



# Oregon

Kate Brown, 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: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item B, May 11, 2017  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### Water Resources Department Strategic Planning

#### I. Introduction

In this agenda item the Department will provide the Commission with an update on the Department's upcoming strategic planning efforts. This is an informational item.

#### II. Background

One of the recommendations from the Secretary of State's performance audit last year was for the Department to develop a long-term plan that prioritizes its responsibilities and sets clear measurable goals for water sustainability. The Commission and staff discussed this issue at the January 2017 Commission meeting and agreed to embark on strategic planning over the next year, starting in earnest this spring/summer.

#### III. Planning Purpose, Process Development and Path Forward

The purpose of the Department's strategic planning effort is to identify and prioritize the activities necessary to achieve the agency's mission and to implement the appropriate recommended actions in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). As an outcome of this process, The Department seeks to be able to better prioritize its work, improve communications internally and externally, and make the agency an even better place to work.

There are a number of different ways to approach strategic planning. The Department's existing vision, mission and co-equal goals are well-crafted and remain relevant and appropriate as high-level guidance for the agency's actions. With the development of the IWRS, the Department also has a strategic document that sets out broad objectives and a substantial list of recommended actions to advance integrated water management.

Given the strength of the existing vision, mission, goals and IWRS, the Department does not recommend revisiting them as a part of the strategic planning efforts. Rather, the Department's strategic planning efforts should instead focus on determining priorities associated with identified agency goals and recommended actions to help the agency achieve its long-term mission and objectives. Attachment 1 is a figure that identifies the recommended scope of

Department strategic planning and how it relates to the Department's vision, mission, goals, and work plans.

The Department is in the early stages of initiating the strategic planning process. To maximize our efficiency and effectiveness, we intend to hire a consulting firm to help design the planning process. The Department will likely also bring on a consultant to assist with facilitation and other planning process needs. While the exact approach and timing of engagement is still in development, we know that there is a need to meaningfully engage Department management and staff (in both the Field and Salem offices), the Commission, and stakeholders at various points in the process.

We will engage the Commission at future meetings in order to solicit input for the strategic plan and/or to provide updates on the planning efforts.

#### **IV. Summary**

The Department will soon embark on a strategic planning process over the next year. The Department intends to engage management and staff, the Water Resources Commission, and stakeholders during this process over the next year.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Strategic Planning Focus

Tom Byler  
503-986-0910

Kim Ogren, Senior Adviser  
503-986-0873

**Oregon Water Resources Department Strategic Planning Focus**

