



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** John Byers, Oregon Department of Agriculture

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: Strategic Implementation Area Update  
July 28-29, 2015 OWEB Board Meeting**



#### I. Introduction

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Ag Water Quality Management Program works to develop Ag Water Quality Plans and regulations to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. The regulations (Area Rules) tailored for 38 management areas in Oregon, apply to agricultural lands regardless of size.

Achievement of water quality goals and compliance with regulations are best achieved through voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns and by ODA conducting enforcement activities when necessary.

ODA has developed and is implementing the Strategic Implementation Area process to prioritize, conduct outreach, and ensure rule compliance in small watersheds throughout Oregon.

#### II. Background

During the 2013-2015 biennium, ODA developed and tested the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) process in cooperation with the Clackamas County and Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

ODA conducted a remote Compliance Evaluation on agricultural lands in Noyer Creek in Clackamas County and Mill Creek in Wasco County. The Compliance Evaluation identified agricultural lands with a connection to waters of the state and quantified the potential likelihood that agricultural activities could be contributing to water pollution. Results of this evaluation were shared with area landowners. Follow up outreach was directed to landowners based upon the pollution contribution potential on their property. Landowners were invited to contact ODA or their local SWCD for additional information.

The SIA tests in Clackamas and Wasco Counties were successful. ODA is planning on conducting the SIA process in 6 watersheds beginning July 1, 2015. *Likely* areas include East Multnomah/Clackamas County SWCDs; Deschutes SWCD, Polk SWCD, Columbia SWCD, Yamhill SWCD, and Jackson SWCD.

### **III. Recommendation**

This is an information item, no action is required.