



# Budget and Legislative Update

Oregon Water Resources Commission

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- 2024 Legislative Session
- 2025 Legislative and Budget Development
  - Budget/LC development
  - POPs and Legislative Concepts

- February 5 - Sine Die March 7
- Over 250 bills introduced
- Tracked roughly 70 bills
- Several technical and budget adjustments
- Attachment 1



## Senate Bill 1567: Walla Walla 2050 Plan

- Directs Department to implement Walla Walla 2050 Plan
- Authority to fund projects implementing the plan partially or wholly in Washington if there is a benefit to instream, out-of-stream, or groundwater in Oregon
- Reporting on legal and regulatory framework:
  - Legislature on or before June 30, 2026
  - Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee in 2025 and in 2026



## SB 5701: End of Session Bill

- \$1 million Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund
- City of Sodaville direct appropriation
  - Technical fix to clarify use of funds (2023)
  - Additional \$60k for water hauling



## Direct Appropriations for Water Infrastructure related to Housing

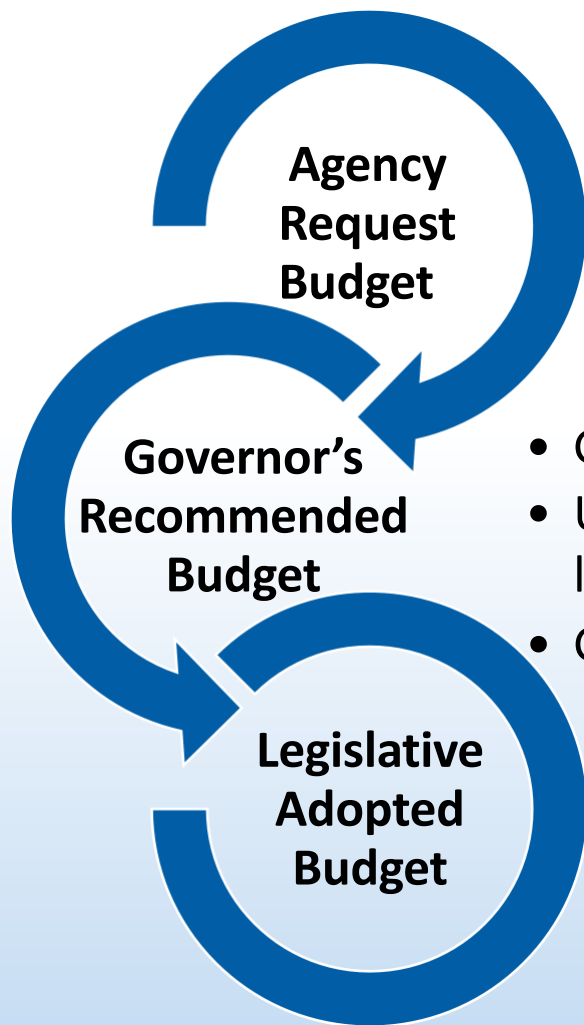
- SB 1530: direct appropriations for water and wastewater system projects
  - \$1.5 million: OWRD
  - \$88.8 million: BizOR
- HB 4134: direct appropriations for infrastructure projects; several have water infrastructure component
  - \$21.2 million: DAS



# 2025 Legislative Session and Budget Development

- Overview of Budget Process
- Overview of Legislative Development Process
- Legislative Concepts
- Budget Packages

# Budget Process



- Development in early 2024
- Agency working with Governor's Office on POPs for ARB
- Submitted and Published July 31

- Governor and CFO review ARB
- Use Governor's priorities, budget policies, and current law to make budget decisions
- GRB published in December 2024

- Legislative committees review GRB and hold public meeting
- Legislature determines and votes on budget
- Emergency board, special sessions



# Legislative Concept Timeline

**April 30, 2024**  
LCs due to DAS



**June - July, 2024**  
Placeholder LCs  
due



**September 2024**  
Deadline to request  
LC revisions



**January 2025**  
Legislative  
Session begins



**December 13,  
2024**  
Pre-session filing  
deadline

- **General considerations**
  - IWRS recommended actions and be aligned with 2019-2024 strategic plan priorities.
  - Realistic timelines and staff capacity given implementation of the new work from the 2021 and 2023 session.
  - Potential impacts on DEIJ and underserved communities.
  - Improving core agency functions and deliverables to enhance customer service and outcomes.
- **LCs:** urgent issues that need addressing before end of 2025
- **POPs:** Fill resource gaps that sustain progress on existing work or benefit the development of internal structures that build strong programmatic foundations.

- Attachment 3: 2023 Potential LC Topics
  - Program Sunset for Temporary Transfers and Leases in the Klamath – *Draft Language*
  - Harney Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Other Fund Transfer - *Draft Language*
  - Placeholder - Water Right Efficiency Improvements
  - Water Right Transaction Fees and Dam Safety Annual Fee Shortfalls
  - Well Construction Program Fee Shortfalls

# Potential Budget Packages

- Attachment 2: 2025 Budget Issues
- Early stages of POP development; little certainty on POPs
- Commission input will inform discussions with GO
- Direction to Categorize POPs:
  - Critical to Agency Operations/Customer Service
  - Supports/Enhances Execution of Existing Program Authority
  - Addressing Critical Need to Build Greater Landscape Resiliency



## Potential POPs: Critical to Agency Operations and Customer Service

- Shortfall: Well Construction-Related Fees Shortfalls
- Shortfall: Water Right Transactions and Dam Safety Fee Shortfalls
- Shortfall: HB 3315 ODFW Reviews for Water Right Transactions
- Package 070: Fee Shortfall Reduction Package
- Shortfall: State Scenic Waterways
- Budget Gap: Internal Audit Function



## Potential POPs: Critical to Agency Operations and Customer Service

- Information Technology Package
- EJ (Environmental Justice)/Equity Work Communications and Access to Information for Diverse Oregon Communities
- Human Resources and Workplace Safety Needs
- Web Coordinator
- Director's Office Structure
- Position Reclassifications
- Klamath Adjudication Costs
- Legal Coordinator and costs
- OWRD Water Data Needs and Potential Water Data Portal Package



## Potential POPs: Supports/Enhances Execution of Existing Program Authority

- Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Fund
- Restoration of Funds: Funding for Groundwater Data
- Protest Backlog Reduction



## Potential POPs: Addressing Critical Need to Build Greater Landscape Resiliency

- Levee Inventory and Assessments
- Interagency LUBGWMA – Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area
- Grant Programs: Recapitalize Funding for Existing Grant Programs
- CTUIR Facilitation – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- AR/ASR Capacity – Artificial Recharge/Aquifer Storage and Recovery



# Planned Engagement

**April 3:**  
Legislative  
Workgroup

**April 30:**  
Legislative  
Workgroup

**May 24:**  
Legislative  
Workgroup

**April 9:**  
Public  
Meeting  
(Budget/ LC)

**May 7:**  
Public  
Meeting  
(Budget/LC)

**June 7:**  
Legislative  
Workgroup

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT