



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

PREPARED FOR: AR Recovery LL-1963 application file and Madison Ranches

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SUBJECT: AR Recovery LL-1963 Application is complete

DATE: 4/4/2024



Background

Madison Ranches submitted an application for AR Recovery LL-1963 on 9/22/2023. The project includes diverting Butter Creek water and infiltrating it into a series of artificial groundwater recharge basins under AR LL-1926. LL-1963 proposes recovery of stored water through an existing collector well. The project was previously tested under AR LL-1926 and LL-1927. The application proposes to recover water stored under LL-1926 for supplemental irrigation and stock water uses. This review addresses AR-recovery-related topics (OAR 690-350-0120).

OWRD completeness comments for LL-1963 (informational only, no action needed to reach application completeness; contact is Andrew Wentworth: Andrew.M.Wentworth@oregon.water.gov):

OAR 690-350-0120(3)(c) Purpose of recharge. The stated purpose is to recover water under LL-1963 for supplemental irrigation and stock water. Limited Licenses for AR Recovery with the beneficial use of irrigation can only be issued for one year.

OAR 690-350-0120(3)(d) Annual storage: No annual storage volume requested. The project is authorized to divert 25 cfs from Butter Creek under AR LL-1926.

OAR 690-350-0120(3)(f) Hydrogeologic Feasibility Report. The project recharges greater volumes than it recovers, with no residual head change. These water level data indicate the water infiltrated by AR does not remain within the influence of the collector well year-over-year. Therefore, LL-1963 will be conditioned to allow recovery of 85% of the volume recharged in a given irrigation season, with no carry-over into future years.

OAR 690-350-0120(3)(g) Project Description Report.

1. The current system used to recover water stored by artificial groundwater recharge uses a collector well (UMAT 57869) that is authorized by natural groundwater rights and a LL for AR Recovery.
2. Totalizing flowmeters will be required at each recovery well.
3. The water level monitoring plan, as proposed, is approved for the purpose of testing. If the project advances to a permit, key wells and target water levels—as defined in OAR 690-350-0120 (5)(e)—must be defined to determine the recoverable percentage of water. Testing during the LL phase should be designed to define these aspects of a more permanent authorization. OWRD monitors water levels at wells associated with this project as resources allow, as part of our regional groundwater level monitoring program. The Department cannot guarantee we will have the resources to continue indefinitely. We recommend the project operator

or agent check in with Andrew Wentworth, OWRD Hydrogeologist, once per year to assess data collection plans.

AR-related Conditions to be included in LL-1963, if it is issued:

1. Before water use may begin under this license, the licensee shall install a totalizing flowmeter to record recovered volume at each recovery well. The totalizing flowmeters must be installed and maintained in good working order. In addition, the licensee shall maintain a record of all water use, including the total number of hours of diversion, the total volume diverted, and the categories of beneficial use to which the water is applied. During the period of the limited license, the record of use shall be available for review by the Department upon request, and shall be submitted to the Watermaster upon request.
2. The licensee is required to provide a written annual report by **April 15th** of each year. This report will detail recharge testing and any subsequent recovery under a secondary limited license from the preceding water year. Reporting shall include, but is not limited to, the results of testing efforts that relate to water quality, water quantity, and operations. Water level data shall be submitted in a Department-specified digital format. The licensee shall consult with ODEQ and OWRD to identify additional specific reporting elements. The first report is due in **April 2025**.
3. The licensee shall adhere to the current, approved test and monitoring plan. A revised, superseding plan may be submitted to the Department at any time. The Department may approve, condition, or reject such plans.