

Overview of Board of Agriculture Resolutions under review in 2025.
June 2025 Resolution packet.

I. Introduction

During the December 2024 State Board of Agriculture meeting, the ODA staff provided an overview of the Board of Agriculture Resolutions scheduled for review in 2025. Staff have reviewed and provided recommendations to keep the background statement as written or recommend proposed edits to background statement for each Resolution.

II. Background

Based on the Board Policy and Procedures for Resolutions, the following resolutions are scheduled for review in 2025.

The State Board of Agriculture will be accepting public comment on these resolutions during public comment opportunities listed on the board agenda beginning at the 2025 Q1 meeting.

Proposed action beginning in 2025 Q1 meeting: Board members to review and determine what action needs to be taken on each resolution. Based on ODA review and public comments, board members will 1) accept/decline ODA review of background statement 2) determine if resolution statement should remain a) Active with no edits b) Active and review for possible edits c) No longer active and archive resolution.

For a list of State Board of Agriculture Resolutions go to:
<https://oda.direct/BOAResolutions>

III. Evaluation Process and Recommendations

Each of the following Resolutions, scheduled for review in 2025, have been reviewed by ODA staff members to determine if the Resolution background statements are complete or if the staff have any recommended edits for Board members to consider. Recommended edits are attached for public comment.

A. Resolution 107 – Priority for Agricultural Use of Water

Reviewed by: Isaak Stapleton, NRPA Division Director
This resolution was created in April 1984 and last reviewed in August 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include references to recent drought conditions and their impact on Oregon’s agriculture.
- Highlight the role of climate change in altering precipitation patterns and water availability, emphasizing its implications for agricultural sustainability.
- Incorporate specific examples of agricultural conservation initiatives, such as irrigation modernization projects, water banking efforts, or watershed restoration partnerships, to showcase proactive contributions by the agricultural sector.

Resolution Refinement:

- Advocate for increased state and federal investment in agricultural water infrastructure to support irrigation efficiency, water reuse, and storage capacity.
- Emphasize the importance of collaboration between agricultural, municipal, and environmental partners to balance water resource allocation and ensure equitable outcomes for all users.

B. Resolution 307 – Farmworker Housing

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in September 2011 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include updates on OR-OSHA’s proposed agricultural housing standards that address health and safety standards
- Highlight the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC) and the critical need for funding sources for improving farmworker housing.

Resolution Refinement:

- Reaffirm the Board's support for addressing the housing needs of Oregon’s agricultural labor force, emphasizing access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing.
- Employee housing standards should protect the health and safety of agricultural employees.
- Support increased funding and incentives, such as tax credits and grants, to help farm housing providers mitigate the capital costs associated with meeting updated standards and regulations.

C. Resolution 309 – Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality

Reviewed by: Isaak Stapleton, NRPA Division Director

This resolution was created in March 2012 and last reviewed in May 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Clarify that unlike Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs), Focus Areas do not receive dedicated funding.
- Note that Focus Areas are no longer a requirement for SWCDs to receive their scope of work funding.
- Update the number of active Focus Areas to reflect the current count of 12.
- Emphasize that SIAs are now the primary vehicle for outreach, technical assistance (TA), monitoring, and restoration efforts.
- Remove or revise the term "Coordinated Streamside Management Approach," as it is not commonly used, but maintain references to ongoing coordination with DEQ, OWEB, and ODFW for streamside management.
- Formatting consistency

Resolution Refinement:

- Support integration of SIAs as the cornerstone of the Coordinated Streamside Management Approach, ensuring adequate funding and support for outreach, TA, monitoring, and restoration projects.
- Highlight the importance of leveraging multi-agency collaboration to maximize resources and enhance streamside management outcomes.
- Advocate for additional state and federal funding to strengthen SWCD and watershed council efforts in streamside restoration.
- Emphasize the critical role of ODA in compliance enforcement to support the effectiveness of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

D. Resolution 317 – Oregon Department of Agriculture’s role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementation

Reviewed by: Casey Prentiss, Ag Services Division Director

This resolution was created in June 2016 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include an update on ODA’s initiatives in implementing the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, particularly efforts in outreach, education, and technical assistance to support compliance.
- Highlight the FDA’s final rule on pre-harvest agricultural water provisions, issued in July 2024, and its implications for Oregon’s produce industry.
- Describe ODA's collaborations with partners such as Oregon State University Extension to provide training and resources for producers.
- Provide an update on the voluntary farm inventory development and its progress under the cooperative agreement.

Resolution Refinement:

- Support ODA’s continued focus on outreach, education, and technical assistance as critical components of FSMA Produce Safety Rule implementation.
- Advocate for sufficient federal funding to ensure ODA can sustain its role in produce safety while minimizing financial burdens on farmers.
- Encourage engagement through collaborative partnerships and input to address implementation challenges and ensure compliance.
- Recommend that ODA reevaluate the potential for conducting on-farm inspections, considering available resources and stakeholder preferences, to enhance food safety efforts.

E. Resolution 318 – Siting of Energy Transmission and Generation Facilities on Agricultural Land

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in June 2018 and last reviewed in August 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Reference recent updates to LCDC’s administrative rules (OAR 660-033-0130(37) and (38)) designed to guide solar siting on EFU lands.
- Review language for consistency

Resolution Refinement:

- Review resolution language that DLCD’s solar siting updates since this policy was last updated.

F. Resolution 319 – Climate Change Policy Considerations

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in December 2019 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Highlight Oregon’s leadership in producing over 250 diverse commodities and the importance of preserving this diversity amidst changing climate conditions.
- Reference USDA programs, such as the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative, which promotes carbon sequestration and sustainable farming practices.
- Incorporate recent data on climate impacts in Oregon, including drought, wildfire, and water shortages, to underscore the urgency of addressing these issues.

Resolution Refinement:

- Review Oregon’s water management policies to address shifting water availability and prioritize irrigation modernization and water storage development.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and accessibility of current voluntary incentive programs for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation in agriculture.
- Ensure offset programs and climate incentives are inclusive and workable for farms of all sizes and production systems.
- Recommend sustained funding for climate resilience programs that support soil health, water conservation, and carbon-smart agricultural practices.

IV. Next Steps

The State Board of Agriculture will accept public comment on these resolutions during public comment opportunities listed on the board agenda beginning at the 2025 Q1 meeting.

Proposed action in 2025 meetings: Board members to review and determine what action needs to be taken on each resolution.

Based on ODA review and public comments, board members will:

- 1) accept/decline ODA review of background statement
- 2) determine if resolution statement should remain
 - a) Active with no edits
 - b) Active and review for possible edits
 - c) No longer active and archive resolution

V. Public Comment

Written comments – All written comments received will be posted on the ODA website and will be provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Submit your written comments by online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> or email to: Board Coordinator at BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov by **5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.**

Verbal comments – Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period on Thursday, June 5, or Friday, June 6, 2025.

In-person	Remote
<p>To provide verbal comments in-person you must sign-up, prior to the comment period on the agenda, at the meeting and provide your name and organization.</p> <p>If you have written material as part of your public comment, please provide the board coordinator with 20 copies prior to your testimony. Comment time is limited to three minutes per person.</p>	<p>To provide verbal comment remotely, you must contact the Board Coordinator at BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, and provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date you plan to provide verbal comments (June 5 or June 6) • Your first and last name • The topic of your comment • The telephone number you will be using when calling the meeting.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Priority for Agricultural Use of Water	Number: 107 Effective Date: 08/18/2022
Workgroup A: Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/18/2022 Original Resolution Date: 04/12/1984
Board Chair: Bryan Harper	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

- I. Agriculture is a major industry in Oregon, providing a vital and important economic base for citizens of the state.
- II. Agriculture is a recognized beneficial use of water and must be equitably considered as in the public interest~~water user in the state and must be recognized as being a beneficial use of water and in the public interest;~~ and
- III. As Oregon faces increasingly frequent and severe drought conditions, driven in part by climate change, it is critical that communities come together to engage in comprehensive, basin-wide water supply planning and watershed investments that meet all needs.~~As our state faces unprecedented water supply challenges, it is critical that communities come together to engage in water supply planning and watershed investments that meet all needs in the basin.~~
- IV. III. Oregon agriculture has a long history of engaging in conservation projects which have provided positive environmental benefits in all basins around Oregon. These include irrigation modernization initiatives, water banking efforts, and watershed restoration partnerships. Agricultural producers continue to engage in implementing voluntary conservation, water efficiency upgrades, and climate-resilient water strategies. This work is valuable and should be continued.

Resolution

The Board of Agriculture believes that agriculture, along with other beneficial uses and users of water, must be equitably included, formally represented, and actively engaged in~~considered equally and coordinated with~~ all water resource planning and management activities in the state; and

Current and future agricultural uses of water must be accounted for as the state develops new instream water rights. We support the continued use of agricultural water reservations under ORS 537.356, and recommend reviewing and updating existing reservations to ensure they align with present and future agricultural needs.~~reservations to ensure that agricultural needs are accounted for as the state develops new instream water right applications.~~

The Board supports public investments in agricultural water infrastructure, including support for irrigation efficiency, water reuse systems, and expanded water storage capacity.

The Board also emphasizes the importance of collaboration among agricultural, municipal, tribal, and public partners to ensure balanced water allocation and equitable outcomes across all sectors.

Summary

Agricultural uses of water should be considered equally with all other beneficial uses in water resource planning and management activities within Oregon.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Farmworker Housing	Number: 307 Effective Date: 11/17/2022
Workgroup B: Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022 Original Resolution Date: 09/07/2011
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Whereas Oregon’s agriculture, food and fiber industry is economically linked to 326,617 (13.8% percent) of full and part-time jobs in Oregon;

Whereas a large portion of the agricultural workforce related to production agriculture is seasonal (an estimated 87,000 compared to 32,000 year-round) and the housing needs for this population of workers are unique;

Whereas the number of on-farm housing and community-based housing opportunities do not meet the demand of the seasonal agricultural workforce;

Whereas farmers are concerned about the growing number of houses traditionally used for farmworker housing being converted to short-term rentals;

Whereas Oregon OSHA has enacted comprehensive updates to its Agricultural Labor Housing (ALH) rules, introducing requirements such as increased square footage per bed, mandatory kitchen facilities, enhanced sanitation standards, and stricter proximity limitations to livestock operations; and

Whereas the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC) remains a vital tool for supporting the development and improvement of farmworker housing, yet additional funding mechanisms are necessary to assist housing providers in meeting the new regulatory standards.

~~Whereas the refundable and carry Forward tax credits are an important tool to help address the availability and livability of housing for seasonal and year-round farm workers in Oregon.~~

Resolution

Be it therefore resolved that the State Board of Agriculture reaffirms its commitment to supporting the housing needs of Oregon’s agricultural labor force, emphasizing the importance of safe, affordable, and adequate housing that complies with health and safety standards;

Be it further resolved that the Board urges Oregon OSHA to implement to the fullest extent flexible implementation timeline for the new or updated ALH rules, allowing sufficient time for permitting and construction;

Be it further resolved that the Board supports increased public funding, including enhancements to the AWHTC, grants, and low-interest loans, to assist farm housing providers in offsetting the capital costs associated with complying with new or updated ALH standards;

Be it finally resolved that the Board encourages continued collaboration among agricultural advocates, farmworker housing advocates, and regulatory agencies to develop practical solutions that ensure the well-being of farmworkers while sustaining the viability of Oregon's agricultural operations.~~Be it therefore resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the Carry Forward Tax Credit Program and continues to encourage farmers to help address the need for farmworker housing. Also, be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture encourages the Oregon legislature to consider additional strategies that would provide further opportunities to address the need for farmworker housing.~~

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Number: 309 Effective Date: 05/05/2022
Workgroup A: Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 05/05/2022 Original Resolution Date: 03/08/2012
Board Chair: Bryan Harper	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Since 2012, the Department of Agriculture (ODA), as directed by the Board of Agriculture (BOA), has developed and implemented a strategy to more efficiently and effectively prevent and control water pollution from activities on agricultural lands. That strategy has included systematic identification of Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and Focus Areas in Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to assess land conditions related to water quality and assist landowners in protecting and improving water quality. The approach has included: assessment based on existing public domain data, prioritization of need based on existing conditions, focused outreach, and enforcement action by the Department of Agriculture when warranted.

In November 2017, representatives of ODA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) presented a concept to the Board of Agriculture to incorporate ODA’s SIA and Focus Area activities into a more coordinated approach to streamside management that includes federal, state and local partners and is designed to leverage more resources for incentive-based conservation and monitoring, while sustaining ODA’s role in compliance and enforcement of statutes and rules pertaining to agricultural water quality management. ODA and OWEB will jointly lead the coordinated approach.

Streamside areas have a significant influence on water quality and provide a variety of functions, including streambank stability, moderation of solar heating, and filtration of pollutants from overland flows. They are also a very visible sign of agriculture's commitment to protect water quality and implement the Agricultural Water Quality Program. Streamside areas also provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

While landowners have invested time and money to improve and restore their streamside areas, there are still areas in Oregon in need of improvement. Outreach, education, and technical assistance is essential to continue streamside restoration efforts along agricultural lands. Monitoring streamside conditions is also important to be able to show change in streamside conditions over time and evaluate the effectiveness of the Agricultural Water Quality Program. A regulatory backstop is provided by ODA to ensure compliance.

In a Coordinated Streamside Management Approach, improvements to the current SIA and Focus Area process will include: more funding for SWCDs and watershed councils for landowner outreach, technical assistance, and on-the-ground projects in SIAs; a multi-year framework for conservation and restoration work; watershed-scale monitoring of water quality trends; more support from state and federal agencies; and ability for ODA to focus on compliance in SIAs.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture supports Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) as the cornerstone of coordinated streamside management in Oregon. The Board encourages enhanced investments in SIA-based outreach, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration work, led in partnership with SWCDs and watershed councils.

Be it further resolved that the Board supports multi-agency collaboration, including ODA, OWEB, DEQ, and ODFW, to maximize the effectiveness and alignment of streamside programs that improve water quality, habitat, and agricultural sustainability.

Be it further resolved that the Board advocates for increased state and federal funding to support SWCDs, watershed councils, and other partners in implementing streamside restoration projects and technical assistance.

Be it finally resolved that the Board emphasizes the critical role of ODA in providing a consistent compliance framework to ensure the effectiveness and credibility of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

~~Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture supports integration of ODA's SIA and Focus Area activities into a Coordinated Streamside Management approach that expands multi-agency efforts focused on improvement of streamside areas through outreach and education, technical assistance and monitoring, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration and improve water quality in the agricultural community.~~

Summary

Recognizes the importance of streamside areas to water quality. Reaffirms SIAs as the primary implementation strategy for outreach, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration on agricultural lands. Adopts a multi-agency coordinated approach to improving water quality and habitat for fish and streamside-dependent species.

Supports the leadership of ODA and OWEB in streamside efforts, while affirming ODA's sole responsibility for compliance enforcement under the Agricultural Water Quality Management program.

~~Recognizes the importance of streamside areas to water quality. Adopts a multi-agency coordinated approach to improving water quality and habitat for fish and streamside-dependent plants and animals in agriculturally-influenced areas. Directs resources towards outreach, education, technical assistance, monitoring, on-the-ground projects, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration in the agricultural community.~~

~~The Board of Agriculture supports ODA and OWEB jointly leading the coordinated approach, provided that ODA remain responsible for implementing the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.~~

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule implementation

Number: 317
Effective Date: 11/17/2022

Workgroup B:

Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski

ODA Staff Contact:

~~Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson~~ Casey Prentiss

Next Review Date: 00/00/2025
Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022
Original Resolution Date: 06/08/2016

Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria

Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Whereas, the ~~new~~ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule ~~will have tremendous impacts to Oregon agriculture~~ brings multitudes of farms under mandatory produce safety regulation-

~~Whereas, Oregon's produce industry has not been previously regulated with respect to food safety.~~

Whereas, these ~~new~~ rules ~~will~~ require, produce farms to have produce safety measures in place and may be inspected for compliance with the rule.

Whereas, ODA has ~~the opportunity to participate in~~ been assisting with the implementation of the FSMA ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule ~~in several ways since 2017 through an FDA cooperative agreement grant supporting the following activities:-~~

~~Whereas, ODA has applied for cooperative agreement funding to support the following implementation activities:~~

- Capacity building
- Outreach
- Education
- Technical assistance
- Developing an inventory of ~~covered~~ farms subject to the rule ~~(this is a required part of the cooperative agreement)~~

Whereas, ODA has chosen to not participate in a regulatory program for the first two cooperative agreement cycles. The current cooperative agreement cycle will end on June 30, 2026. Currently, there is no official opening of a third cooperative agreement but it is being publicly discussed by FDA. The proposed, third request for proposals would not allow for any state to take on a non-regulatory program. This means, if ODA

Resolution number: 317

Page 1 of 2

Resolution title: Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule implementation

chooses to participate in [the third cooperative agreement program \(if it is published and funded\)](#), ODA would have to take on the ~~on-farm~~ produce safety inspections and develop a produce safety regulatory program. [To do this, in future years](#), ODA would need either (1) statutory authority to conduct the inspections; or (2) to conduct inspections under FDA authority as commissioned officials.

[Whereas, funding for ODA's Produce Safety Program is solely reliant on FDA grant money, grant funding has been reduced. For the last year of the current cooperative agreement \(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026\) FDA will provide \\$219,075, which is a reduction from the previous years of \\$630,000. This amount of money is the anticipated money that will be available in the proposed third cooperative agreement. This money is not enough to develop a regulatory program.](#)

Whereas, ODA has received a variety of feedback from stakeholders about the department's role in inspections. Many stakeholders prefer for ODA to gain the authority to do produce safety inspections in Oregon, while others prefer to leave this responsibility to the FDA. Those in support of ODA-led inspections have indicated they believe ODA understands agriculture and has a good track record of successfully regulating Oregon farms in other areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports ODA's participation in produce safety rule implementation only if federal resources are available to support this work.
2. Recommends that ODA focus on capacity building, outreach, education, and technical assistance to help ~~prepare~~ Oregon's produce industry [implement](#)~~for~~ FSMA.
3. Recommends that ODA develop the farm inventory required as part of the cooperative agreement using voluntary approaches.
4. Recommends that ODA consider applying for inspection funds if and when more information is available [but consider the drastically reduced federal dollars available for such work-](#)

Summary

Supports ODA's involvement in FSMA produce safety rule implementation as long as federal resources are available to fully cover the cost of the department's work. Recommends initial focus on outreach and education and recommends that ODA wait until more information is available. Recommends a voluntary approach to developing an inventory of covered farms.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land	Number: 318 Effective Date: 08/18/2022
Workgroup B: Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/18/2022 Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Bryan Harper	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has heard from the agricultural community about concerns related to the location and development of power transmission facilities through agricultural lands, including underground and above ground transmission lines and land intensive generation facilities on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation.

WHEREAS agriculture is both land and soil dependent, while the siting of energy related facilities does not require soils with a high capability for agricultural production.

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included consideration of actions that designate or treat differently lands zoned exclusive farm use based solely on soil quality without accounting for other factors that are conducive to the production of high-value agricultural products, including livestock.

WHEREAS numerous applications to develop solar energy generation have been approved or are under review throughout the state on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS the existing state “exceptions process” provides for the consideration and location of land uses otherwise not permitted when reasons merit

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has in the past been contacted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission regarding concerns it has related to the increased development of agricultural lands by solar energy generation facilities. In response to the letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the Board discussed issues related to the siting of solar energy generation facilities on productive farmland and expressed several concerns related to location on productive agricultural lands. The discussion by the Board resulted in a written request to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) asking that LCDC initiate an evaluation of the current administrative rules related the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

WHEREAS the Department of Land Conservation and Development has since developed rules (see [OAR 660-033-0130\(37\) and \(38\)](#)) for solar energy siting on designated agricultural lands. These rules are intended to

direct energy development to lands that have limited value to wildlife and farming. For example, in the Willamette Valley solar panels are allowed up to 12 acres in areas with the best soil for farming. Up to 320 acres of land may be used for solar in areas with poor soils and no water rights. While these rules have had some impact in discouraging placement of large facilities in the Willamette Valley, they have not precluded the serial development of solar facilities. They have also not precluded the placement of solar facilities on productive irrigated cropland in Oregon outside the Willamette Valley.

WHEREAS the Oregon Legislature has directed LCDC to conduct rulemaking to identify suitable lands for utility-scale solar development in Eastern Oregon and adjusted the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), increasing the acreage threshold for solar development on high-value farmland from 160 to 240 acres, thereby shifting more decision-making authority to counties.

WHEREAS the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has issued new guidance on solar facility development, emphasizing the need for early consultation to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wildlife habitat.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture is concerned about the conversion of high-value and productive farmland and the implications to ongoing and future agricultural operations by energy facility development on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

The Board:

1. Recognizes that energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation. We support developing renewable energy facilities in locations that avoid the conversion of highly productive farmland and minimize disruption to working farm operations. We support developing renewable energy facilities at appropriate locations.
2. Recommends the Land Conservation and Development Commission continue to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of existing administrative rules related to the siting of energy facilities on land zoned exclusive farm use.
3. Supports establishing review criteria to evaluate not only the individual impact of proposed energy development on agricultural lands, but also the cumulative impacts of existing and potential similar nonfarm land use on agricultural operations.
4. Supports the evaluation of the impacts of proposed linear energy transmission facilities on agricultural operations that focuses on individual segments of a linear facility that are comprised of similar agricultural characteristics.
5. Supports better definition of highly productive farmland (instead of “high-value farmland”) based on multiple factors such as soils, crop types, operational characteristics, and developed agricultural infrastructure.
6. Supports land use regulations that afford greater protection for highly productive farmland including, land use requirements that preclude the location of energy facilities on highly productive or less valuable farmland when otherwise reasonable alternatives exist.
7. Supports evaluation and reconsideration of existing land use regulation that promotes serial development of energy facilities to skirt other more stringent review standards.
- 7-8. Encourages early and ongoing coordination between counties, DLCD, ODA, ODFW, and agricultural partners to improve the siting process and protect both agricultural production and ecological resources.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Climate Change Policy Considerations	Number: 319 Effective Date: 11/17/2022
Workgroup A: Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022 Original Resolution Date: 12/05/2019
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

WHEREAS, climate change is adversely impacting Oregon agriculture including the well-being of farmers, ranchers, seafood producers and resource reliant communities because of intensifying extreme weather persistent drought, increasingly destructive wildfire seasons, and heightened water shortages, along with changing ocean conditions and other impacts;~~resulting in drought, wildfire events, water shortages, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts.~~

WHEREAS, activities with the potential to be net carbon sinks provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy input costs.

WHEREAS, improving soil health across Oregon lands improves soil security to sustain functionality for current and future generations, agricultural resilience, nutrient retention while reducing inputs, and provides ecosystem services including water quality and quantity, flood mitigation, air quality, and may be a net carbon sink.

WHEREAS, clean and abundant ground and surface water is critical for agriculture, and climate change is affecting annual rainfall and snowpack that provides water for agriculture.

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture sector is among the most diverse in the United States, producing over 250 unique commodities across varied landscapes, and this diversity is essential to climate resilience, economic vitality, and food security;

WHEREAS, the USDA's Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative and other voluntary federal programs promote carbon sequestration, sustainable land management, and climate-adaptive practices in partnership with farmers and ranchers;

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture industry is diverse in numerous ways, producing over 250 different commodities in various landscapes and climatic conditions, operating diverse production systems using a

variety of inputs, depending on diverse markets both domestically and internationally, and partnering with numerous agriculture and food businesses to produce and process products.

WHEREAS, policies intended to help the state in adapting to changing climate conditions, such as policies to address water shortages and water quality issues, will affect agriculture and need to weigh the burden and benefits of such policies.

WHEREAS, strategic water management is critical to agricultural resilience, and irrigation modernization, expanded water storage, and watershed restoration are necessary to sustain production under shifting climate patterns;

WHEREAS, Government and private sector programs, policies, and investments can help agriculture adapt and become more resilient to climate impacts and contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy and input costs.

WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions may also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.

WHEREAS, competition and regulatory issues can cause emissions intensive trade exposed industries to explore out of state or overseas opportunities, potentially affecting industries that add value to Oregon agricultural products and contribute to Oregon's agricultural and food economies.

WHEREAS, climate change policy may also benefit agriculture by mitigating some of the most serious impacts of climate change, and by providing incentives and tools to help agriculture reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

WHEREAS, offsets are one type of incentive, but the costs to measure and verify the mitigation benefits of offset projects can be prohibitive for certain project types.

WHEREAS, Oregon's Land Use Planning program is a major contributor to the protection of agricultural land that preserves the viability of Oregon agriculture by protecting farm and rangeland from development and thus ensuring soils and vegetation can continue to sequester carbon.

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions have experienced good participation from the agricultural sector in flexible, accessible, voluntary programs that invest allowance revenue into activities that help agriculture reduce its carbon footprint and adapt to climate change.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture recommends any climate change related policies should:

- Maintain a healthy agricultural economy, including processing and infrastructure that adds value to Oregon agricultural production, and retain agriculture's ability to grow crops and livestock, harvest seafood, pack and process agricultural products economically in Oregon.
- Consider the well-being of farmers, ranchers and rural communities and the need to sustain a resilient food supply, rural economy, and quality of life.
- Support Oregon's land use planning program's protection of natural and working lands as foundational for Oregon's agricultural viability and their contribution to climate mitigation through soil carbon sequestration.
- Balance the need to reduce emissions from intensive and trade exposed industries with the goal of retaining these industries in the state.
- Recognize that if processing or other facilities leave the state because of higher costs due to carbon policy, we have not achieved the goal of reducing carbon and have simply moved emissions to another location while harming our economy and industry.
- Provide compliance assistance, including longer compliance time frames, technical assistance, and low-cost compliance instruments, for energy intensive trade exposed industries that are at risk of loss to overseas or out of state competitors.
- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.
- Consider the costs of transportation to move agricultural and food products to market, both within the state, domestically, and internationally, and maintain affordable transportation methods to move agricultural products to market both within and beyond the state.
- Structure offset programs so they are as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems. An aggregation or cooperative effort of small and mid-size operations should be allowed under any offset program.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness, equity, and accessibility of voluntary incentive programs for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation, ensuring participation by farms of all sizes and production systems. Structure programs to incentivize carbon sequestration and resilience on Oregon's agricultural lands to be as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems.
- Create sustained funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Provide incentives to address the potential impacts of climate change to water supplies and water quality, and support agricultural practices that support soil health, conserve water, modernize irrigation techniques, and develop water storage capacity.
- Consider adapting the state's water management policies to recognize the changes in climate conditions and water availability.
- Create flexible funding programs, recognizing the diversity in Oregon's commodities, production methods, farm size, and changing and evolving technologies and strategies used.
- Ensure both natural and working lands are included in climate policy and programs and position the state to leverage state and federal lands and investments to do so.
- Design incentive programs to be as accessible as possible, including a straightforward and simple application process, delivery systems that use local partners such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and simple reporting requirements.
- Support research into strategies that help agriculture adapt to impacts from climate change.

- Recognize the net carbon sequestration opportunities in agriculture and the benefits that longstanding stewardship activities such as protecting the soil, set aside lands with native or non-invasive vegetation.

Summary

Recommends that any climate change policies provide voluntary incentives for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change; recognize agriculture's positive environmental and economic impacts; provide exemptions and compliance time frames to minimize adverse impacts to input costs and companion industries; support research into additional strategies; [align with water management reforms that support irrigation and resilience](#); and support equitable long-term planning, resource allocation and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review