



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Oregon Water Resources Commission

FROM: Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator *RR*

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M, March 7, 2014  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### Update on the 2014 Legislative Session

#### I. Introduction

Oregon's Legislative Assembly convened in Salem on February 3. This report provides an overview of committee membership for water-related committees and relevant legislation that was introduced.

#### II. Committee Assignments

##### Senate Environment and Natural Resources

- Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Chair
- Alan Olsen (R-Canby), Vice Chair
- Alan Bates (D-Medford)
- Bill Hansell (R-Athena)
- Mark Hass (D-Beaverton)

##### House Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), Chair
- Sal Esquivel (R-Medford), Co-Vice Chair
- Lew Frederick (D-Portland), Co-Vice Chair
- Brian Clem (D-Salem)
- Wayne Krieger (R-Gold Beach)
- Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley)
- Jim Thompson (R-Dallas)
- Ben Unger (D-Hillsboro)
- Gail Whitsett (R-Klamath)

##### Joint Ways and Means

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means consists of 26 legislators. Senator Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and Representative Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) co-chair the committee.

##### Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Joint Ways and Means

- Sen. Chris Edwards, Co-Chair (D-Eugene)
- Rep. Ben Unger, Co-Chair (D-Hillsboro)
- Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland)
- Sen. Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River)
- Rep. Jules Bailey (D-Portland)
- Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg)

### **III. Introduced Legislation**

*Senate Bill 1512* was introduced by the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. This bill would allow the temporary transfer or lease of determined water right claims in the Findings of Fact and Final Order of Determination in the Klamath Basin Adjudication.

*House Bill 4045* removes the January 2014 sunset and reinstates the Groundwater Continuing Education Program, including the requirement that well constructors complete continuing education credits for license renewal. This bill was introduced by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

*House Bill 4044, House Bill 4064, and Senate Bill 1572* contained a number of provisions that would have placed additional requirements and restrictions on the Department in order to deny, condition, limit or restrict a new groundwater right, or to regulate a well for a senior surface water determined claim.

### **IV. Timelines**

The short 2014 Legislative Session convened on February 3. Bills were required to pass out of first chamber committees on February 13 and second chamber committees by February 25. The Constitutional Sine Die is March 9.

### **V. Panel Presentation**

Lobbyists from the water industry will engage in a panel discussion to reflect on the 2013 and 2014 Legislative Sessions. Guests include: Katie Fast, Oregon Farm Bureau; Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon; Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities; April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress; Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries; Gil Riddell, Oregon Association of Counties; Richard Kosesan, Water for Life; Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon; Teresa Huntsinger, Oregon Environmental Council; Jim Welsh, Cattleman's Association.

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