

HB 5006 Work Group

DRAFT Proposals for Overarching/ System Level Recommendations FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

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To meet statewide goals and mandates for managing instream and out-of-stream water needs with a changing climate, Oregon needs to make significant investments in water planning.

Any state-supported regional water planning and management must be underpinned with the budgets and capacity needed to do this work at the state level. To meet this need, state leadership must prioritize and address the current overarching system-level need for funding related to state agency data collection and analysis, agency capacity, and interagency coordination.

Specifically:

1. The Legislature should fund data inventories across the state to understand foundational informational needs in each basin. Data inventories would inform strategic and effective water planning and management and help prioritize state-supported regional water planning throughout the state with a focus on areas of scarcity.
2. The Legislature should fund the appropriate level of agency capacity needed for interagency data collection and analysis, technical support, and coordinated work-planning and budgeting to ensure robust cooperation and engagement by and between agencies in support of water planning and management efforts that seek to meet both instream and out of stream water needs.
3. The Legislature should fund climate-informed water budgets for basins across the state to better understand current and future hydrologic conditions. This work would lead to better informed water planning and management. However, given the critical need for water planning and the long-term nature of this type of commitment, having climate-informed water budgets should not be a prerequisite for regional water planning to begin.

Another important component of any state-supported regional water planning and management work is community engagement and collaboration. The workgroup has created a Community Engagement Guide with guidelines and best practices for how to meaningfully engage communities in regional water planning (Appendix X). This is intended to be accessible to and used by everyone involved in building a successful regional water planning and management collaborative (e.g., state agency staff involved with regional water planning, communities, etc.) The guide is intended to be a tool to ensure that a diversity of voices are

proactively and continuously included throughout a water planning effort and in ongoing management. It is intended to be accessible, flexible, and inclusive in order to support diverse regions and communities. The hope is that by providing this guide to regional water planning and management groups, it will provide support to ensure that no one is left out of the process.