



# Staff Report

**TO:** Water Resources Commission  
**FROM:** Ivan Gall, Director  
**DATE:** September 11, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item E  
Water Resources Commission

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### I. Recent Actions and Updates

#### A. Staffing Update

Since the June meeting, the Department has filled eight positions with start dates before August 4, 2025. Of the positions filled, there are three staff who are new to the state, two staff who are new to the agency and rehired to the state, one job rotation inbound, one internal promotion, and one internal lateral transfer within the agency. Positions filled include the following:

District 17 Watermaster  
Hydrographer  
Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Administrator  
Senior Network and System Administrator  
Water Resource Data Technician  
Water Right Services Manager  
Well Inspector  
Well Inspector Klamath Falls

As of August 4, 2025, the Department has 17 vacant positions that it intends to fill; 11 of those 17 recruitments are in process. Five of the 11 recruitments that are in process are positions with accepted offers whose start dates are after August 4, 2025. These new hires will be detailed in the December 2025 Director's Report.

#### B. Budget & Legislative Update

The 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly convened on January 21, 2025. The Legislature adjourned the 2025 Regular Session Sine Die on June 27, 2025. During the session, more than 3,000 measures, not including amendments, were introduced. Information about the 2025 Legislative Session also can be viewed

online at [www.oregonlegislature.com](http://www.oregonlegislature.com) by clicking on the OLIS icon.

The Department's summary of the budget and relevant water legislation from the 2025 Legislative Session is in Attachment 1. During the legislative session, the Department tracked more than 600 measures, with less than 200 of those measures becoming law. Significant changes were also made to the water right transaction and contested case process via House Bills 3342 and HB 3544, respectively. A summary of those changes can be found in Attachment 2.

The Department received a total funds budget of \$268,036,336, including \$100,967,253 General Fund, \$21,605,821 Lottery Fund for debt service, \$143,273,083 Other Fund expenditure limitation, \$2,190,179 Federal Fund expenditure limitation, and 247 positions (244.25 FTE). The Legislatively Adopted Budget is a 15% increase in the total fund and a net reduction of one position from the 2023 current service level (CSL). CSL refers to the 2023 base budget plus the calculated cost of continuing only current legislatively approved programs into the future biennia and cost increases such as inflation. It does not include one-time investments or limited duration staff added during the 2023-25 biennium. The total fund increase can be attributed primarily to investments in our grant programs and direct awards.

With increased investment and new legislation, the Department will spend the next several years on implementation. Examples of work arising from the 2025 Legislative Session include but are not limited to:

- Implementing legislative, rule and internal process improvements to the water right transactions and contested case processes and other legislation impacting water rights services:
  - o Carryout omnibus water rights modernization rulemaking; this will contain roughly 17 different divisions to 1) ensure rules are consistent with new statutes, 2) make additional process and policy improvements that do not require legislative action, 3) continue prior rulemaking efforts on Division 77 (in-stream leases, and 4) make minor corrections to rule divisions.
  - o Develop implementation plan for Walla Walla Irrigation District pilot program allowing for split instream leasing and Deschutes Water Banking pilot program
- Develop communications and policy guidance related to changes to the exempt groundwater wells
- Establishing tracking and reporting mechanisms for a new key performance measure related to processing temporary transfers

- Adopt rules and update program guidance related to changes made to the Feasibility Study Grants Program and Water Projects Grants and Loans
- Solicit grant applications, select recipients, distribute and manage grant funds for Department competitive grant programs and distribute and manage \$7.2 million in direct appropriations

A special legislative session was convened August 29, 2025, with a narrow legislative scope focused on funding for transportation. Over the interim, the House and Senate committees will meet during Legislative Days scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2025, November 17-19, 2025, and January 13-15, 2026. The “short” session is slated to begin February 2, 2026, with a Constitutional Sine Die date of March 9, 2026. In the coming months, the Department will also begin the process of preparing legislative concept and budget package proposals for the 2027 Legislative Session.

### **C. Drought Update**

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of August 12, drought has expanded across much of Oregon, with over 56% of the state in moderate drought, over 31% in severe drought, and less than one percent in extreme drought. Thus far, seven Oregon counties (Baker, Coos, Douglas, Lincoln, Morrow, Union, and Wheeler) have received state drought declarations. This marks a significant change from early spring, when Oregon was free of drought and abnormally dry conditions for the first time since 2019 following above normal winter precipitation and snowpack for much of the state. However, persistent precipitation deficits since April, coupled with above normal spring and summer temperatures, have allowed drought to reemerge and intensify.

Streamflow conditions across much of the state have fallen to below or well below normal over the summer, with some sites in western and northeastern Oregon recording record lows this summer. Soil moisture in these regions has also declined to below or well below normal conditions. Despite widespread drought conditions, reservoir storage remains generally near to above normal for much of the state. Below normal storage is limited to parts of western and northeastern Oregon, where severe drought conditions persist. Looking ahead, the seasonal outlook for August through October favors above normal temperatures through summer and fall, while precipitation remains uncertain. Climate forecasts also indicate a brief period of La Niña conditions this fall into early winter, which may increase the likelihood of above normal precipitation in Oregon, though outcomes can vary.

### **D. Tribal Update**

*Bi-weekly Tribal Leaders & Governor's Office Coordination Call:* The Director, as available, and Tribal Liaison are participating in bi-weekly calls with the Governor's

office and Tribal Leadership, to keep abreast of current events throughout the state as well as at the federal level.

*Tribal Water Task Force Implementation:* A meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2025, with the nine federally recognized Tribes and Governor's Natural Resources Office taking the lead. Meeting topics will include state water governance, the role of the IWRS, and review of the Tribal Water Task Force recommendations. The meeting is being held before the Government-to-Government Summit on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Coos Bay.

*Task Force on Tribal Consultation and Department Policy on Tribal Engagement:* The Department has monitored the progress of the [Task Force](#) charged with identifying and clarifying the requirements of State agencies to engage in Tribal consultation. [House Bill 2069 \(2025\)](#) has extended the Task Force term through December 2026. The Department will rely on Task Force recommendations to update the Department's 2007 policy on Tribal engagement.

*Burns Paiute Tribe Consultation Requests:* On August 12, the Burns Paiute Tribe consulted with the Director's Office regarding the Division 512 Rulemaking and its potential impacts on Tribal groundwater rights in the proposed Harney Basin Critical Groundwater Area. The Tribe is seeking consultation and assurance that the proposed Division 512 rules and the designation of the CGWA will not impact Tribal water rights and asks the Department to work with the Tribe to develop a co-stewardship framework.

*Ongoing Coordination Efforts:* The Department's Tribal Liaison and other staff continue to attend and provide policy updates during quarterly meetings held by the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Cultural Resources Cluster and the LCIS Natural Resources Working Group. During each update, Tribal staff are invited to offer input and encouraged to request either coordination or formal consultation on any issue of interest or concern. The Tribal Liaison continues to work with sister agencies and tribal staff to update and standardize communications, coordination, and consultation efforts between the Department and the Tribes concerning policy issues of potential interest or concern.

## **E. Cancellation of Groundwater Rights Subject to Forfeiture in Harney Basin**

Putting water rights to beneficial use without waste is a fundamental tenet of Oregon water law. Once established, a water right must be used as provided in the right at least once every five years. Except for municipal rights and in certain other exceptions established in law, if any portion of a water right is not used for five or more consecutive years, that portion of the right is presumed to have been forfeited and may be subject to cancellation. Cancellation initiated by the Department requires a legal proceeding to determine whether the period of non-use has occurred. A legal proceeding is not necessary if the landowner voluntarily authorizes cancellation.

OWRD intends to pursue cancellation of groundwater rights, or portions of, in the Harney Basin groundwater reservoir with five or more consecutive years of nonuse. This work is intended to occur prior to allotment of groundwater leading up to the contested case phase, should the Commission adopt rules to designate the proposed Critical Groundwater Area.

Cancellation of groundwater rights subject to forfeiture does not reduce the amount of water being used from the groundwater reservoir. However, it prevents resurrection of rights that may contribute to further groundwater declines and contributes to an updated record of water rights. An updated record of water rights is important for an accurate and equitable allotment of the permissible total withdrawal currently proposed in the draft Division 512 rules (Agenda Item F). OWRD does not want to allot water to rights subject to forfeiture due to nonuse. This rewards those who have not met a standard of use, which is unfair to water right holders who have invested in infrastructure and put water to beneficial use. Individual members of the Division 512 Rules Advisory Committee have expressed a desire for OWRD to pursue cancellation of rights subject to forfeiture. The Harney Community Based Water Planning Collaborative identified reduction of groundwater being pumped including enforcement of illegal water use as a strategy in the Groundwater Portion of their Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan.

#### **F. Static Water Level Measurement and Reporting Compliance**

Static water level (SWL) measurements are a requirement in most groundwater permits issued since the late 1990s. This requirement is intended to provide water level data to help OWRD define, monitor and manage groundwater resources across the state. In an era of increased water scarcity, water level data are vital to understanding local groundwater conditions and trends. With approximately 3,600 points of appropriation required to measure and report, increased compliance with this requirement would more than double the data collected by OWRD at more than 1,600 state and other observation wells across the state.

The specific requirement varies by individual water right but most commonly those subject to SWL requirements must take SWL measurements and report them to OWRD annually to comply with their permit conditions. SWL measurements typically must be taken in spring – March or April, as specified in the individual water right. This is when water levels are typically highest. Taken over several years, SWL indicate whether groundwater levels are stable, declining, or recovering in response to annual pumping and recharge levels from wet/dry climate cycles.

In the fall 2025, OWRD is embarking on a campaign to help groundwater right holders understand this requirement and how to comply. See Attachment 4 for a copy of the Static Water Level Measurement and Reporting Handout. A short video is also in production to assist landowners. Meetings, presentations, and other outreach efforts are underway to increase awareness of this requirement and how to measure and report these important groundwater level data. Staff will be working on sending

notices of violation for the 2025 reporting period with information on how to remedy the violation.

Starting in 2026, water right holders out of compliance with SWL requirements will be ordered to stop water use. Compliance can be reached by either submitting required measurements on a timeframe acceptable to OWRD or stopping water use under that right. Rights holders who remain out of compliance may face a civil enforcement penalty.

### **G. Klamath Update**

The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) continues to oversee habitat restoration work (by its contractor RES) in the former reservoir areas along the Klamath River in Oregon and California, with the objective of completing most work in this calendar year. Biologists have been preparing and improving monitoring systems for adult fish runs that will begin this fall, to document the extent of recolonization in the basin. And KRRC's contractors also have largely completed initial work on recreational access sites at five points along the river (two in Oregon, supported in part by funding from the Oregon State Marine Board.)

## II. Upcoming Board and Commission Meetings

Commission/Board	Date
Land Conservation and Development Commission	September 25 – 26, 2025 October 23-24, 2025 December 4-5, 2025
Parks and Recreation Commission	September 16 – 17, 2025 November 18 – 19, 2025
Fish and Wildlife Commission	September 11 – 12, 2025 October 10, 2025 November 14, 2025 December 11 – 12, 2025
Environmental Quality Commission	September 11 – 12, 2025 November 13 – 14, 2025
Watershed Enhancement Board	October 28 – 29, 2025
Board of Agriculture	September 3 – 5, 2025 December 3 – 5, 2025

### Attachments:

1. 2025-2027 Budget and Legislative Summary
2. Summary of HB 3342 and HB 3544
3. Rulemaking Update
4. Static Water Level Measurement and Reporting Handout
5. Litigation Update





# 2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget

	2023-25 Legislatively Adopted	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Recommended	2025-27 Legislatively Adopted*
General Fund (GF)	\$81,331,457	\$80,870,715	\$88,047,620	\$100,967,253
Other Funds (OF) including Fees	\$34,866,859	\$18,203,884	\$21,984,845	\$20,373,083
Other Funds - Grants/Loans	\$139,200,425	\$107,400,000	\$127,400,000	\$122,900,000
Lottery Funds - Debt Service	\$15,856,857	\$24,352,512	\$24,352,512	\$21,605,821
Federal Funds	\$703,315	\$2,190,179	\$2,190,179	\$2,190,179
Total Funds	\$271,958,913	\$233,017,290	\$263,975,156	\$268,036,336
Positions / Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	258/246.63	248/245.25	250/246.63	247/244.25

\*Numbers subject to change with further reconciliation.

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With some exceptions, most budgetary changes are contained in OWRD's budget bill.

*General Fund = GF, OF=Other Funds, IWRS = 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy, FTE= Full-Time Equivalent.*

## OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

### Senate Bill 5543 – OWRD Budget Bill

*Effective on Governor's signature.*

**Package 101 / House Bill 2808 – Maintain well construction services - \$920k OF Revenue** – Increases the Start Card fee by 40% and Well Driller Licensing and Landowner Permit fees by 10%. This fee increase will maintain existing staffing levels that support well inspections, licensing, permitting and customer service for the 2025-2029 period. *IWRS Actions: 7.C, 10.G, 12.A and 13.B*

**Package 102 / House Bill 2803 – Maintain water right transaction and dam safety services – \$1.42M OF Revenue; \$1.69m Total Funds (\$1.3m GF; \$375k OF); adds back 7.0 FTE** – Increases Dam Safety Annual Fees by 56% to maintain existing service levels and Water Right Transaction Fees by 50% for the 2025-2029 period; the remainder of revenue shortfall for water right transaction fees have been backfilled with permanent general funds. *IWRS Actions: 7.C, 10.G, and 13.B*

**Package 106 - American Rescue Plan Act Carryover - \$3.2m OF** - Carries forward American Rescue Plan Act funding authorized in 2021-2023 for those efforts to be completed. The federal requirements state that these dollars must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by 2026 for the following: 1) place-based planning; 2) Ordinance Project in Umatilla County; 3) engineering services for flood methodology & inundation assessments; 4) surface water and groundwater data collection field equipment; and 5) funding for the water measurement cost share program.

**Package 110 - State Scenic Waterway Revenue Gap – \$0 Total Funds (\$290k GF; - \$290k OF)** - Backfills growing funding gaps for six existing positions (partial FTE) with GF in the amount above the existing contracted amount with the Oregon State Parks Department for Scenic Waterway work. These positions are currently funded with a blend of Scenic Waterway funds and general fund. *IWRS Actions: 11.B and 13.B*



## OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

### Package 801 - Additions, Carryover and Adjustments

- 1) \$4.74m one-time GF for Department legal expenses.
- 2) \$182k repurposed ARPA OF for fish passage projects to the Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund.
- 3) \$4.6m one-time carryforward GF for water projects:
  - City of Sodaville - Water system expansion and water hauling - \$370k
  - Rogue River Irrigation District - Fourmile Creek project - \$1.5 million
  - City of Monroe - Water, prefilter and automated control infrastructure - \$1.5 million
  - Deschutes River Conservancy - Piping, monitoring and measurement - \$1.24 million

**Reductions Package 801 – \$682k GF; 2.5 FTE / 3 positions** – Eliminates vacant positions, 1.00 FTE NRS 5 and 0.5 FTE AS2 in the Director’s Office and 1.00 FTE AS2 in the Field Services Division, plus associated Services and Supplies.

**NEW Key Performance Measure - #13 Temporary Transfers** – Percentage of temporary transfers with final orders issued within 120 days. Goal: 75% by 2026; 90% by 2027.

**House Bill 3544** – **Contested case process improvements; \$226k GF; 0.75 FTE / 1 position** – Directs OWRD and the OAH to establish a default hearing schedule for contested cases in order to complete hearing process within 180 days of referral; establishes preferences for oral testimony and remote hearings; allows for assignment of settlement judge to resolve case in 60 days; establishes standards for what must be included in a protest and requires a protest to raise all issues; clarifies a hearing is not required if the protest is settled, withdrawn or the protestant defaults; establishes requirements to request party status and streamlines process; allows proposed final order to become final order as a matter of law if no protests are received. *IWRS Actions: 10.G and 13.B Effective January 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 3806** – **Deschutes basin water banking - \$216k OF; 0.75 FTE / 1 position** – Provides authority for OWRD to approve a pilot program in the Deschutes River for surface water banking. The bank must also be approved by the Warm Springs Tribe. OWRD will be responsible for distributing and legally protecting portions of water loaned through the bank. The bill also establishes new type of lease/transfer/forbearance agreement, including split rate and duty water use, provided the duty applied does not exceed 4.2-acre feet per acre. The bill allows entities in the Deschutes Basin to fund a position at the Department to support this work. Pilot program sunsets January 2, 2034. *IWRS Actions: 10.D Effective January 1, 2026.*

### **OWRD Grant Programs**

**Senate Bill 5531/ House Bill 5006**- **Water Project Grants - \$8m LRB** - Invests in the Water Projects Grants and Loans funding program to meet the water needs of Oregonians. *IWRS Actions: 5.B, 7.A, 10.E, and 13.E*

**House Bill 5006** - **Feasibility Studies & Wells - \$2m GF** - Invests in several funding programs to meet the water needs of Oregonians, including Feasibility Study Grants (\$1m GF) and the Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (\$1m GF). *IWRS Actions: 5.B, 7.A, 12.A, 13.D, and 13.E*

### **Direct Appropriations**

**Senate Bill 5531/ House Bill 5006** – **City of Oregon City Henrici Reservoir Project - \$6.5m LBR**

**House Bill 5006** – **Water projects - \$7.5m GF**

- City of Dayton Fisher Farm Well Improvements - \$1.2m
- City of Tualatin Seismic Valving at Six Water Reservoirs - \$1.75m

## OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

- City of Sublimity Well #5 Improvement - \$280k
- City of Maupin Water Lines Distribution System Improvements - \$1.5m
- City of Central Point Gebhard Road Waterline Extension - \$258k
- Washington Department of Ecology for projects in the Walla Walla basin - \$2.5m

## Water-Related Legislation

**House Bill 2169** – **Interagency water reuse coordination and improvement** – Directs DEQ to lead an interagency reuse team in partnership with OWRD, OHA and ODFW to educate and train state agency staff on water reuse; identify internal barriers to water reuse and what internal agency or regulatory changes are needed to overcome barriers. Provides 1 FTE to DEQ. *IWRS Actions: 10.C and 13.B*

*Effective on Governor's signature.*

**House Bill 2801** – **Klamath leases and temporary transfers** – Makes authority for OWRD to process temporary transfers and instream leases for determined claims in the Upper Klamath Basin permanent and repeals the authority upon completion of the adjudication.

*Effective January 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 3342** – **Water right transaction process improvements** – Defaults to electronic documentation, removes newspaper notice; allows OWRD to pass along credit card fees; allows OWRD to refuse to accept applications for water right in areas that are closed to future appropriations, requires affirmative confirmation from applicant to move forward with application and fee payment; allows proposed final order to become final order as a matter of law if no protests are received; streamlines standing statement process. Provides technical fixes to the withdrawal statutes; clarifies a hearing is not required if the protest is settled, withdrawn or the protestant defaults. Removes extensions process for all permits, except municipalities, quasi-municipalities, and group domestic; caps extensions for quasi-municipalities at 20 years and 10 years for group domestic. Adds that OWRD may deny a groundwater point of appropriation transfer if the point of appropriation is in an area that is closed. *IWRS Actions: 10.G and 11.E*

*Operative April 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 3364** – **Feasibility Study and Water Project Grants and Loans (WPGLS) program improvements** – Feasibility Study Grants: Removes funding cap, reduces cost-share requirements and expands eligible projects to align with WPGLs. WPGLs: Expands allowable projects, changes timing for Water Management Conservation Plan submission, reduces public comment period and directs the Technical Review Team to make funding recommendations to OWRD, rather than the Commission. *IWRS Actions: 13.D and 13.E*

*Effective 91<sup>st</sup> day sine die.*

**House Bill 3372** – **Exempt groundwater use expansion for ½ acre commercial garden** – Allows up to 3,000 gallons per day from that well to irrigate a half-acre of lawn, personal garden, or commercial garden from an exempt well. Caps the total use when combined with commercial or industrial exempt uses at 5,000 gallons per day. This does not apply to watering marijuana. This does not apply in the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area until January 2, 2028.

*Effective January 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 3525** – **Landlord water quality reporting for drinking water wells** – Requires landlords to collect and test samples of drinking water for certain contaminants if the dwelling unit has one or more exempt wells as a source of drinking water and is located within a groundwater management area under ORS 468B.150, requires landlords to provide test results to the tenant and to the OHA and establishes requirements for associated testing laboratories and the OHA. Specifies information that must be provided by landlord to tenants. *IWRS Actions: 12.A*

*Operative June 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 3932** – **Protecting beavers** - Prohibits the taking of beavers in designated areas and

## Water-Related Legislation

requires ODFW to publish a map identifying these areas. It allows federal or state land management agency employees to take beavers only when necessary to address damage or an imminent threat to infrastructure, agricultural crops, or private property adjacent to public lands, and only with authorization from ODFW. It establishes that the measure does not supersede the treaty, statutory, regulatory, or aboriginal rights of federally recognized Tribes, nor interfere with Tribal harvest activities or cooperative management agreements between Tribes and ODFW.

*Effective January 1, 2026.*

**Senate Bill 761 – Walla Walla Irrigation District split instream leases pilot** – Authorizes an irrigation district within the Walla Walla basin to lease all or a portion of an existing water right for temporary conversion to an in-stream water right, by splitting the rate and duty of the water right between an existing use and in-stream use. Pilot program sunsets on January 2, 2030. *IWRS Actions: 10.D*

*Effective January 1, 2026.*

**Senate Bill 1154 – Groundwater quality management** – Modifies processes for managing ground water quality contamination concerns, including the declaration of ground water quality concern areas and ground water quality management areas (GWMA) and related responsibilities; requires coordination among state agencies and local entities to address these areas, including monitoring, action planning, and remediation strategies; authorizes the Governor to appoint a lead agency and an interagency team to develop an assessment, prepare an action plan, implement regulations, and take necessary actions to address ground water quality, while allowing for increased monitoring, reporting, and coordination to protect public health and water resources. Directs lead agencies to report to and seek resources needed to implement that action plan from the legislature. OWRD specific authorities: Commission may declare a serious water management problem area based on groundwater quality considerations and adopt rules requiring backflow prevention devices where surface water is the source of water; OWRD shall inspect backflow prevention devices in GWMA and may issue water rights in a GMA for public water systems to offset the amount of water provided by abandoned wells. *IWRS Actions: 1.C, 10.G 11.E, and 12.A*

*Effective 91<sup>st</sup> day sine die.*

**Senate Bill 162 – Cannabis policy omnibus** - Authorizes destruction of hoop houses used in unlawful production of marijuana when executing a search warrant, expands agencies' access to a map of licensed marijuana and industrial hemp operations, including OWRD, removes proximity prohibitions for marijuana retailers near prekindergarten or kindergarten programs, and permits inspection of industrial hemp biomass.

*Effective on Governor's Signature.*

**Senate Bill 347 – Farm use land used for illegal growing of marijuana** – Disqualifies land from farm use special assessments upon a final civil penalty or judgment of conviction for the illegal growing of marijuana against the landowner or person in possession and control of the land. There is an exception for a landowner or other obligated taxpayer who lacked knowledge of the illegal growing of marijuana or notified a law enforcement agency of the illegal growing of marijuana.

*Effective 91<sup>st</sup> day sine die.*

**Senate Bill 830 – Onsite septic fund expansion** - Modifies provisions of the on-site septic system loan program to allow grants or other financial assistance, in addition to loans, to be provided to eligible applicants and extends eligibility to residential housing providers. *IWRS Actions: 7.A*

*Effective 91<sup>st</sup> day sine die.*

**Senate Bill 845 – Sale of water utilities** - Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to order the sale of an incumbent water utility if it cannot reasonably be expected to provide safe and/or adequate service to customers and establishes conditions for acquisition approval. *IWRS Actions: 12.A*

*Effective January 1, 2026.*

**Senate Bill 1189 – North Santiam Basin public works** - Authorizes the construction and installation of a new publicly owned treatment works facility within the North Santiam Basin prior to the issuance of a DEQ water quality permit, provided construction begins between April 15 and June 6, 2025.

*Effective on Governor's Signature.*

## Other Legislation

**House Bill 2069** – **Tribal consultation task force** - Creates the 17-member Task Force on Tribal Consultation, which is established to identify and clarify the requirements of state agencies to engage in tribal consultation. The bill directs the Office of the Governor to provide staff for the support of the 2025 task force and includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$70,000 to support contract services and carry out the requirements of the task force. *IWRS Actions: 9.C Effective on Governor's Signature.*

**House Bill 2347** – **Housing planning assistance to Tribes** - Authorizes DLCD to provide planning assistance for housing production to federally recognized Indian tribes. *Effective January 1, 2026.*

**House Bill 2581** – **Expansion of duties of the State Resilience Officer** - Expands duties to include hazards more broadly, including but not limited to during and after earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and flooding. It directs the SRO to lead statewide efforts to implement the Oregon Resilience Plan, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and other state-adopted resilience plans, along with leading executive branch agencies in continuity of operations and government planning. *Effective January 1, 2026. IWRS Actions: 5.5B and 5.5C*

**House Bill 3031** – **Housing Infrastructure Financing Program** - Directs the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to establish a program to provide financial assistance for infrastructure projects that support housing development projects, including improvement of transportation, water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure, upgrades for system capacity and site development. *Effective on Governor's Signature. IWRS Actions: 7.A*

**House Bill 3532** – **Addressing office geographic names** - Directs the Oregon Geographic Names Board executive secretary to compile a list of offensive geographic names in Oregon, consult with Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, county and municipal leaders, representatives of state government, local landowners, and interested parties, and submit proposals to the United States Board of Geographic Names to rename them. *Effective on Governor's Signature.*

**House Bill 3569** – **Chief sponsor of legislation on rules advisory committees** – Requires an agency to invite the first chief sponsor, or another sponsor designated by the first chief sponsor, for legislation sponsored by a member, or committee chair or another member of the committee designated by the chair, for committee-sponsored legislation, to participate as a nonvoting rules advisory committee member if the agency appoints an advisory committee for rulemaking that implements enacted legislation. *Effective January 1, 2026.*

### **House Bill 5006**

#### **Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area water contamination issues - \$4m GF**

- Department of Human Services - \$2.5m GF
- Oregon Health Authority - \$1.5m GF

**Juniper Removal** - \$650k GF to Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council for dispersal to soil and water conservation districts for coordination, administrative support and monitoring and \$4.6m GF to soil and water conservation districts for western juniper removal to the following counties:

- \$1.23m Crook County
- \$715k Jefferson County
- \$585k Klamath County
- \$585k Deschutes County
- \$580k Harney County
- \$455k Lake County

## Other Legislation

- \$455k Wheeler County

### [Senate Bill 5531 / House Bill 5006](#)

#### **Business Oregon Levee Project Grant Fund - \$10m OF**

#### **Business Oregon Direct Appropriations for water projects**

- Portland Metro levee system improvements - \$20m OF
- Morrow County - \$2.86m OF - Clean Water Consortium Nitrate Water Project
- City of Estacada - \$5m OF - Estacada Wastewater Treatment Plant
- City of Sandy - \$5m OF - Sandy Clean Waters Project
- Oak Lodge Water Services Authority - \$3.3m OF - Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program
- City of Eugene - \$6m OF - Clear Lake Road Economic Development Infrastructure
- South Suburban Sanitary District - \$10m OF - Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
- City of Hubbard - \$2.36m OF - Wastewater Facilities Plan Projects Phase 1 and 2
- City of Burns - \$3m OF - Repair of drainage and wastewater treatment infrastructure
- City of John Day - \$5m OF - Wastewater Treatment Facility Construction
- City of Adair Village - \$4m OF - Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- City of Sherwood - \$3.23m OF - Brookman Trunk Sewer Extension Project
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs - \$3m OF - Existing Drinking Water Treatment Plant's Filtration System
- Harney County - \$3m OF - Flooding Infrastructure Repair and Improvement
- City of Dundee - \$325k GF - 5th Street Water Line Upgrade
- City of Rainier - \$500k GF - Westside Sewer and Storm Line Rehabilitation
- City of Monmouth - \$1.4m GF - Recycled Water Use Site Development.
- City of Veneta - \$1.69m GF - Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Wetland Mitigation Credits
- City of Winston - \$947k GF - Abraham & Highway 42 Sewer Improvements
- City of Culver - \$380k GF - Mainline Sewer Reroute to Residential Development

#### **Department of Administrative Services Direct Appropriations for water projects**

- Union County Fair Association - \$2.5m OF - Water and wastewater improvements





# Legislative Summary: House Bill 3544 and House Bill 3342

## House Bill 3544 Summary – Contested Case Modernization

*The provisions of this bill apply to all protest submitted, referred, or pending on or after January 1, 2026. Applicants, protestants, persons requesting standing, and persons that have requested or been granted party status associated with protest pending on the effective date of HB 3544 will be notified of process changes.*

- **Uniform Processes:** Establishes a uniform protest and hearing requirements for many water right transaction types to improve consistency, transparency, and administrative efficiency.
- **Standardized Schedule and Timelines:** Requires establishment of a default schedule for different types of cases, with no more than 180 days between case referral and completion of the hearing. Exceptions to the default schedule are allowed when justified.
- **Oral Testimony:** Provides that, to the greatest extent practicable, administrative law judges should give preference to testimony being provided orally rather than in writing. In many cases, this should reduce the time needed to prepare for hearing.
- **Efficient Final Orders:** Provides that 33 days after a protest period closes on a PFO, if no protest is received and no superseding order is issued, the PFO will become the final order.
- **Settlement Opportunities:** Provides clear authority that OWRD can utilize the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct settlement conferences for OWRD water right programs by allowing a settlement judge to be assigned when beneficial to do so. In addition, it clarifies that there is no need for a hearing if all contested case issues were already resolved by settlement, withdrawal or default
- **Accessible Hearing Locations:** Establishes a preference for remote hearings, with exceptions allowed.
- **Standing and Intervention:** Changes the current two-step process for requested standing and intervention to a one-step process and combines the existing fees to intervene in support of a PFO. Requires that the request for party status and associated fees must be received within 30 days of the protest deadline. If requests for party status are denied, the portion of the fee related to participation in the contested case will be refunded. Applies to standing statement requests submitted after January 1, 2026.
- **Streamlined Issue Identification:** Requires all reasonably ascertainable issues to be raised with specificity in the protest.

## House Bill 3342 Summary – Water Right Process Modernization

*Unless otherwise noted, the provisions of this bill apply to all applications submitted on or after April 1, 2026.*

- **Electronic documentation:** Defaults to electronic documents, unless applicant requests paper copies, for initial reviews, proposed final orders, draft preliminary determinations, preliminary determinations, final orders, and draft certificates. Excludes final certificates.
- **Shift public notice to OWRD weekly notice:** For transfers, hydroelectric projects, and some certificates requires OWRD weekly public notice, rather than newspaper notice for two consecutive weeks. The bill does not change newspaper notice processes for new water

rights. Requires newspaper notice for proposed final order on a transfer if more than five water rights are injured. Allows permissive authority is added for newspaper notice as an option for any public notice.

- **Credit/debit card processing authority:** Authorizes processing fees to be passed along to users of voluntary credit/debit payment options that OWRD could not previously afford to offer. OWRD will need more time to implement this provision and will not be offering this payment option on April 1, 2026.
- **Technical fix regarding withdrawal of waters from appropriation:** Changes the withdrawal process to occur by rule rather than order. The current withdrawal statute requires an "order" of withdrawal. At the time, an order included rules, but provisions have since been updated to distinguish an order from rules. An order must name specific individuals, which is impossible for withdrawal orders that deal with future use, rendering the tool unimplementable for new withdrawals.
- **Efficient review where water is unavailable:** Requires the return applications and refund the relevant portion of fees if an application is for a water source that, prior to application submission, was designated as a critical groundwater area, subject to restrictions on the specific purpose, or withdrawn from appropriation. OWRD will create, publish and continuously update a map displaying where each of these areas exist. This does not apply to applications for recovery of groundwater under artificial recharge or aquifer storage and recovery project or if requesting an exception to basin program rules. Provisions related to review and return of alternate reservoir applications within withdrawn surface water sources are operative September 25, 2025. Applies to pending water right applications only if a PFO has not been issued on or after April 1, 2026.
- **Protecting groundwater via transfers where water is unavailable:** Provides permissive authority to deny a proposed change to the point of appropriation in groundwater modifications, permit amendments and transfers in areas designated as a critical groundwater area, subject to restrictions on the specific purpose, or withdrawn from appropriation. This does not apply to proposed points of appropriations located in critical groundwater areas in the same aquifer and administrative portion as the original point of appropriation, in areas where a groundwater bank is established to mitigate for the impacts of groundwater use, or applications related to the recovery of stored groundwater under and artificial recharge or aquifer storage and recovery project.
- **Phased application processing and fee payment:** For new water right applications, requires affirmative confirmation within 90 days of initial review for OWRD to continue processing an application; a portion of fees shall be paid upfront and the remainder within 90 days of initial review. For transfers, requires affirmative confirmation to move the application forward within 30 days of the initial review with any outstanding information; applicants may request an additional 60 days for good cause. If the applicant chooses not to advance or does not respond within the allotted time, the file is closed without further action.
- **Changes to the extension allowances:** Retains existing process for extensions for municipal, quasi-municipal, group domestic and group domestic expanded permits, with a new maximum one-time extension, for good cause, of 20 years for quasi-municipal and 10 years for group domestic and group domestic expanded. For all other permits, increases the development timeline to 7 years for new permits and eliminates the existing extensions process. For pending extension requests where a proposed final order has not been issued on April 1, 2025, one extension may be granted for a maximum of 2 years if: a portion of water has been used within the original development period and the original before-use fish protection conditions were satisfied.
- **Efficient Final Orders:** Provides that 33 days after a protest period closes on a PFO, if no protest is received and no superseding order is issued, the PFO will become final orders.





## Rulemaking Update September 2025

### Current Rulemaking

Rule Name	Topic	Lead Staff	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 512-Malheur Lake Basin Program	Update to Basin Rules Following the Publication of Groundwater Study	Jason Spriet, Tim Seymour, Kelly Meinz	Yes	December 2025	Public Comment Period Closed, Final Rule Language Under Revision
Water Rights Related Rulemaking	Primarily implementing HB 3544(2025) regarding Protests and Contested Cases and HB 3342(2025) Water Right process and targeted policy improvements including Division 77. Improvements and efficiencies possible to include OAR 690 Divisions 2, 14, 17, 18, 52, 53, 54, 77, 80, 82, 300, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 340, 350, 380, 382, and 385.	Racquel Rancier, Katie Ratcliffe, Laura Hartt	Yes	February / March 2026	Scoping and RAC Selection Underway

### Upcoming Rulemaking

Rule Name	Topic	Lead Staff	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 250 and 260 (Unnamed Rulemaking)	Modernization of existing rules and aligns with statutory and other case law changes. Implements HB 4061(2021), SB 326 (2023) and potentially HB 2929 (2023), if needed. Establishes civil penalty classification and schedule to discourage noncompliance and improve water distribution and compliance.	Kim Fritz-Ogren, Jake Johnstone, Kelly Meinz	Yes	Unknown	In Planning and Scoping Stage

Repeal Package	<b>Division 25 [Repeal]</b> Groundwater in Klamath Basin <b>Division 76 [Repeal]</b> Establishment of Minimum Perennial Streamflows <b>Division 22 [Possible Repeal]</b> Klamath Drought Rules <b>Division 95 [Repeal]</b> Columbia Basin Water Development Loan Program	Margo Mashkovskaya	No	Unknown	In Planning and Scoping Stage
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## OREGON

WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

# Static Water Level Reporting Requirements

Since the late 1990s, most groundwater permits contain a condition requiring annual measurement and reporting of static water level (SWL) measurements. Compliance with conditions such as this is required for legal use of water.

## What is a static water level?

A SWL is the depth from land surface to the water table in a well, when the water level is stable and there is no pumping influence.

## Why is this requirement important?

When collected over time, SWLs can help us understand local groundwater conditions and trends, including where groundwater may be declining or available for allocation. This data helps the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and water users monitor and manage groundwater resources across the state. With approximately 3,600 points of appropriation required to measure and report their SWL, this data is critical to understanding groundwater level trends throughout the state.



## What if I do not comply?

Failure to report may lead to enforcement, which can include restrictions on use, civil penalties (a fine), or cancellation of the permit.



# Static Water Level Reporting Requirements – How to Comply

## 1. Review your water right for your specific requirements

Search for your water right in [Water Rights Information System \(WRIS\)](#) and open the permit document in the Processing History tab. Your water right outlines when to take the measurement, how many years to report, who is qualified to measure water levels, and what information should be submitted.

## 2. Hire a qualified professional to take the measurement

Each permit is different, but most require the measurement to be taken by a certified water rights examiner (CWRE), registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor, or licensed pump installer.

## 3. Submit the measurement to OWRD

Fill out the online form for each point of appropriation where a SWL measurement is required. Submit the measurement in the timeframe required in your water right.

## Additional Resources

Find more information online at  
<https://owrd.info/staticwaterlevel>

Contact us: 971-720-0864 or  
[OWRD.WaterLevelReporting@water.oregon.gov](mailto:OWRD.WaterLevelReporting@water.oregon.gov)



STATE COURT CASES (TRIAL LEVEL)			
Case	Court	Description	Rulings & Dates/Litigation Deadlines/Next Steps
<b>Golden Rule</b>	Harney Co. 19CV53051	PJR of order related to Court of Appeals matter	COA ruled on A172879-172880; stayed pending a decision 8/9/21. Appellate judgment issued 09/12/22 and lifted the stay but petitioners have not taken any action to pursue the case further in trial court. Court dismissed without prejudice on 2/5/25.
<b>KBA</b>	Klamath Case 00001	Adjudication of water rights in the Klamath Basin	On 02/25/2025, the court issued its opinion letter on the motions to resolve the remaining exceptions to Walton/KTA claims. Working on the incorporating the approved changes to PFODs in the coming weeks.
<b>KID 3</b>	Marion County 21CV39570	PJR of April 6, 2021 Order to BOR; challenges OWRD's method of calculating whether stored water is being released	Court granted petitioner's motion to continue 4.15.2022 stay on 4.18.24. At the June 30, 2025, status hearing, the court agreed to continue the stay and set a new status hearing for January 2026. Petitioner should be preparing a new motion to stay now.
<b>Sprague River Cattle</b>	Marion County 22CV27077	Takings and declaratory judgment claim.	Markowitz firm has taken lead on discovery efforts. Electronic document collection and privilege review are occurring now. During the June 30, 2025 hearing on plaintiff's motion to compel, the court denied the motion as to the waiver of privilege argument and asked for further briefing on the question of whether the attorney-client privilege ever expires. Supplemental briefs have been filed.
<b>Rogue River v. OWRD</b>	Marion County 23CV19220	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case consolidated with MID. On October 16, 2024, the court entered an order granting parties' stipulated motion to abate case pending completion of infrastructure project necessary to release water reservoir for downstream senior users. Status updates to be filed every six months. Next status hearing set for October 2025.
<b>MID v. OWRD</b>	Marion County 23CV19218	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case consolidated with Rogue River. On October 16, 2024, the court entered an order granting parties' stipulated motion to abate case pending completion of infrastructure project necessary to release water reservoir for downstream senior users. Status updates to be filed every six months. Next status hearing set for October 2025.

<b>Lloyd Piercy v. OWRD, et al.</b>	Umatilla County 23CV27740	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging OWRD's enforcement of the Westland Irrigation Districts' call per the Water Mangment Plan for the Umatilla Basement Project.	Cross-motions for summary judgment; depositions done; trial scheduled for Jan 20 to 22
<b>New Foothills Properties LLC, et al. v. OWRD, et al (New Foothills I)</b>	Umatilla County 23CV27892	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging OWRD's enforcement of the Westland Irrigation Districts' call per the Water Mangment Plan for the Umatilla Basement Project.	Cross-motions for summary judgment; depositions done; trial scheduled for Jan 20 to 22
<b>Lloyd Piercy, et al. v. OWRD, et al (New Foothills II)</b>	Umatilla County 24CV32021	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging OWRD's enforcement of the Westland Irrigation Districts' call per the Water Mangment Plan for the Umatilla Basement Project. This is the 2024 version of New Foothills I.	Cross-motions for summary judgment; depositions done; trial scheduled for Jan 20 to 22
<b>NBCC, LLC, et al v. OWRD, et al</b>	Marion County 23CV32928	PJR Case Regarding Water Rights.	Partial motion to dismiss granted during October 2024 hearing. Awaiting entry of order and petitioner's amended petition. Discovery ongoing. Status hearing set for November 3, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.
<b>Winchester Water Control Dist. v. OWRD, et al</b>	Marion County 23CV33445	Petitioner district contends OWRD wrongfully denied amendment to their water right registration statement that claims less water than is actually held in reservoir.	After filing an amended petition for review with leave of court, respondents filed a motion to dismiss and strike and a motion for partial summary judgment. The court issued a letter opinion on 3.6.25. The court granted the motion to strike the previously-dismissed claims, and struck some of the petition's specific allegations, but denied the motion for partial summary judgment and denied the motion to dismiss. Petitioner filed a new amended petition on 4.9.25, and we filed an answer on 5.2.25. WaterWatch of Oregon filed a motion to intervene in support of OWRD on 6.2.25. Petitioner opposed the intervention, and we took no position. On 7.16.25, the court issued an opinion letter denying the motion to intervene. Status hearing set for 8.25.25 at 8:30am.

<b>Upper Crooked River Conservationists v. OWRD</b>	Crook County, 23CV46779	Petitioners (nonprofit org and a ranch) challenge permit issued to Bureau of Reclamation for fish life	The court issued its opinion letter on the cross motions for summary judgment on 02.10.2025. The court granted our motion on claim 1 (whether the agency unlawfully granted the Bureau an instream water right) and denied our motion on claim 2 (whether the agency exceeded its authority in finding that no public interest issues were raised in the expedited review process). Petitioners have filed a motion for affirmative relief on claim 2, we filed our opposition, and Petitioners filed their reply. The court granted Petitioner's motion on claim 2. We had a status conference with the court on 6.18.2025 to resolve disputes between the parties relating to the order and judgment, and the judgment has been filed with the court. The Court entered its judgment on 7.22.2025. The appeal deadline is 8.21.2025.
<b>Roaring Springs Ranch, Inc. v. Water Resources Department, et al.</b>	Harney County, 24CV20196	Petition for Judicial Review challenging the decision by the Water Resources Department denying an application for groundwater use for irrigation.	The Court denied OWRD's motion to dismiss during a hearing on March 18, 2025. During a hearing regarding the parties' disputed proposed orders on July 23, 2025, the court approved OWRD's straightforward order. We filed an answer on August 4, 2025, and are now evaluating options for next steps in the case.
<b>Allen Ditch Co. v. OWRD</b>	Umatilla County, 24CV43601	Petition for Judicial Review challenging OWRD's decision to require petitioners to install a measuring device at their point of diversion from a canal.	Held Initial Client Meeting 10.23.2024; Filed motion to consolidate on 10.30.2024; Motion to Dismiss filed 11.22.2024; Response filed 1.21.2025; Our Reply filed 2.7.2025. Our hearing was on February 19, 2025, and the court took the decision under advisement. The court granted our motion to dismiss on 6.12.2025. The court entered its judgment on 7.18.2025. The appeal deadline is 8.18.2025.
<b>Dillon Irrigation Co. v. OWRD</b>	Umatilla County, 24CV43600	Petition for Judicial Review challenging OWRD's decision to require petitioners to install a measuring device at their point of diversion from a canal.	Held Initial Client Meeting 10.23.2024; Filed motion to consolidate on 10.30.2024; Motion to Dismiss filed 11.22.2024; Response filed 1.21.2025; Our Reply filed 2.7.2025. Our hearing was on February 19, 2025, and the court took the decision under advisement. The court granted our motion to dismiss on 6.12.2025. The court entered its judgment on 7.18.2025. The appeal deadline is 8.18.2025.
<b>Pioneer Irrigation v. OWRD</b>	Umatilla County, 24CV43598	Petition for Judicial Review challenging OWRD's decision to require petitioners to install a measuring device at their point of diversion from a canal.	Held Initial Client Meeting 10.23.2024; Filed motion to consolidate on 10.30.2024; Motion to Dismiss filed 11.22.2024; Response filed 1.21.2025; Our Reply filed 2.7.2025. Our hearing was on February 19, 2025, and the court took the decision under advisement. The court granted our motion to dismiss on 6.12.2025. The court entered its judgment on 7.18.2025. The appeal deadline is 8.18.2025.



<b>Courtney Irrigation Co. v. OWRD</b>	Umatilla County, 24CV43596	Petition for Judicial Review challenging OWRD's decision to require petitioners to install a measuring device at their point of diversion from a canal.	Held Initial Client Meeting 10.23.2024; Filed motion to consolidate on 10.30.2024; Motion to Dismiss filed 11.22.2024; Response filed 1.21.2025; Our Reply filed 2.7.2025. Our hearing was on February 19, 2025, and the court took the decision under advisement. The court granted our motion to dismiss on 6.12.2025. The court entered its judgment on 7.18.2025. The appeal deadline is 8.18.2025.
<b>Pinnacle Utils v. OWRD (mandamus)</b>	Marion County, 25CV07127	Mandamus petition seeking to compel OWRD to process Transfer Application T-14165	Answer filed May 12; Tribes filed motion to dismiss; hearing rescheduled to August 25
<b>Western State Steelhead vs. OWRD</b>	Marion County, 24CV59824	Petition for Judicial Review challenging OWRD's final order approving a water right permit amendment as it relates to certain wells on the property and their permissible use.	The parties are exploring settlement options. A site visit is scheduled for August 27, 2025.
<b>Piercy, New Foothills v. OWRD et al (New Foothills III)</b>	Marion County, 25CV37634	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging OWRD's enforcement of the Westland Irrigation Districts' call per the Water Mangment Plan for the Umatilla Basement Project. This is the 2025 version of New Foothills I.	Withdrawing regulation order for reconsideration pending decision in 2023 and 2024 PJR cases.
<b>Piercy v. OWRD (Piercy II)</b>	Marion County, 25CV40394	Petition for judicial review challenging OWRD's notice of violation, which asserts that the water user is unlawfully using groundwater	Withdrawing NOV to reissue

STATE COURT CASES (APPELLATE LEVEL)			
Case	Court	Description	Rulings & Dates/Litigation Deadlines/Next Steps
<b>Waterwatch/East Valley v. OWRD</b>	A173292	Challenge to OWRC order denying reservoir application	Decided 8/7/25. Remanded to Water Resources Commission.
<b>Fort Klamath</b>	A181385	Appeal from PJR approving temporary transfer of Crooked Creek water, KA 67, T13673	Appellate judgment issued 4/17/25, this file can be closed.
<b>Bridgeview Vineyards vs. OWRD</b>	A183504	Bridgeview sought review of an order cancelling their water rights, 17 months after the cancellation order. Petitioner appeals from circuit court order dismissing petition as untimely.	The appellate judgment issued on 7/31/25, this file can be closed.
<b>Gould vs. OWRD</b>	A185116	PJR of order granting temporary change in place of use and points of diversion. Pinnacle Utilities has moved to intervene.	Waiting for the reply brief
<b>Pinnacle Utils v. OWRD</b>	A187620	Challenge to OWRD order denying limited license application	Waiting for Pinnacle to make arrangements to pay for the transcript
FEDERAL COURT CASES (TRIAL LEVEL)			
Case	Court	Description	Rulings & Dates/Litigation Deadlines/Next Steps
<b>KID v. BOR</b>	USDC Or 21CV0504	KID filed Motion for Preliminary Injunction in KBA and BOR removed it to federal court; seeks injunction against release of stored water.	After KID's petition for certiorari to the US Supreme Court was denied, the district court set a status hearing for July 15, 2025. An hour before the hearing started, KID filed a motion for voluntary dismissal of the case. The court vacated the status hearing, granted the motion to dismiss without prejudice, and entered judgment in the case.
<b>US v. OWRD (fka BOR v. OWRD)</b>	USDC OR 21-cv-1442	BOR asserts same claims as in Yurok case and also a PJR under the Oregon APA against the April 6 No Release Order	N/A [Stayed] Status update filed on 4/28/25.

<b><i>Yurok v BOR &amp; NMFS</i></b> <b>Intervenors: KWUA</b> <b>and Klamath Tribes</b>	ND CA3:19-cv-04405	Tribes and others challenge the final BiOp (2019), BOR's environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact from BOR operations; primarily that set amount of irrigation water is unlawful and harmful to listed species	Limited judgment entered on US's First Claim for Relief; Appellate is handling appeal; opening and response briefs filed in 9th Circuit; oral argument complete and waiting on a decision; filed response to KID motion to certify state law questions on 11/18/24. Court granted United States' motion to stay proceedings pending case review by new administration. Status update filed 5/14/25 with motions to dismiss appeal from BoR and KWUA. Motions to dismiss are fully briefed and waiting for decision.
<b><i>Grant Knoll v. OWRD/WRC</i></b>	USDC Oregon 1:23-cv-00928-CL	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case is stayed. Status update filed on 6/30/25. Next status update is due within 14 days of a ruling in the Yurok Tribe case.
<b><i>Grant Knoll v. OWRD/WRC</i></b>	USDC Oregon 1:23-cv-00929-CL	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case is stayed. Status update filed on 6/30/25. Next status update is due within 14 days of a ruling in the Yurok Tribe case.
<b><i>Glenda Stilwell v. OWRD/WRC</i></b>	USDC Oregon 1:23-cv-00930-CL	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case is stayed. Status update filed on 6/30/25. Next status update is due within 14 days of a ruling in the Yurok Tribe case.
<b><i>Ryan Hartman, et al v. OWRD/WRC</i></b>	USDC Oregon 1:23-cv-00927-CL	A junior water-rights holder filed this petition challenging Oregon Water Resources Department's enforcement of the Klamath Tribes' call on claim No. KA 622.	Case is stayed. Status update filed on 6/30/25. Next status update is due within 14 days of a ruling in the Yurok Tribe case.