Prior to installation, the water user shall obtain written approval from ODFW that the required screen and/or by-pass device meets ODFW's criteria. Prior to submitting a Claim of Beneficial Use, the water user must obtain written approval from ODFW that the required screening and/or by-pass device was installed to the state's criteria. The water user shall maintain and operate the fish screen and/or by-pass device, as appropriate, at the point of diversion consistent with ODFW's operational and maintenance standards.*
9. *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.

10. *After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, a new certificate confirming the right transferred will be issued.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **MAR 4 - 2024**



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

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Dante Luongo. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 971 304-5006 or Dante.J.Luongo@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

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725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
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www.oregon.gov/owrd

February 12, 2024

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

Applicant

GEORGIA MAYEA
JULIE KELLEHER
93773 ELK RIVER RD
PORT ORFORD, OR 97465

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14044

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department has concluded that approval of the additional point of diversion proposed in application T-14044 would result in injury to instream water right certificates 59869 and 78508. Consistent with your request that we seek a recommendation from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on whether we should consent to the injury to the instream water right, we are proceeding with that process concurrently with issuance of the preliminary determination.

The Water Resources Department holds instream water rights in trust for the benefit of the people of Oregon. Under ORS 540.530(c), we may approve the transfer only if the agency that requested the instream water right concludes that the changes proposed will result in net benefits to the resources protected by the instream water right, and recommends that we consent to the injury of the right. Please contact the agency staff person to whom the agency review letter has been sent, to discuss whether you may be able to assist in providing information needed for the analysis.

After we have received recommendations from ODFW on whether to consent to the injury, provided no protests have been filed, we will issue an order either:

- Approving the transfer with conditions, if any, identified in the agency recommendations as necessary to ensure that the change will result in net benefits, or
- Reaffirming our decision that the instream water right would be injured and denying the transfer.

The timing for issuance of the order will depend on the availability of information needed by ODFW to perform the net benefits analysis upon which their recommendation must be based, and the time necessary to allow public review and comment on the recommendation. You are

not authorized to use water from the proposed points of diversion pending a final decision by the Department on your transfer application.

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.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 971 304-5006 or Dante.J.Luongo@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Luongo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dante Luongo
Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-14044
Scott C. Ceciliani, District 14 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Russ S. Dodge, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

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