



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Barry Norris, State Water Resources Engineer

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, February 25, 2009
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Demonstration of the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative – On-Line

I. Issue Statement and Background

The Department has recently completed its work on the 2008 Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative. This four-part program was the subject of an in-dept briefing during the Commission's November 2008 meeting. In this session, Department staff will briefly demonstrate the new interactive, on-line website, developed to provide a demand forecasting model, and various reports and maps to help policymakers and the public with local planning efforts.

This is an informational report.

II. Discussion

The Department has placed all of the materials from the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation on its website: http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/owsci_info.shtml.

The project webpage contains an overview and also, covers, in detail, the four project components:

1. water demand forecast
2. conservation opportunities
3. potential water storage sites
4. community planning grants.

Although the Commission has seen some of these results during previous meetings, Commissioners have not yet seen the "Online Forecast Tool," created by Department staff. This tool was designed to simplify some of the functions contained in the more complicated "Spreadsheet Model," first developed by a private contractor, HDR. The Spreadsheet Model is available through the website, for planners who wish to create more complex "what if" scenarios as they engage in water resource planning.

Department staff will demonstrate some of the ways in which these interactive models and maps could be used.

III. Summary

The Department has already received requests from county planners and other officials to demonstrate the new website, and to make presentations to local planners about the data, methods, and databases now available for local governments and stakeholders to use. This informational session will enable Commissioners to talk with their local communities in greater detail about this new tool and its potential to assist in water resources planning.

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