

**Oregon Water Resources Department  
Water Right Services Division**

Water Right Application G-19543 in the name of )  
CHRISTOPHER RAY and ANNE REBECCA RAY ) FINAL ORDER  
)

**Summary:** Order approving Application G-19543 and issuing Permit G-19059.

***Authority***

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 536.700 – 536.780 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 690-019 establish the process by which the Department can allow temporary emergency-use permits. These statutes and rules can be viewed at: [www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/policylawandrules](http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/policylawandrules)

The Department's main page is: [www.oregon.gov/OWRD](http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD)

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On July 2, 2026, Christopher Ray and Anne Rebecca Ray submitted an application to the Department for an emergency-use permit requesting 0.78 cubic foot per second (CFS) of groundwater, further limited to 100.0 acre-feet (AF) during the irrigation season, for supplemental irrigation of 97.0 acres from a well (MALH 14) for use from July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.
2. The required examination and recording fees were paid.
3. The Department has not received adverse comments related to the possible issuance of the attached permit.
4. The Department completed a review of the application in accordance with OAR 690-019-0040.
5. The use is proposed in a designated drought area according to the Governor's June 9, 2026, Executive Order 26-09.
6. Emergency-use permits allow use of water to replace water not available under an existing right(s) due to drought. The Department determined that Application G-19543 did not demonstrate a deficiency in the water supply under existing groundwater Certificates 33852 and 56244, therefore, this portion of the request is not included on the attached permit.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

This is a Final Order in other than contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 536.075 and ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to OAR 137-004-0080, you may petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

7. Drought conditions have created an inability on the part of the applicant to obtain water under existing Water Right Certificate 1611.
8. The Department considered the factors described in OAR 690-310-0130 and finds that:
  - a. The proposed use requested in this application is allowed in the Malheur Basin Program (OAR 690-510-0010(1));
  - b. Groundwater is available in the amount requested for this emergency, temporary use; the Department has determined that the proposed use will have the potential for substantial interference with surface water;
  - c. The proposed use will not injure other water rights; and
  - d. The proposed use does not comply with other rules of the Commission; the Department has determined that the well (MALH 14) was not constructed in a manner that protects groundwater resources and does not meet current minimum well construction standards as required in OAR 690-210.
9. The application proposed supplemental irrigation of 97.0 acres. The underlying Water Right Certificate 1611 authorizes primary irrigation of 96.0 acres; however, the 58.7 acres covered by existing supplemental irrigation rights from groundwater are not eligible for an emergency-use permit. Therefore, supplemental irrigation on the attached permit has been limited to 37.3 acres.
10. The application proposed a maximum rate of diversion of 0.78 CFS; however, the amount of groundwater used for irrigation is limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second per acre. Therefore, the maximum rate of diversion has been limited to 0.47 CFS on the attached permit.
11. The Department has considered the need for water because of the drought emergency and the short-term nature of the proposed emergency use and determined that the use would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

#### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

The application will not cause injury to existing water rights and will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest (OAR 690-019-0040(3)).

**ORDER**

Application G-19543 is approved, and Permit G-19059 is issued as limited by the conditions contained therein.

DATED AUGUST 20, 2026



Raymond Eliot Crafton  
Water Rights Section Manager, for  
Ivan Gall, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

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- If you have any questions about statements contained in this document, please contact Lucinda Vranizan at [Lucinda.R.Vranizan@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Lucinda.R.Vranizan@water.oregon.gov) or 971-375-2256.
  - If you have other questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.
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