

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

Water Right Application G-18860 in the )  
name of OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ) PROPOSED FINAL ORDER  
TRANSPORTATION )

**Summary:** The Department proposes to issue an order approving Application G-18860, as amended, and a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

**Authority**

The application is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.615 through 537.628, and 390.826, and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 5, 8, 9, 33, 300, 310, 400, 410, and the Willamette Basin Program (OAR 690-502). These statutes and rules can be viewed on the following website: <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/policylawandrules/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Department’s main website can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD>.

The Department shall presume that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525 if:

- a) The proposed use is allowed in the applicable basin program established pursuant to ORS 536.300 and 536.340 or given a preference under ORS 536.310(12);
- b) Water is available;
- c) The proposed use will not injure other water rights; and
- d) The proposed use complies with the rules of the Commission. ORS 537.621(2); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)

All four criteria must be met for a proposed use to be presumed to ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health. When the criteria are met and the presumption is established the Department must further evaluate the proposed use, any comments received, information available in its files or received from other interested agencies, and any other available information to determine whether the presumption is overcome. OAR 690-310-0140

If the Department determines that the presumption is established and not overcome, the Department shall issue a Proposed Final Order recommending issuance of the permit subject to any appropriate modifications or conditions.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

### **Application History**

1. On September 3, 2019, Oregon Department of Transportation filed a complete application for the following water use:  

**Source:** SRA WELL 1 SB (MARI 15381) AND SRA WELL 2 NB (MARI 15382) IN SANTIAM RIVER BASIN

**Use and Period of Use:** COMMERCIAL USE – JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31; AND IRRIGATION OF 7.2 ACRES – MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

**Rate:** 0.15 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND (CFS)

**County:** MARION COUNTY

**Place of Use:** SECTIONS 33 & 34, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M.
2. On February 14, 2020, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that the appropriation of 0.15 CFS of water from SRA Well 1 SB (MARI 15381) and SRA Well 2 NB (MARI 15382) in Santiam River Basin for commercial use November 1 through June 30, further limited to 0.01 CFS for commercial use July 1 through July 31 is allowable and the appropriation of 0.09 CFS of water from SRA Well 1 SB (MARI 15381) and SRA Well 2 NB (MARI 15382) in Santiam River Basin for irrigation of 7.2 acres May 1 through June 30 of each year is allowable. The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.
3. On February 18, 2020, the Department noticed the application in its weekly public notice, requesting comments, and providing information for interested persons about obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order.
4. The Department has determined that Finding of Fact #5 in the Initial Review identified the incorrect basin plan. The correct basin plan is OAR 690-502-0010(1)(b).
5. The application was placed on several administrative holds, the last of which was discontinued on May 20, 2021.
6. On May 20, 2021, the applicant amended the application by removing irrigation as a proposed use and reducing the period of use for commercial use to November 1 through June 30 of each year.

### **Presumption Criteria (a) - Consistency with Basin Program**

7. Commercial use is allowed under the Willamette Basin Program from September 1 through June 30 of each year. (OAR 690-502-0010(1)(b)). ORS 537.621(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)

### **Presumption Criteria (b) - Water Availability**

8. An assessment of groundwater availability has been completed by the Department. A copy of this assessment is in the file and can be viewed on the Department's website. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned (and if authorized), the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights. ORS 537.621(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(c)

**Presumption Criteria (c) - Injury Determination**

9. The proposed use, if authorized, will not injure other water rights. ORS 537.621(3)(d); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(e)

**Presumption Criteria (d) - Whether the use complies with rules of the Commission**

10. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates the proposed use is allowed outright. ORS 537.621(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)
11. The Department has determined that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with surface water, namely the Santiam River. ORS 537.621(3)(b); OAR 690-009-0040(4)
12. The finding of the potential for substantial interference requires that surface water availability be considered. Surface water is **not** available (at an 80 percent exceedance probability) August 1 through October 31 of each year. OAR 690-410-0070(1) and OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(A)
13. The proposed groundwater use is not located within a designated critical groundwater area. ORS 537.620(4)(a), 537.621(3)(a); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(a)
14. The proposed use is in an area of the state in which OAR 690-033-0210 thru -0230 and OAR 690-033-0310 thru -0340 apply. These rules establish definitions, additional procedures, and standards to aid the Department in determining whether a proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest with regard to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species.

**OAR 690-033-0210 Lower Columbia Rules (Below Bonneville Dam)**

- A. The proposed use of water is detrimental to the protection or recovery of a threatened or endangered species. OAR 690-033-0220(1)
- B. The proposed use can be conditioned or mitigated to avoid the detriment. OAR 690-033-0220(1)
- C. The application is not presumed to impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

**OAR 690-033-0310 Statewide Rules**

- A. The proposed use occurs occur in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0310(2)
- B. The applicant has been notified that based on a preliminary determination, the proposed use may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species and the application may be conditioned or denied. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(a)
- C. The interagency review team has been notified that an application has been received in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(b)
- D. The interagency review team was convened to review the application and recommended conditions as necessary to achieve the standards listed in 690-033-0330(2)(a) and (b).

**Determination of Presumption that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health**

Based on the review of the presumption criteria (a)-(d) above, the presumption has been established. ORS 537.621(2); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(g)

**Further evaluation of the proposed use**

15. No comments were received by the close of the comment period. OAR 690-310-0140(3)(a)
16. Information available in Department files, received from other interested agencies, and other available information does not provide a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use would not ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525. OAR 690-310-0140(3)

**Other Criteria and Requirements**

17. The proposed use is not located within or above a state scenic waterway, as designated under ORS 390.826. 537.621(3)(a); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(a)
18. The amount requested, 0.15 CFS, is necessary for the proposed use. ORS 537.621(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(d)
19. The applicant proposed methods to measure the amount of water appropriated, prevent damage to aquatic life and riparian habitat, prevent discharge of contaminated water to a surface stream, or to prevent damage to public uses of any affected surface waters. These measures are adequate at this time. OAR 690-310-0150(2)(j)
20. The proposed use complies with rules of the Water Resources Commission not otherwise described above.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The proposed use, as conditioned, would ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525.

NOTE: When issuing permits, ORS 537.628(1) authorizes the Department to include limitations and conditions which have been determined necessary to protect the public welfare, safety and health.

**PROPOSED ORDER**

The Department recommends approval of Application G-18860, as amended, and issuance of a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

DATED August 3, 2021

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Alyssa Mucken  
Water Rights Section Manager, for  
Thomas M. Byler, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

## Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for groundwater), you can protest this Proposed Final Order. Protests must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **September 17, 2021**.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

Protests must be in writing and include the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A description of your interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if you claim to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- A detailed description of how the action proposed in the Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to your interest;
- A detailed description of how the Proposed Final Order is in error or deficient, and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
- Any citation of legal authority to support your protest, if known;
- To affect the Department's determination that the proposed use in this application will, or will not, ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525, ORS 537.621(2)(b) requires that a protest demonstrate, by a preponderance of evidence any of the following: (a) One or more of the criteria for establishing the presumption are, or are not, satisfied; or (b) The specific aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 that would be impaired or detrimentally affected, and specifically how the identified aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 would be impaired or be adversely affected;
- If you are the applicant, a protest fee of \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$950 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.
- If you are the applicant, a statement of whether or not you are requesting a contested case hearing.

## Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for groundwater), persons other than the applicant who support a Proposed Final Order can request standing for purposes of participating in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a Final Order.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **September 17, 2021**. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;



**DRAFT**

**This is not a permit.**

**DRAFT**

STATE OF OREGON

COUNTY OF MARION

**DRAFT PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS**

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
885 AIRPORT RD SE, BLDG X  
SALEM OR 97301

The specific limits and conditions of the use are listed below.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: G-18860

SOURCE OF WATER: SRA WELL 1 SB (MARI 15381) AND SRA WELL 2 NB (MARI 15382) IN SANTIAM RIVER BASIN

PURPOSE OR USE: COMMERCIAL USE

MAXIMUM RATE: 0.15 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

PERIOD OF USE: NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH JUNE 30

DATE OF PRIORITY: SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

**AUTHORIZED POINTS OF APPROPRIATION:**

POA Name	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
SRA WELL 1 SB	9 S	3 W	WM	33	SE SE	790 FEET NORTH AND 570 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 33
SRA WELL 2 NB	9 S	3 W	WM	33	SE SE	800 FEET NORTH AND 5 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 33

**AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
9 S	3 W	WM	33	SE NE
9 S	3 W	WM	33	NE SE
9 S	3 W	WM	33	SE SE
9 S	3 W	WM	34	NW SW
9 S	3 W	WM	34	SW SW

**PERMIT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

1. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this permit may result in action including, but not limited to, restrictions on the use, civil penalties, or cancellation of the permit.



**2. Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting:**

- 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 used each month, and shall submit an annual report which includes the recorded 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.

**3. Static Water Level Measurement:**

The Department requires the water user to obtain, from a qualified individual (see below), and report annual static water levels for each well on the permit. The static water level shall be measured in the month of March. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

The permittee shall report an initial March static water-level measurement once well construction is complete and annual measurements thereafter. Annual measurements are required whether or not the well is used. The first annual measurement will establish a reference level against which future measurements will be compared. However, the Director may establish the reference level based on an analysis of other water-level data. The Director may require the user to obtain and report additional water levels each year if more data are needed to evaluate the aquifer system.

All measurements shall be made by a certified water rights examiner, registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor or pump installer licensed by the Construction Contractors Board. Measurements shall be submitted on forms provided by, or specified by, the Department. Measurements shall be made with equipment that is accurate to at least the standards specified in OAR 690-217-0045. The Department requires the individual performing the measurement to:

- A. Associate each measurement with an owner's well name or number and a Department well log ID; and
- B. Report water levels to at least the nearest tenth of a foot as depth-to-water below ground surface; and
- C. Specify the method of measurement; and

D. Certify the accuracy of all measurements and calculations reported to the Department.

The water user shall discontinue use of, or reduce the rate or volume of withdrawal from, the well(s) if any of the following events occur:

- A. Annual water-level measurements reveal an average water-level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
- B. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 15 or more feet in fewer than five consecutive years; or
- C. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 25 or more feet; or
- D. Hydraulic interference leads to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority.

The period of restricted use shall continue until the water level rises above the decline level which triggered the action or the Department determines, based on the permittee's and/or the Department's data and analysis, that no action is necessary because the aquifer in question can sustain the observed declines without adversely impacting the resource or causing substantial interference with senior water rights. The water user shall not allow excessive decline, as defined in Commission rules, to occur within the aquifer as a result of use under this permit. If more than one well is involved, the water user may submit an alternative measurement and reporting plan for review and approval by the Department.

4. **Groundwater production shall be only from the unconfined alluvial groundwater reservoir.**

5. **Water Quality:**

All water use under this permit shall comply with state and federal water quality laws. The permittee shall not violate any state and federal water quality standards, shall not cause pollution of any waters of the state, and shall not place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means. The use may be restricted if the quality of source stream or downstream waters decrease to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality.

6. **Well Identification Tag:**

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.

## **STANDARD CONDITIONS**

1. If the number, location, source, or construction of any well deviates from that proposed in the permit application or required by permit conditions, this permit may be subject to cancellation, unless the Department authorizes the change in writing.
2. If substantial interference with surface water or a senior water right occurs due to withdrawal of water from any well listed on this permit, then use of water from the well(s) shall be discontinued or reduced and/or the schedule of withdrawal shall be regulated until or unless the Department approves or implements an alternative administrative action to mitigate the interference. The Department encourages junior and senior appropriators to jointly develop plans to mitigate interferences.
3. The well(s) shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the General Standards for the Construction and Maintenance of Water Supply Wells in Oregon. The works shall be equipped with a usable access port adequate to determine water-level elevation in the well at all times.
4. Where two or more water users agree among themselves as to the manner of rotation in the use of water and such agreement is placed in writing and filed by such water users with the watermaster, and such rotation system does not infringe upon such prior rights of any water user not a party to such rotation plan, the watermaster shall distribute the water according to such agreement.
5. This permit is for the beneficial use of water without waste. The water user is advised that new regulations may require the use of best practical technologies or conservation practices to achieve this end.
6. By law, the land use associated with this water use must be in compliance with statewide land-use goals and any local acknowledged land-use plan.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLETION TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Prior to receiving a certificate of water right, the permit holder shall submit to the Water Resources Department the results of a pump test meeting the Department's standards for each point of appropriation (well), unless an exemption has been obtained in writing under OAR 690-217. The Director may require water-level or pump-test data every ten years thereafter.
2. Construction of the well shall begin within five years of the date of permit issuance. The deadline to begin construction may not be extended. This permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the construction deadline to begin is missed.
3. Complete application of the water shall be made within five years of the date of permit issuance. If beneficial use of permitted water has not been made before this date, the permittee may submit an application for extension of time, which may be approved based upon the merit of the application.

4. Within one year after complete application of water to the proposed use, the permittee shall submit a claim of beneficial use, which includes a map and report, prepared by a Certified Water Rights Examiner.

Issued \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT - THIS IS NOT A PERMIT**

Dwight French  
Water Right Services Division Administrator, for  
Thomas M. Byler, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

# Mailing List for PFO/Draft Permit Copies

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Application G-18860

PFO Date August 3, 2021

**Original mailed via CERTIFIED MAIL to applicant:**

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ATTN: KATIE HUBLER  
885 AIRPORT RD SE, BLDG X  
SALEM OR 97301

Copies Mailed

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(SUPPORT STAFF)

on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sent via auto email:**

1. Agent – Kim Grigsby - kgrigsby@gsiws.com
2. WRD – Watermaster District #16, Gregory J. Wacker
3. WRD - Mike McCord NWR
4. WRD – SW Section

**Copies sent to:**

1. WRD - File # G-18860

Application Specialist: Kim French