



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Phillip C. Ward, Director

SUBJECT: Water Resources Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G, January 13, 2005

Office of Rural Policy

I. Issue Statement

Jim Azumano, the Governor's Rural Policy Advisor, will describe the role and activities of the recently created Office of Rural Policy and its Rural Policy Advisory Committee. *This is an informational report only; no Commission action is required.*

II. Background

In April 2004, Governor Kulongoski signed an executive order (EO 04-04) recognizing that rural communities in Oregon face a complex mix of challenges. A copy of the executive order is attached.

In his executive order, the Governor acknowledged that Oregon's drive to economic and social prosperity must include all areas of the state including Rural Oregon. To that end, the Governor created an Office of Rural Policy to coordinate the formulation of rural policy for the state and to serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information of special interest to Rural Oregon. The Governor also created a Rural Policy Advisory Committee consisting of 14 members representing rural areas of the state.

To assist the Office of Rural Policy, the executive order requires certain state agencies, including the Department, to designate an individual to act as Rural Policy Liaison for that agency. Debbie Colbert, Water Policy Analyst, will act as the Department's liaison, working closely with region managers located around the state.

Mr. Azumano will provide an overview of the Governor's Office of Rural Policy and Rural Policy Advisory Committee and discuss opportunities to work with the Department on rural policy issues.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational report. No Commission action is required.

Attachment:
Executive Order 04-04

Debbie Colbert
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