



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Crystal Grinnell, IWRS Specialist

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item A, June 15, 2023  
Water Resources Commission

### Integrated Water Resources Strategy Work Session

#### I. Introduction

During this agenda item staff will provide an overview of the status of the outreach and engagement efforts associated with the IWRS update process in 2023. Staff then will engage the Commission in a work session to obtain input from commissioners on their objectives for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the IWRS.

#### II. Background

Staff provided information on updating the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy during Agenda Item K, at the February 2023 meeting, and during Agenda Item C, at the November 2022 meeting. Prior staff reports are available on our Commission website here: [https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd\\_notice\\_view/Default.aspx?notice\\_id=41](https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd_notice_view/Default.aspx?notice_id=41).

As previously discussed, the IWRS is to be updated every five years. The 2022 update was delayed due to limited staff capacity, the significant number of new projects arising from the 2021 Legislative Session, and to allow some of the 2021 session project work products to be considered in the update. The next IWRS is anticipated to address climate predictions more holistically, apply an equity lens to the framework, and incorporate findings from the work under the 100-Year Water Vision. To serve as a foundation for the update, agencies put together a summary of IWRS accomplishments since 2017 in the form of a progress report, which was attached to the staff report and presented to the Commission in February 2023.

#### III. Outreach

The Department has hired Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT) to provide public outreach and engagement support for the IWRS update.

OKT is facilitating seven in-person regional community conversations, accompanied by the IWRS interagency team as follows:

- Seaside – May 11
- Hermiston – May 16
- John Day – May 17
- Roseburg – May 23
- Corvallis – May 24
- Madras – June 7
- Ontario – June 8

One virtual community conversation was held on May 31 to hear from people that were unable to attend, or not located near, an in-person conversation. In addition to the public meetings, OKT is supporting culturally specific listening events throughout Oregon. These take a variety of forms, often led by a trusted community leader using materials provided by OKT, and then reporting community feedback to OKT.

OKT also is administering a public survey in May and June, both online and in paper form. Survey questions were developed with input with the Department and the IWRS interagency team, reviewed for plain language understanding, and translated into nine different languages.

OKT will provide the Department with a Summary Report of findings from the outreach and engagement efforts. OKT will deliver this report in mid-July, which the Department will use to inform the draft update of the IWRS.

Separate from OKT engagement activities, the IWRS interagency team developed and administered a state agency survey. The agency survey was available in April, with analysis of survey results occurring in May. A brief summary of the results will be discussed during the Commission meeting.

In addition to OKT engagement activities, the Department will be participating in the Changing Currents Tribal Water Summit at the end of June. The conference is organized by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Government. There will be IWRS-specific sessions during the conference and input from attendees will be summarized in a report following the conference. The Department is also exploring other opportunities to engage Oregon Tribes. A current schedule of the IWRS update process is included in Attachment 1.

### **III. Discussion**

The Department is seeking input from a variety of interests including state agency commissions and governing boards, Tribes, stakeholders and the public.

The Department would also like to hear from Commissioners about their objectives for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the IWRS. The work session as part of this agenda item will include a facilitated discussion to receive input from each Commissioner about their thoughts on the next IWRS.

The discussion topics and questions posed to the Commission will include:

1. What are the strengths of the current IWRS? What do you like about the current IWRS?
2. What would you add or change about the current IWRS?
3. The Department is evaluating the IWRS for opportunities to apply a water equity lens to the document and framework. Are there areas you have identified where the IWRS can better consider and address water equity?
4. We will be meeting with other commissions and governing boards this summer. What do you hope we can learn from these meetings?
5. Are there any changes you would make to the Strategy to improve collaboration and implementation?

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The Department, with support from the interagency IWRS project team, will develop an initial draft update of the IWRS this summer. The Commission will have the opportunity to provide the Department with additional feedback during the September Commission meeting.

#### **Attachments:**

1. IWRS Update Schedule

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