

Division 512 Rulemaking Petition

A presentation to the
Oregon Water Resources Commission

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Division 512

Rulemaking Petition

- Petition received September 12, 2025
- Meets requirements to:
 - Provide full rule language
 - Facts or arguments on reasons for and effects
 - Specified in ORS 183.390, OAR 137-001-0070 (1)



Division 512 Rulemaking Petition

- If petition meets these standards:
 - Commission charged with initiating rulemaking or denying petition
 - Petition has required information, per Department determination
- Public hearing by Commission: October 3, 2025
- Public comment open Sept. 17-Oct. 7, 2025

Agency proposed rules & petition: Key Differences

Agency proposed rules

- Single groundwater reservoir with one critical groundwater area with seven subareas
- Groundwater use reductions in 6 of 7 subareas

Petition language

- Five critical groundwater areas, each its own groundwater reservoir
- Groundwater use reductions in 2 of 5 critical areas
- Voluntary reductions in other 3 critical areas; eventual regulatory backstop

Division 512 Rulemaking: Petition Modeling

- Petition proposal slows – but does not stabilize – rate of groundwater decline
- After 30 years:
 - Maximum median rate of decline is less than 0.1 ft per year
 - 90% of wells are declining
 - Water levels 2.9-25 feet lower than agency proposal
 - Greater impacts to domestic wells, springs and streams, and natural evapotranspiration

Division 512 Rulemaking: Suite of Management Options

- Groundwater levels declining
- Reductions in use necessary
- Basin management requires policy decisions:
 - Defining the target level trend
 - Timing and amount of groundwater use reductions to meet target level trend

Options for the Commission

Commission may consider:

1. Initiate rulemaking based on rule language in the petition
2. Deny the petition

Director's Recommendation

Director recommends Option 2:

Deny petition

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Thank you!

Ivan Gall, Director



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