



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Water Resources Department
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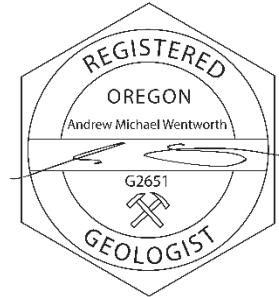
MEMORANDUM

PREPARED FOR: AR LL-1997 application file and Madison Ranches

PREPARED BY: Andrew Wentworth, Hydrogeologist

SUBJECT: AR LL-1997 application is complete

DATE: 4/6/2026



EXPIRES: 12/31/2026

Background

Madison Ranches submitted an application for AR Recovery LL-1997 on 1/23/2025. The proposed project includes diverting Butter Creek water and infiltrating it into up to four recharge basins under AR LL-1997. LL-1997 proposes an expansion of Madison's existing artificial recharge project to include a new recharge basin (Upper Moore Basin), a new recovery well, and modifications to the monitoring plan. The application also proposes recovery of stored water through two collector wells for supplemental irrigation and stock water uses. The project was previously tested under AR LL-1926. This review addresses AR-recovery-related topics (OAR 690-350-0120). The reviewer defers to OWRD's Water Rights Section to make final determinations regarding source water availability.

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

690-350-0120(3)(a) Instream water right required. Diversion is within Butter Creek > Umatilla R - AB Westland Canal Water Availability Basin (Watershed ID 30710305), which has no instream requirement. AR rules require an instream right or a waiver of this requirement from ODFW. ODFW granted a waiver of this requirement, but retained the prerogative to pursue a future instream water right for Butter Creek.

OAR 690-350-0120(3)(c) Purpose of recharge. The stated purpose is to recover water 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)(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-1997 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 for recovering 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. LL-1997 proposes the addition of a second collector well (UMAT 54823)
 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.
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AR-related Conditions to be included in LL-1997, 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, the volume of water diverted to each recharge area, 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 2027**.
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.
4. The licensee shall comply with all ODEQ water quality standards and permitting requirements. If monitoring data or other information result in identification of potential water quality concerns, ODEQ may seek modifications to the monitoring and test plans and/or require a permit of its own to address the water quality concerns prior to resumption of artificial groundwater recharge testing.
5. Failure to meet the conditions of the license to the satisfaction of the Department will lead to a cancellation of the limited license, in which case it would no longer be in force.
6. The licensee shall conduct recharge testing as proposed in the application and later amended by the licensee, and as otherwise conditioned herein.