



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

January 27, 2017

CHRISTINA ARAPOLU  
SANDRA THORNE  
EASY VALLEY FARM LLC  
2557 E EVANS CREEK  
ROGUE RIVER, OR 97537

Reference: File G-18311

Dear Applicant:

**THIS IS NOT A PERMIT AND IS  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE NEXT PHASE OF PROCESSING.**

This letter is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the water-use permit application and to describe the options. In determining whether an application may be approved, the Department must consider the factors listed below, all of which must be favorable to the proposed use if it is to be allowed. Based on the information supplied, the Water Resources Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

Initial Review Determinations:

1. Based on the application materials, the Department understands that groundwater will be pumped into a pond for *temporary storage*, and will ultimately be used for nursery use. Temporary storage in a reservoir that does not exceed 10 days between irrigation sets, temperature control applications, or agriculture spray applications is considered a bulge-in-the-system, and does not require a permit for storage.
2. The application proposed the appropriation of 0.15 cubic foot per second (CFS) of water from a well in Evans Creek Basin for year-round nursery use on 34.69 acres.
3. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
4. Uses included in nursery use are fully included in irrigation and agriculture uses, both of which are allowed under the Rogue Basin Program (OAR 690-515). Therefore, the appropriation of water from a well in Evans Creek Basin for nursery use is allowable.
5. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned, the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights.

6. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with Maple Creek. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered.
7. Surface water is **not** available at any time of the year.
8. The proposed diversion falls within a high priority area for streamflow restoration under the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds.
9. The proposed use is located above the Rogue Scenic Waterway, as designated under Oregon Revised Statute 390.826.
10. Please refer to the **Additional Information Required** section below for specific information regarding deficiencies with the application.

### **Summary of Initial Determinations**

**Because not all items above are favorable, the appropriation of 0.15 CFS of water from a well in Evans Creek Basin for year-round nursery use on 34.69 acres is not allowable, and it appears unlikely that a permit will be issued unless a suitable mitigation proposal is provided prior to issuance of the Proposed Final Order. At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw the application as described below.**

### **Additional Information Required**

Although it is unlikely that a permit will be issued, if the Department's findings change, additional information will be required prior to issuance of any Proposed Final Order that may recommend permit approval. Please provide the following items:

- Documentation that demonstrates the proposed use complies with the local acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan, or that you are actively pursuing approval from the Jackson County Planning Department for farm use and for cannabis production. The Land Use Information Form submitted with the application indicates you have not obtained approval for this specific use, and you are not pursuing it. If you demonstrate you are pursuing it, the Department can continue to process the application and issue a Proposed Final Order and a Final Order even when land use approval has not been obtained. However, before a permit will be issued the Department must receive documentation from the relevant planning jurisdiction that either 1) the proposed use is allowed outright or 2) that an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded.
- It is unclear whether the application is for a new proposed well or an existing well (L117350). Should the Department continue to process the application, please clarify whether the well is new or existing (L117350).

**Please submit this information no later than February 10, 2017.** If you are unable to submit the information listed above, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time you will need and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

If we do not receive the items requested above or a request for an administrative hold by this date, the Department will likely proceed with a Proposed Final Order recommending denial of the application.

Please reference the application number when sending any correspondence regarding the conclusions of this initial review. Comments received within the comment period will be evaluated at the next phase of the process.

To Proceed With the Application:

If you choose to proceed with the application, you do not have to notify the Department. The application will automatically be placed on the Department's Public Notice to allow others the opportunity to comment. After the comment period the Department will complete a public interest review and issue a Proposed Final Order.

Withdrawal Refunds:

If you choose not to proceed, you may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$225 processing charge per application). To accomplish this you must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, January 20, 2017**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

If A Permit Is Issued It Will Likely Include The Following Conditions:

1. Measurement devices, and recording/reporting of annual water use conditions:

- A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the device in good working order.
- B. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the device; provided however, where any device is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
- C. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the volume of water diverted each month, and shall submit a report which includes water-use measurements to the Department annually, or more frequently as may be required by the Director. Further, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, including the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
- D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

2. Scenic Waterway Condition

Use of water under authority of this permit may be regulated if analysis of data available after the permit is issued discloses that the appropriation will measurably reduce the surface water flows necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of a scenic waterway in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife in effect as of the priority date of the right or as those quantities may be subsequently reduced.

3. Well Identification Tag Condition

Prior to using water from any well listed on this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.

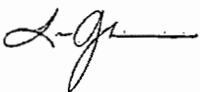
This initial review does not attempt to address various public interest issues such as sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. These issues will be addressed as the Department reviews comments from the public and other agencies, and prepares a Proposed Final Order. Be aware that, if significant public interest issues are found to exist, such a finding could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

The water source identified in the application may be affected by an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. These plans are developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with the cooperation of local landowners and other interested stakeholders, and help to ensure that current and new appropriations of water are done in a way that does not adversely harm the environment. You are encouraged to explore ODA's Water Quality Program web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/AgWaterQuality.aspx> to learn more about the plans and how they may affect the proposed water use.

If you have any questions:

Feel free to call me at 503-986-0808 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or the application. Please have the application number available if you call. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0801. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Lisa Graham, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Graham', followed by a horizontal line.

Lisa Graham  
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18311  
WAB 15-70987  
POU 15-70987  
GW

## APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18311

Applicant: CHRISTINA ARAPOLU/SANDRA THORNE/EASY VALLEY FARM LLC

County: JACKSON

Watermaster: 13

Priority Date: JUNE 3, 2016

Source: A WELL IN EVANS CREEK BASIN

Use: NURSERY USE ON 34.69 ACRES

Quantity: 0.15 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Rogue, #15

Stream Index Reference: Volume 4 EVANS CR MISC

Well Location: SWSW SECTION 3, T36S, R4W, W.M.; 929 FEET NORTH AND 286 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 3

Place of Use:

SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  24.67 ACRES  
SECTION 3

SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  10.02 ACRES  
SECTION 4

TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, W.M.

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, February 10, 2017**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2017**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, March 2, 2017**

## APPLICATION PROCESS DESCRIPTION FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS

In order to take and use the waters of Oregon, a citizen must first obtain a permit from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose - without waste. To become well-informed about water right topics, weekly public notice, forms and fees please visit our web site at [www.wrd.state.or.us](http://www.wrd.state.or.us)

### 1. Pre-application considerations

- follow instructions in the application packet
- if you have questions about completing an application or would like to arrange a pre-application conference contact the Department's Water Rights Information Group (WRIG) at 503-986-0801

### 2. Application filing

- application with fee is received by the Department
- Department determines completeness of application
- if use is not allowed by statute (ORS 538), the application and fees are returned to the applicant
- incomplete application and fees are returned to the applicant
- only a complete application receives a tentative priority date, is assigned a caseworker, and moves forward for processing

### 3. Initial Review (IR)

- caseworker reviews application by considering basin plans, water availability, statutory restrictions and all other appropriate factors
- caseworker sends IR report to applicant
- contact the caseworker if you have questions about the IR
- seven days after date of the IR, it is included in Department's weekly Public Notice
- public comments must be submitted within 30 days after the Public Notice
- **administrative hold** may be requested in writing by applicant

### 4. Proposed Final Order (PFO)

- caseworker evaluates application against required criteria and develops draft permit, if appropriate
- PFO includes instructions for filing of protests
- caseworker considers public comments and mails PFO to applicant
- the PFO is included in Department's weekly Public Notice
- public protests to the PFO must be submitted within 45 days after the Public Notice

**Stop Processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review - use the form below**

- applicant may request no further action and fee refund of all but \$225

### STOP PROCESSING REQUEST FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application # \_\_\_\_\_

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and the fees be refunded (minus a \$225 examination fee.) I understand that without a valid permit I may not legally use the water as requested in my application

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

*Under ORS 537.150 (5) and 537.620 (5) timely submission of this request authorizes that the water right application process be stopped and all filing fees (except \$225 examination fee) be returned.*

This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by \_\_\_\_\_

Return the notice to: OWRD, Water Rights Division  
STOP PROCESSING  
725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A  
Salem OR 97301-1271

**5. Final Order (FO)**

- if no protest is filed, Final Order is issued

***The protest process***

If one or more protests are filed, permit process consists of:

- settlement discussion
- contested case hearing
- proposed order
- period of time to file exceptions
- possible hearing by Water Resources Commission
- final order issued

***Permit holder responsibilities***

- comply with all water use conditions of the permit
- advise Department of address change or assignment to new permit holder
- if need arises, request extension of time or authorize cancellation of permit
- submit timely claim of beneficial use (COBU) to Department
- most permits require COBU to be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner
- permits may be canceled by the permit holder or by the Department for failure to comply with or one or more permit conditions