

Oregon Water Resources Commission Teleconference  
July 12, 1999  
Salem

Members

Nancy Leonard  
Jim Nakano

Staff

Geoff Huntington  
Tom Byler  
Dave Jarrett  
Bonnie King

Others

Tom Byler updated the Commission on legislative activity since the June Commission meeting. The Department's budget had passed out of both the House and the Senate and is on its way to being signed.

One of the Department's bills, SB 299, relating to changes to pre-1909 unadjudicated water rights, was passed out of Committee, and passed out of both the House and Senate. The City of Springfield was able to resolve their issue allowing the bill to move forward.

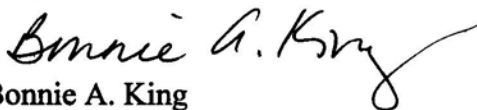
The Department may receive some General Fund monies for Stewardship and Supply. The Governor and Leadership have included this on "short-list" priorities for natural resources. The package may be tacked onto an appropriation bill at the end of the session. The Department may need to scale down the program if the amount of funding is less than originally requested.

Water for Life has introduced amendments relating to the Klamath Adjudication. In the amendments, they want to add language currently in the Department's rules relating to the adjudication process into statute. The Attorney General (AG) has advised that Water for Life's proposed changes could provide an incentive for the federal government to challenge the state's jurisdiction over the federal claims. Such litigation would be a major setback to the progress made in the Klamath Adjudication, and could delay the proceedings for many years. They also want to put some language from an AG Opinion into statute. This would prohibit regulation of respective claims in the adjudication until completion of the adjudication. Department staff believe the AG's advice was misread. The Department as well as many in the water user community have objected to these amendments.

As the Legislature is near conclusion, Nancy Leonard suggested that the July 26 teleconference be canceled, and that a final legislative wrap-up be presented at the August Commission meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie A. King  
Legislative Assistant