

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14351, Lane County)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF CHANGES
)	FROM A SURFACE WATER POINT OF
)	DIVERSION TO GROUNDWATER POINTS
)	OF APPROPRIATION AND PARTIAL
)	CANCELLATION OF A WATER RIGHT

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 establish the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to transfer the point of appropriation, 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.

ORS 540.621 establishes the process for the owner of land to which a water right is appurtenant to certify under oath that the water right, or a portion thereof, has been abandoned and to voluntarily request that it be cancelled.

Applicant

DAVID AND BARBARA BRAZELTON
39938 MCKENZIE HIGHWAY
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478

Findings of Fact

1. On November 15, 2023, David and Barbara Brazelton filed an application to change from a surface water point of diversion to groundwater points of appropriation under Certificates 75779 and 86849. The Department assigned the application number T-14351.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on November 28, 2023, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. 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 the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later, of this preliminary determination.

3. On July 16, 2025, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination to the applicants, proposing to approve Transfer Application T-14351. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter provided a deadline of August 15, 2025, for the applicants to respond and submit the required information. The applicants requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicants are authorized to pursue the transfer.
4. The portion of the first right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 75779 in the name of J. IRA MCNUTT (perfected under Permit S-18782)
Use: IRRIGATION of 12.9 ACRES
Priority Date: JUNE 15, 1949
Rate: 0.159 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 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: MCKENZIE RIVER, a tributary of the WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Acres
17 S	1 W	WM	23	SW SW	3	6.1
17 S	1 W	WM	23	SE SW		2.4
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NE NW	2	2.0
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	2.4
Total						12.9

5. The Department has received information from the applicant that better describes the authorized point of diversion under Certificate 75779, as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40	POD - 1030 FEET SOUTH AND 780 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26

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

Certificate: 86849 in the name of J IRA MCNUTT (perfected under Permit S-14388)
Use: IRRIGATION of 24.1 ACRES
Priority Date: JULY 25, 1940
Rate: 0.30 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.

Source: MCKENZIE RIVER, tributary to WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
17 S	1 W	WM	22	SE SE	40	6.7
17 S	1 W	WM	23	SW SW	40	16.2
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40	1.2
Total						24.1

7. The Department has received information from the applicant that better describes the authorized point of diversion under Certificate 86849, as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40	POD - 1030 FEET SOUTH AND 780 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26

8. Transfer Application T-14351 proposes to change from a surface water point of diversion to groundwater points of appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Measured Distances	Approximate distance from original point of diversion in feet (ft.)
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	PROPOSED WELL 1 - 480 FEET SOUTH AND 1190 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26	686 ft. NE
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	PROPOSED WELL 2 - 430 FEET SOUTH AND 1270 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26	775 ft. NE
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	PROPOSED WELL 3 - 150 FEET SOUTH AND 1030 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26	915 ft. NE
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	PROPOSED WELL 4 - 160 FEET SOUTH AND 1070 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 26	917 ft. NE

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

9. Water has been used within the last five years according to the terms and conditions of the rights. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the rights subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
10. 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-14351.
11. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
12. The proposed points of appropriation meet the requirements of ORS 540.531 and OAR 690-380-2130(2).
13. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.
14. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
15. All other application requirements are met.

Partial Cancellation of a Water Right

16. On November 15, 2023, an affidavit certifying that a portion of a water right has been abandoned and requesting cancellation of the right was received from David and Barbara Brazelton. The portion of the right to be cancelled is as follows:

Certificate: 75779 in the name of J. IRA MCNUTT (perfected under Permit S-18782)
Use: IRRIGATION of 1.2 ACRES
Priority Date: JUNE 15, 1949
Rate: 0.015 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 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: MCKENZIE RIVER, a tributary of the WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twsp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Acres
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NE NW	2	0.9
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	3	0.3
Total						1.2

17. On November 15, 2023, an affidavit certifying that a portion of a water right has been abandoned and requesting cancellation of the right was received from David and Barbara Brazelton. The portion of the right to be cancelled is as follows:

Certificate: 86849 in the name of J IRA MCNUTT (perfected under Permit S-14388)

Use: IRRIGATION of 1.4 ACRES

Priority Date: JULY 25, 1940

Rate: 0.018 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 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: MCKENZIE RIVER, tributary to WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC
17 S	1 W	WM	26	NW NW	40

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
17 S	1 W	WM	22	SE SE	40	1.0
17 S	1 W	WM	23	SW SW	40	0.4
Total						1.4

Determination and Proposed Action

The changes from a surface water point of diversion to groundwater points of appropriation proposed in Transfer Application T-14351 appear to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000 and the abandoned rights will be cancelled. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the application will be approved and the abandoned rights will be cancelled.

If Transfer Application T-14351 is approved, the final order will include the following:

- The changes from a surface water point of diversion to groundwater points of appropriation proposed in Transfer Application T-14351 are approved. The portion of the rights that have been abandoned are cancelled.*

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 75779 and 86849, 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 points of appropriation.*
4. *Water right Certificates 75779 and 86849 are cancelled. New certificates will be issued describing those portions of the rights not affected by this transfer and cancellation.*
5. *The quantity of water diverted at the new points of appropriation (Proposed Wells 1, 2, 3, and 4), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (POD).*
6. *The wells from which water is taken under these rights shall be constructed so that the use of the wells will affect the surface water source similarly to the use of the original authorized point of diversion.*
7. *The use of water under these rights 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 point of diversion.*
8. *All applicable restrictions that existed at the original point of diversion shall apply to the proposed wells.*
9. *The original date of priority shall be retained. However, if within five years after approving the transfer, the Department finds that the transfer results in substantial interference with existing groundwater rights that would have occurred in the absence of the transfer, the proposed wells shall be subordinate to any existing right injured by the transferred water rights.*
10. *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, with the exception that water rights issued to the Bureau of Reclamation or an irrigation district (or similar entity) are not subject to this condition.*
 - 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.*
11. *Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2027**. 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.

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

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **SEP 30 2025**


Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for
IVAN GALL, 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 503-979-3917 or corey.a.courchane@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 \$720 required by ORS 536.050; and

- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$1425 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

SEP 30, 2025

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

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

DAVID AND BARBARA BRAZELTON
39938 MCKENZIE HIGHWAY
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14351

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14351. 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, at corey.a.courchane@water.oregon.gov or (503) 979-3917, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Corey Courchane
Allocation of Conserved Water
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-14351
Lanaya F. Blakely, District 2 Watermaster (via e-mail)
Shonee D. Langford, Agent for the applicant (via e-mail)

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