



Oregon


John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0900
FAX 503-986-0904

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Tracy Loudon, Administrative Services Administrator 

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I, August 9, 2013
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Budget Update – 2013-15 Biennium

I. Issue Statement and Background

The 2013 Legislature approved a total Department budget for the 2013-15 Biennium in the amount of \$62.9 million, a 22 percent increase over the Department's 2011-13 Legislatively Approved Budget. The Department received funding to recoup scientific positions, rebuild programs, and launch new initiatives as a result of Oregon's 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Some across-the-board reductions were made by the Legislature to accommodate insufficient statewide funding.

II. Discussion

The significant changes that the Legislature approved in the Department's budget are as follows (found in SB 5547, SB 5506, SB 5533 and HB 5008):

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Pkg #101 – Reinstate Water-Use Reporting Program	\$174,363	GF
Pkg #102 – Secure Instream Protections	366,856	GF
Pkg #103 – Re-Capitalize the Measurement Cost Share Fund	100,000	GF
Pkg #105 – Groundwater Data Collection	780,000	GF
Pkg #106 – Surface Water Data Collection	730,000	GF
Pkg #201 – Implement Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy	209,004	GF
Pkg #202 – Conduct Basin Groundwater Investigations	250,000	GF
Pkg #203 – Build Field Services Capacity	342,333	GF
Pkg #204 – Water Supply Development Program	10,415,531	GF/OF
Pkg #205 – Water Development Loan Fund – Umatilla Project	11,061,191	OF
Pkg #206 – Feasibility Study Grants	890,976	GF
Pkg #208 – Extend Water Transaction Fee Schedule	996,211	OF
Pkg #209 – Make Asst. Watermaster Permanent	167,080	OF
	<u>\$16,483,545</u>	

A final “Omnibus Adjustment” that involved across-the-board actions reduced the General Fund budget of the Department by \$734,821. The management team has begun taking cost cutting measures such as delayed recruitments and deferral of non-critical purchases while we wait for further instructions from the Department of Administrative Services on these reductions. An additional \$30,000 General Fund was added to pay for costs associated with two task forces established in SB 839.

The Department is pleased to see the continued investment by the Legislature in key components of Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Implementation of these investments will be a high priority for staff; an update on progress will be provided at the commission meeting.

III. Summary

The 2013 Oregon Legislature provided a number of modest investments in the Department’s programs, which aligned very well with the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Tracy Louden
(503) 986-0920