



Water Right Application Initial Review

September 10, 2021

PACIFIC FARMS CO LLC
ATTN: RONALD L. MARX
PO BOX 1144
DALLAS OR 97338

Reference: Application R-89153

This document is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the water-use permit application and to describe your 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:

Preliminary Determinations (Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-310-0080)

1. The application proposes the diversion of 50.6 acre-feet (AF) of water from runoff, tributary to West Branch Ash Swale, for storage in 10 ponds (as identified below) for wetland enhancement January 1 through December 31 of each year.

POND	VOLUME (AF)	DAM HEIGHT (FEET)
1A	15.3	3
1B	2.9	1.2
2A	15.7	2.9
2B	1.7	2.5
2C	1.2	1.8
2D	1	1.8
3A	9.4	2.9
3B	0.7	1.9
3C	1.6	0.1
3D	1.1	0.8

2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Wetland enhancement is allowable under the Willamette Basin Program (OAR 690-502-0040(4)(c)).

4. An assessment of water availability at 50% exceedance for the proposed use was completed using the Department's Water Availability Reporting System. A copy of this assessment is in the application file. This review is done consistent with OAR 690-410-0070(2)(c). The assessment established surface water is available during the period November 1 through June 30 of each year.
5. The proposed use is not located within or above any state scenic waterway.
6. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded.

Summary of Preliminary Determinations		
The diversion of 50.6 AF of water from runoff, tributary to West Branch Ash Swale, for storage in 10 ponds for wetland enhancement is allowable November 1 through June 30 of each year, contingent upon the submittal of additional information.		
POND	VOLUME (AF)	DAM HEIGHT (FEET)
1A	15.3	3
1B	2.9	1.2
2A	15.7	2.9
2B	1.7	2.5
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3A	9.4	2.9
3B	0.7	1.9
3C	1.6	0.1
3D	1.1	0.8

Additional Information Required:

A fee increase bill was signed by the Governor in mid-July 2021 (after your application was submitted) *but* the bill was retroactive to all applications received on or after July 1, 2021. Therefore, the total exam fee is \$3,393.40, and the Department received a total of \$2,927.20 for this application; please provide the additional exam fee of \$466.20 if you choose to proceed with the application.

Please note, prior to permit issuance an additional \$610 for recording fees must be received, but that fee is not due at this time. Please include your application number on your check made out to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Category	Fee
Base at Previous Fee Schedule	\$930
Base at New Fee Schedule of \$1090, retroactive to July 1, 2021	\$1090

storage of 20 AF at \$35 per acre-foot at Previous Fee Schedule	\$700
storage of 20 AF at \$41 per acre-foot at New Fee Schedule	\$820
Each additional Acre Foot (AF) or fraction thereof after the first 20 AF at \$ 1.20 (Previous Fee Schedule)	\$37.20
Each additional Acre Foot (AF) or fraction thereof after 20 AF at \$1.40 (New Fee Schedule)	\$43.40
Each additional reservoir after the 1 st (9) at Previous Fee Schedule	\$1260
Each additional reservoir after the 1 st (9) at New Fee Schedule	\$1440
TOTAL EXAM FEES:	\$3393.40

Please submit this information no later than **Thursday, October 14, 2021**. 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.

Public Comment & Further Review:

Public interest issues and/or public comments will be addressed as the Department prepares a Proposed Final Order. If significant public interest issues are identified, they could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

Division 33 Review – The Department’s Division 33 administrative rules (OAR 690-033) establish 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 (STE) fish species. This Initial Review does not address the potential impact that your proposed use may have on these species.

Your application will now undergo an additional review from numerous federal, state, local, and tribal governmental entities. This review may cause your application to be limited, conditioned, or denied. Depending on the proposed use, you may be required to mitigate for potential impacts identified in the review.

Mitigation for impacts to STE Species – Mitigation is often complicated, time consuming, and expensive, and may include, but is not limited to, actions such as replacing the proposed amount of water within the impacted reach through purchasing or transferring an existing water right. Following the Initial Review, you will be notified if mitigation is required, due to impacts to STE fish species.

If you choose to pursue mitigation, you will likely need to place your application on administrative hold in order to explore options. There will be an additional fee of \$790 required with any mitigation proposal submitted.

At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw the application.

- To Proceed - If you choose to proceed with the application you do not have to notify the Department. The application will 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.
- To Withdraw - You may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$310 processing fee per application). You must notify the Department **in writing** by **September 24, 2021**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

If a permit is issued, it will likely include the following conditions:

1. Construction of the water system shall begin within five years of the date of permit issuance. The deadline to begin construction may not be extended. A permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the begin construction deadline is missed.
2. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting:**
 - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, a staff gage that measures the entire range and stage between full reservoir level and dead-pool storage shall be installed in each reservoir. If no dead-pool, the gage must measure the full depth of the reservoir. 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 Director may require the permittee to keep and maintain a record of the volume of water stored, and may require the permittee to report water-storage on a periodic schedule as established by the Director. In addition, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, the periods of water use and 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.

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> to learn more about the plans and how they may affect the proposed water use.

For Further Information:

Feel free to contact me at Elisabeth.A.Graham@oregon.gov or 503-979-3130 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or the application. Please include the application number in all correspondence. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0900. 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,

Lisa Graham

Lisa Graham
Water Right Application Specialist
Oregon Water Resources Department

Enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form
R-89153
WAB: 73562
Proposed to Approve

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: R-89153

Applicant: PACIFIC FARMS CO LLC

County: POLK

Watermaster: JOEL PLAHN, 22, NWR

Priority Date: AUGUST 2, 2021

Source: RUNOFF, TRIBUTARY TO WEST BRANCH ASH SWALE

Purpose or Use of the stored water: WETLAND ENCHANCEMENT

Storage Facility Name: POND 1A, POND 1B, POND 2A, POND 2B, POND 2C, POND 2D, POND 3A, POND 3B, POND 3C, AND POND 3D

Volume: 50.6 ACRE-FEET

Basin Name & Number: WILLAMETTE, # 2

WAB: SALT CR > S YAMHILL R - AT MOUTH

Points of Diversion and Dam Locations:

POD Name	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Dam Height	Area Acres
Pond 1A	6 S	5 W	WM	36	NW NW	125 FEET SOUTH AND 400 FEET EAST FROM NW CORNER, SECTION 36	3	10.92
Pond 1B	6 S	5 W	WM	36	NW NW	815 FEET SOUTH AND 405 FEET EAST FROM NW CORNER, SECTION 36	1.2	2.13
Pond 2A	6 S	5 W	WM	35	NE NE	715 FEET SOUTH AND 45 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	2.9	4.69
Pond 2B	6 S	5 W	WM	35	NE NE	800 FEET SOUTH AND 380 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	2.5	0.82
Pond 2C	6 S	5 W	WM	35	NE NE	940 FEET SOUTH AND 235 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	1.8	0.99
Pond 2D	6 S	5 W	WM	35	NE NE	940 FEET SOUTH AND 650 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	1.8	0.67
Pond 3A	6 S	5 W	WM	35	SE NE	1565 FEET SOUTH AND 175 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	2.9	3.72
Pond 3B	6 S	5 W	WM	35	SE NE	1505 FEET SOUTH AND 355 FEET EAST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	1.9	0.96
Pond 3C	6 S	5 W	WM	35	SE NE	2005 FEET SOUTH AND 395 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	0.1	2.07
Pond 3D	6 S	5 W	WM	35	SE NE	1810 FEET SOUTH AND 680 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 35	0.8	0.73

The Area to be submerged by the Reservoir:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
6 S	5 W	WM	35	NE NE
6 S	5 W	WM	35	SE NE
6 S	5 W	WM	36	NW NW

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: September 14, 2021

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: September 24, 2021

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: October 14, 2021

Mailing List for IR Copies

Application R-89153

IR Date: September 10, 2021

Original and map mailed to applicant:

PACIFIC FARMS CO LLC
ATTN: RONALD L. MARX
PO BOX 1144
DALLAS OR 97338

Sent via auto email:

1. Agent – Jeanne Boatwright - jeanne@boatwrightengr.com
2. WRD – Watermaster District #22, Joel M. Plahn
3. WRD - Mike McCord NWR
4. WRD – SW Section
5. ODFW
6. DEQ

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File R-89153
2. DSL – Wetlands Specialist

Application Specialist: Lisa Graham

Copies Mailed

By: _____
(SUPPORT STAFF)

On: _____
(DATE)

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

In order to use the waters of Oregon, an application must be submitted and a permit obtained from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose without waste. For more information about water right topics, weekly public notice, forms and fees please visit our web site at 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 Customer Service Group 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.
- An 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.
- Four 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.
- **An 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.

5. Final Order (FO)

- If no protest is filed, Final Order is issued.

The protest process

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

- settlement discussion;
- contested case hearing;
- proposed Order;
- period of time to file exceptions; or
- Possible hearing by Water Resources Commission.
- Final Order is 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 the 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

STOP PROCESSING REQUEST FORM

FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS

- Stop processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review.

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application **R-89153**.

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and the fees be refunded (minus a \$310 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 \$310 processing fee) be returned.

- This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by:

September 24, 2021

- Return the notice to:

OWRD, Water Right Services Division
STOP PROCESSING
725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A
Salem OR, 97301-1271
