



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Work Session, May 29, 2008  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

#### **Workshop: Oregon's Integrated Water Conservation and Supply Strategy**

#### **I. Issue Statement**

The Department is preparing its 2009-2011 budget and work plan and wants to engage the Water Resources Commission in a strategic-level work session specifically focused on long-term water conservation and supply planning in Oregon. Staff members have developed a two-hour workshop with background information and a series of strategic questions for the Water Resources Commission to consider.

#### **II. Background**

During the next several decades, Oregon will find itself grappling with difficult questions regarding long-term water supply, including “where and how much is the need?,” “where and how much is the supply?,” and “what types of policies and tools will we need in place to meet our future water supply needs?” Already, the Department has laid a solid foundation for a long-term water conservation and supply strategy, gathering demand information as part of its “Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative I.” Following the model developed by the other western states, Oregon can begin to create a long-term water strategy by committing resources to fully answering the above questions.

Across the United States, state governments are in different evolutionary stages, when it comes to formal state-wide water planning. While some have not yet begun, other states are in their fourth or fifth decade of planning. The impetus behind water supply planning is likewise varied, with states responding to growing pressures, including: legislative mandates, Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings, drought, climate change conditions, and projected population growth.

Our changing times are reflected in the process of creating these plans, with ever-increasing emphasis on public participation and integrated water management concepts. Some results are quite prescriptive, while others provide more general guidance.

### **III. Discussion**

The May 29, 2008 workshop with the Water Resources Commission is designed to get a sense of the potential processes and products that a state-wide water planning process could produce. Water Resources staff and the Water Resources Commission will discuss their overall roles, the rationale behind state water plans, and diversity of planning models that other states have used.

The Department has allotted two hours for this conversation during the Commission's May 2008 meeting. If time does not allow the group to complete discussion of the entire outline below, please plan to continue the discussion during the August 2008 meeting.

#### **Building a Long-Term Water Conservation and Supply Strategy ~ the Path** Discussion Outline for May 29, 2008 Water Resources Commission Meeting

##### A. Statutory Foundation

1. Water Resources Commission
2. Water Resources Department
3. Other Water-Related Agencies
4. Integration and Coordination Processes

##### B. Developing the Data for Sound Planning

1. Complete the Oregon Water Supply & Conservation Initiative (see attached timeline)
  - i. Report updates to WRC during November 2008
  - ii. Report updates to Legislature during January 2009
2. Secure Resources for the Basin Yield – Peak Flow Analysis
3. Secure Resources for Updated and Additional Surface Water Gages
4. Secure Resources for Additional Ground Water Studies and Monitoring Programs

##### C. Drafting an Integrated Water Conservation and Supply Plan...Both Process and Content Are Important

1. Supply includes conservation, re-use, storage, and new sources for in-stream and out-of-stream uses
2. Examples from other states (impetus, goals, scope, cost, approach)
3. Discuss the content. Key Questions:
  - i. What kind of elements should we include in a plan? Focus on general, state-wide policies? Create a menu of more specific priorities? Focus plans on any specific region?
4. Discuss the process. Key Questions:

- i. How do we ensure the best stakeholder involvement possible? Will this be a formal or informal process? Do we need a policy advisory group? Should we hold hearings? Should we convene a separate group for other state agencies?
- ii. How do we get started? How will we know when we've finished? How do we get from start to finish?
- iii. Who should "ratify" this plan? Would the WRC adopt it by rule?
- iv. When would WRD report results to the Legislature?

#### D. Implementation

1. Distribution / Outreach
2. Resulting Legislative Concepts?
3. Resulting Budget / Policy Option Packages?

#### **IV. Conclusion**

No Commission action is necessary today. The Department has requested resources to conduct this work as part of its 2009 proposed budget. Through ongoing discussions with the Water Resources Commission, stakeholders, and the Legislature, the Department will continue to refine the proposed process and content for a statewide water supply plan.

Attachment: Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative Timeline

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