

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

Application for Extension of Time

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time) PROPOSED
for Permit S-53642, Water Right Application S-84039) FINAL
in the name of Paul Ortner IV, and Ortner Venture Group, LLC) ORDER

Permit Information

Application:	S-84039
Permit:	S-53642
Basin:	Middle Willamette / Watermaster District 16
Date of Priority:	January 12, 1999
Source of Water:	Willamette Basin Projects, constructed under Permits R-1625, and R-5363, tributary to the Willamette River
Purpose or Use:	Irrigation of 48.0 Acres
Maximum Volume:	120.0 acre-feet (AF) per year

Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety.

In summary, the Department proposes to:

- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2004, to October 1, 2019.¹

This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 537.230 and 539.010(5), and Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315

¹ Pursuant to ORS 537.230(5), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permit holder shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permit holder shall submit a map of the survey and the claim of beneficial use.

ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE

Application – Application for Extension of Time
Department – Oregon Water Resources Department
ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
PFO – Proposed Final Order
FOF – Finding of Fact
AF - acre-feet

AUTHORITY

Generally, see ORS 537.230 and OAR Chapter 690 Division 315.

ORS 537.230(2) provides in pertinent part that the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) may, for good cause shown, order an extension of time within which irrigation or other works shall be completed or the right perfected. In determining the extension, the Department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS 539.010(5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection of the right.

ORS 539.010(5) instructs the Director to consider: the cost of the appropriation and application of the water to a beneficial purpose; the good faith of the appropriator; the market for water or power to be supplied; the present demands therefor; and the income or use that may be required to provide fair and reasonable returns upon the investment.

OAR 690-315-0040 provides that in order to approve an application for an extension of time to complete construction or apply water to full beneficial use, the Department shall make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1) including a finding that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. OAR 690-315-0040(2)-(4) contains the factors that the Department must consider to make findings that support a “good cause” determination.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On January 27, 2000, Permit S-53642 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the use of up to 120.0 AF of water each year from the Willamette Basin Projects, constructed under Permits R-1625, and R-5363, for irrigation of 48.0 acres. The permit specified actual construction was to begin by November 2, 1999 and complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 2004.
2. On February 20, 2019, an assignment from James Cutler and Franklin Merrill Farms, LLC, to Paul P. Ortner IV, and Ortner Venture Group, LLC, was recorded in the records of the Water Resources Department.
3. On March 18, 2019, Paul Ortner IV, owner of Ortner Venture Group, LLC, submitted an “Application for Extension of Time” (Application) to the Department, requesting the time

to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit S-53642 be extended from October 1, 2004, to October 1, 2019. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit S-53642.

4. On March 26, 2019, notification of the Application for Permit S-53642 was published in the Department's Public Notice. No public comments were received.

Review Criteria [OAR 690-315-0040]

In order to approve an Application for an Extension of Time to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to ORS 537.230 or 537.630, or to begin construction, pursuant to ORS 537.248, the Department must make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a) – (d).

Complete Extension of Time Application [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a)]

5. On March 18, 2019, the Department received a completed Application and the fee specified in ORS 536.050 from the permit holder.

Start of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and 690-315-0040(5)]

6. Actual construction of the water system began prior to the November 2, 1999, deadline specified in the permit.
7. According to the Notice of Beginning of Construction (Form A) dated June 26, 2000, actual construction began August 1, 1999, with the replacement of the centrifugal pump and fish screen.

Based on Findings of Fact (FOF) 6 and 7, the Department has determined the permit holder began construction prior to October 1, 2004.

Good Cause [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)]

The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]

In order to make a finding of "good cause" to approve the extension, the Department shall consider whether the applicant has demonstrated "reasonable diligence" in previous performance under the permit. OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a). In determining "reasonable diligence", the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors: a) The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension; b) The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit or previous extension time limits; c) Water right holder conformance with the permit or previous extension conditions; and d) Financial investments made toward developing the beneficial use of water.

Amount of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(a)]

The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the.²

8. Construction of the water system began prior to the November 2, 1999 deadline specified in the permit.
9. During the original development time frame under Permit S-53642, installation of the irrigation system was completed.

The Application provides evidence that progress of physical work, enough to qualify as the minimum necessary, has been made towards completion of the water system for the Department to find good cause and reasonable diligence towards complete application of water to a beneficial use.

Compliance with Conditions [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(c)]

The water right permit holder's conformance with the permit.

10. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and did not identify any concerns.

Based on FOF 10, the Department has determined that the permit holder has demonstrated compliance with permit conditions as required by Permit S-53642.

Beneficial Use of Water [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(b)]

The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit time .

11. A maximum annual volume of 65.0 AF of water has been diverted from the Willamette Basin Projects, constructed under Permits R-1625, and R-5363 for irrigation of 30.0 acres.

Based on FOF 10, and 11, the Department has determined that beneficial use of water has been demonstrated under Permit S-53642.

Financial Investments to appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b),(3)(d),(4)(d)]

12. The amount invested in the development of the water system is unknown. The construction of the water system was completed prior to the current permit holder acquiring the property in 2016. Since 2016, the current permit holder has invested approximately \$700 per year in the maintenance of the water service contract. Development of the water system is complete, and requires no additional investment.

² "Actual Construction" is defined in OAR 690-315-0020(3)(d)(A) and (B) as physical work performed toward completion of the water system which demonstrates the water right permit holder's good faith and intention to complete the project with reasonable diligence. Actual construction does not include planning a diversion system, formulating a business plan, securing financing, letting contracts, purchasing but not installing equipment, surveying, clearing land or planting crops.

Based on FOF 12, the Department has determined that the permit holder had made an investment, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]

The Application provides evidence that work has been accomplished towards completion of the water system; the permit holder has demonstrated compliance with permit conditions; a financial investment has been made, and; beneficial use of water has been demonstrated. The Department has determined the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under Permit S-53642.

The Market and Present Demands for Water [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f)]

The Department's determinations of market and present demand for water or power to be supplied shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f). In accordance with OAR 690-315-0040(4), the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when determining the market and the present demand for water or power to be supplied:

- *(a) The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows;*
- *(b) Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d);*
- *(c) The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife;*
- *(d) Economic investment in the project to date;*
- *(e) Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project; and*
- *(f) Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demands for water and power.*

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a)

The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows.

13. A review of the amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows was determined at the time of issuance of Permit S-53642; furthermore, water availability for other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows after the permit was issued is determined when an application for a new water right is submitted.
14. Current Water Availability Analysis has determined that 120.0 AF of water is available from Willamette Basin Projects, constructed under R-1625, and R-5363, under Water Service Contract Number 119E101749 with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(b)

Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d).

15. The point of re-diversion is located on Willamette River, and is not located within a Withdrawn Area.
16. The Willamette River is not located within or above a state or federal scenic waterway.
17. The point of re-diversion is in a location listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.
 - a. Willamette River, River Mile 0.0, to 50.6, listed under Water Quality Limited for Temperature.
 - b. Willamette River, River Mile 0.0, to 54.8, listed under Water Quality Limited for DDE 4,4, and Chlorophyll a.
 - c. Willamette River, River Mile 24.8, to 54.8, listed under Water Quality Limited for Biological Criteria, DDT 4,4, DDE 4,4, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Dioxin, Iron, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB).
 - d. Willamette River, River Mile 24.8, to 186.4, listed under Water Quality Limited for Mercury.
 - e. Willamette River, River Mile 24.8, to 186.6, listed under Water Quality Limited for Lead.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(c)

The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

18. Willamette River is located within an area ranked “low” for stream flow restoration needs as determined by the Department in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is located within a Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species Area as identified by the Department in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(d)

Economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

19. An investment has been made in the project.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)

Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

20. Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project have been identified. The permit holder allows for an outside organization to use the property for an annual horse show.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(f)

Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power.

21. No other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power have been identified.

Fair Return Upon Investment [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(f)]

22. The use and income from the permitted water development will likely result in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

Other Governmental Requirements [OAR 690-315-0042(2)(g)]

23. Delay in the development of this project that was caused, in part by the Willamette Basin Program Reallocation project, which delayed the issuance of a permanent water contract.

Unforeseen Events [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(h)]

24. No unforeseen events were identified that extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit S-53642.

Denial of an Extension Would Result in Undue Hardship [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(i)]

25. A denial of the extension would not result in undue hardship.

Good Faith of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(c)]

26. The Application provides evidence of good faith of the appropriator under Permit S-53642.

Based on FOF 6, through 12, the Department has determined that the applicant has shown good faith and reasonable diligence.

Duration of Extension [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c)]

Under OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c), in order to approve an extension of time for water use permits the Department must find that the time requested is reasonable and the applicant can complete the project within the time requested.

27. As of March 18, 2019, the permit holder states the remaining work to be completed consists of completing construction of the water system and applying water to full beneficial use.

Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2019, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit S-53642 is both reasonable and necessary.

Good Cause [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)]

The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

The Department has considered the reasonable diligence and good faith of the appropriator, the cost to appropriate and apply water to a beneficial purpose, the market and present demands for water to be supplied, the financial investment made and fair and reasonable return upon the investment, the requirements of other governmental agencies, and unforeseen events over which the permit holder had no control, whether denial of the extension will result in undue hardship to the applicant and whether there are no other reasonable alternatives for meeting water use needs, any other factors relevant to a determination of good cause, and has determined that the applicant has shown that good cause exists for an extension of time to complete construction and apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant has submitted a complete extension application form and the fee specified in ORS 536.050, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a).
2. The Applicant complied with construction timeline requirements to begin actual construction as required by ORS 537.230, OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
3. Based on Finding of Facts 6 through 26, completion of construction and full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2019³, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c).
4. The Applicant can complete the project within the time period requested for the extension on the project.

³Pursuant to ORS 537.230(5), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permittee shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permittee shall submit a map of the survey and a new or revised claim of beneficial use as deemed appropriate by the Department.

5. The Applicant has demonstrated good cause for the extension.

PROPOSED ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Department proposes to issue an order to:

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit S-53642 from October 1, 2004, to October 1, 2019.

DATED: May 14, 2019



Dwight French, Administrator
Water Right Services Division

*If you have any questions,
please check the information
box on the last page for the
appropriate names and
phone numbers.*

Proposed Final Order Hearing Rights

1. Under the provisions of OAR 690-315-0100 and 690-315-0060, the applicant or any other person adversely affected or aggrieved by the proposed final order may submit a written protest to the proposed final order. The written protest must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **June 28, 2019**, being 45 days from the date of publication of the proposed final order in the Department's weekly notice.
2. A written protest shall include:
 - a. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner;
 - b. A description of the petitioner's interest in the proposed final order and if the protestant claims to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
 - c. A detailed description of how the action proposed in the proposed final order would adversely affect or aggrieve the petitioner's interest;
 - d. A detailed description of how the proposed final order is in error or deficient and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
 - e. Any citation of legal authority supporting the petitioner, if known;
 - f. Proof of service of the protest upon the water right permit holder, if petitioner is other than the water right permit holder; and
 - g. The applicant or non-applicant protest fee required under ORS 536.050.

3. Within 60 days after the close of the period for requesting a contested case hearing, the Director shall:
 - a. Issue a final order on the extension request; or
 - b. Schedule a contested case hearing if a protest has been submitted, and:
 - 1) Upon review of the issues, the Director finds there are significant disputes related to the proposed agency action; or
 - 2) The applicant submits a written request for a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the period for submitting protests.

NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS: Active duty Servicemembers have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free telephone number.

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- If you have any questions about statements contained in this document, please contact Jeffrey D. Pierceall at (503) 986-0802.
 - 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 Patricia McCarty at 503-986-0820.
 - If you have any questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0801.
 - Address any correspondence to :

Water Right Services Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266
- Fax: 503-986-0901
-