



State of Oregon  
**Water Resources Department**  
 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A,  
 Salem, OR 97301  
 (503) 986 – 0900

*Invitation  
to provide* **COMMENT**

**NOTICE OF OPEN COMMENT PERIOD  
 AND RULEMAKING HEARINGS  
 OAR Chapter 690, Divisions 501, 515, 516, 517 & 518**

The Water Resources Department (Department) is proposing changes to OAR Chapter 690 intended to revise the following coastal basin programs: North Coast (Division 501), Rogue (Division 515), Umpqua (Division 516), South Coast (Division 517), and Mid-Coast (Division 518).

The Department filed notice of this rulemaking in the *Oregon Bulletin* published by the Secretary of State on September 1, 2012. Under ORS 183.335(2)(b)(G), the Department is also requesting public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rules’ substantive goals while reducing any potential negative economic impacts of the proposed rule on small business.

**The written comment period closes at 5:00 PM, Wednesday, October 10, 2012.**

**HOW TO COMMENT:** Submit comments to the following address:

Water Resources Department  
 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
 Salem, OR 97301-1271  
 ATTN: Rule Coordinator  
 by fax at: (503) 986-0903, Attn: Rule Coordinator  
 or by e-mail: [rule-coordinator@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:rule-coordinator@wrд.state.or.us)

Letters need not be typed, but should be legible, as should any other materials you send. In addition, the public may submit oral and/or written comments at the following five public hearings:

Sept. 25, 2012	1 pm	Douglas County Courthouse, 1036 SE Douglas St; Roseburg, Or.	Carol Whipple
Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer
Sept. 26, 2012	10:30 am	Josephine County Courthouse; 500 NW 6 <sup>th</sup> St; Grants Pass, Or.	John Roberts
Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer
Sept. 27, 2012	10 am	Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; 2305 Ocean SE Blvd; Coos Bay, Or.	Carol Whipple
Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer
Oct. 3, 2012	10:30 am	Tillamook County Library, 1716 3 <sup>rd</sup> St; Tillamook, Or.	Jeanne LeJeune
Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer
Oct. 3, 2012	2 pm	Driftwood Public Library, 801 SW Highway 101; Lincoln City, Or.	Jeanne LeJeune
Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer

*Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request.*

To find out more about this rulemaking or to obtain a copy of the rules visit [http://www.wrd.state.or.us/cgi-bin/notices.pl?oar\\_notices](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/cgi-bin/notices.pl?oar_notices) or contact Ruben Ochoa at the Department at (503) 986-0874.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Water Resources Commission develops, adopts and periodically modifies programs for the state's major administrative basins as part of its statutory responsibility to progressively formulate an integrated, coordinated program for the use and control of the water resources of the state (ORS 536.300). Basin programs are administrative rules which establish water-management policies and objectives and which govern new appropriations of the surface and groundwater within each of the respective basins. There is a need to revise the basin program rules to reflect changes in statute and other related administrative rules. The Department is proposing changes to the basin programs for the Rogue (Division 515), Umpqua (Division 516), South Coast (Division 517), Mid-Coast (Division 518) and North Coast (Division 501), which together comprise the coastal basin programs for the state.

## **POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED RULES:**

The Department anticipates that the proposed rules, if adopted, will have a positive impact on the Department's ability to more efficiently process various permit applications. That efficiency is expected to translate into a higher level of productivity for the Department, and potentially result in a positive economic impact for persons and entities that rely upon the Department to process their applications in a timely manner, consistent with current statutory requirements.

## **THE REVIEW PROCESS:**

Please present your oral and/or written comments at the public hearing listed above, or by sending your written comments by mail, email, or fax to the Water Resources Department at the address listed above. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Wednesday, October 10, 2012. It will be your responsibility to verify that faxed or e-mailed comments are received by the Department.

The Commission is likely to consider final proposed rules at its meeting on November 16, 2012. The Commission may choose to receive additional oral public comment and written testimony on the proposed rules as part of an agenda item at any future Commission meeting. Written testimony presented to the Commission after the public comment period has closed will be limited to specific language suggestions related to changes made by the Department from the public-hearing draft rules to the final proposed rules.

For copies of the proposed rules or further information on the public hearings, contact Ruben Ochoa at (503) 986-0874. You may also obtain a copy of the existing rules on the Department's web page at <http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>.

*Note: The services, programs and activities of the Department are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. The Department intends to comply with the ADA. If you are interested and need special accommodations to participate in the public hearings, please contact the Department at (503) 986-0878, at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.*