Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Water Resources Commission

FROM: Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator
Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I, November 16, 2012
Water Resources Commission Informational Item

Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Implementation

I. Introduction

With the August 2012 adoption of Oregon's Water Resources Strategy, the Project Team has already begun implementation, following the outline of the Draft 2012-17 IWRS Workplan presented during the August Commission meeting.

This presentation focuses on:

- Work-products produced so far,
- Feedback so far,
- 2013 Workplan items, and
- A 2013 Calendar

II. Work-Products Produced So Far

The Draft 2012-17 IWRS workplan identified a number of tasks that agencies could begin right away, while requesting additional resources from the Oregon Legislature. During the summer, a group of talented interns helped the state agencies move a number of these efforts forward.

One such effort included an Update of the State's Water-Related Permitting Guide, IWRS Recommended Action 2e. Traditionally housed at the Department of State Lands, the Permitting Guide is meant to be a comprehensive, yet simple reference for regulatory and non-regulatory programs that may influence permitting of projects in wetlands or waterways. The User Guide contains permitting information from nine participating state agencies along with their federal partners. Updated previously in 2008, the User Guide is a useful resource for anyone, public or private, who is planning a project in or around a waterway in the state of Oregon. The 2012 Edition of the guide was compiled and edited by Joshua Spansail, and resides on the Department of State Lands' webpage:
http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/PERMITS/Pages/swrp_userguide12_06.aspx.

Another successful example is an upgrade of the Department's information materials and outreach efforts related to water-use efficiency and water conservation, IWRS Recommended Action 10a. The Allocation of Conserved Water Program allows water users to formally document their water conservation, and then apply these water savings to additional beneficial uses. The Water Rights Services Division has developed program materials that are more understandable and made these available on-line, during training workshop, and through partner networks. A sample of the new materials is attached in Attachment 1.

A third work-product is more of an informational resource to our stakeholders, partners, and the public. An online powerpoint "video" should help bridge the gap for staff in Salem and in the field who cannot travel far and wide for budget reasons to make presentations about the IWRS. The video, now available on the Department's website, provides a good amount of material, describing the history behind the IWRS, the need for a state water plan, the process used to develop the plan, a description of the recommended actions included in the plan, and a discussion of next steps during 2013-15. Staff at the Association of Oregon Counties helped us produce the video and served as valuable resources during the process.

Finally, a work product specifically requested by Water Resources Commissioners is now available. Commission members asked staff to prepare a powerpoint presentation that Commissioners could give whenever they make community or partner presentations of their own. Electronic presentations and their accompanying scripts are now available for Commissioners to use during their travels.

III. Feedback So Far

A number of partner organizations have invited Project Team Members and Commissioners to talk about IWRS implementation. These have included:

Venue ..... Presenter(s)
The Tualatin River Basin Watershed Council ..... Chair John Jackson
The U.S. Geological Survey ..... Brenda Bateman and Alyssa Mucken
Interim House Energy, Environment & Water Committee ..... Phil Ward and Brenda Bateman
American Water Works Association ... Comm. Jeanne LeJeune, Brenda Bateman, Alyssa Mucken
Oregon Water Law Conference ..... Phil Ward, Tom Paul, Barry Norris, Brenda Bateman

These presentations have focused on the IWRS 2013-15 Workplan currently under development by agencies and the Governor's Office. Many of the questions focus on the potential partnerships that these groups might forge with agencies as we move further into implementation.

The IWRS has also received positive media coverage. This has included:

The Klamath Falls *Herald and News* (See Attachment 2).....July 26, 2012
The *Oregon Water List*serve.....August 14, 2012
Western Water Law Newsletter (See Attachment 3) ..... September 2012
California Water Plan ENews (See Attachment 4) ..... September 19, 2012
Daily Journal of Commerce (See Attachment 5)..... September 19, 2012

IV. 2013-15 Workplan Items

The Draft IWRS Workplan for 2012-17 is available on-line, alongside the IWRS document and IWRS Executive Summary. The specific budget and policy proposals developed by the agencies for the 2013-15 biennium have been submitted to the Governor's office for consideration. More information about the status of each budget and policy request should be available in early December.

Objective 1. Understanding Water Resources Today: Related Workplan for 2013-15

The 2013-15 workplan places heavy emphasis on the collection, processing, and sharing of information that helps us make water-related decisions. Five of the state's natural resource agencies have developed budget requests, focused on determining the quantity and quality of Oregon's surface water and groundwater. By early December, the Governor's Recommended Budget should be published, including details about which agency budget proposals have been approved by the Governor and at what levels.

Objective 2. Understanding Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs: Related Workplan for 2013-15

The 2013-15 workplan in this area focuses on improving water use measurement and reporting, by proposing funds to provide cost-share; by re-authorizing staff who can help water users with their continued reporting requirements; by supporting watermasters in the field; and by authorizing the update of contact information. This part of the workplan also includes an inter-agency budget request to determine, with more specificity, the need for instream flows. By early December, the Governor's Recommended Budget should be published, including details about which agency budget proposals have been approved by the Governor and at what levels.

Objective 3. Understanding the Coming Pressures: Related Workplan for 2013-15

There are many ongoing efforts to understand and respond to emerging pressures that will affect both water demand and water supply. These pressures include energy development, climate change, economic development, population growth and shifts, land-use change, infrastructure needs, and education and outreach. While continuing their programmatic work in these areas, state agencies have no NEW water policy or budgetary requests in this area for 2013-15.

Objective 4. Meeting Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs: Related Workplan for 2013-15

The 2013-15 workplan designed to help meet Oregon's water needs is very full. Four of the state agencies have developed requests that will help the state implement the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and requests that will help local communities engage in water resource planning and implementation as well. Of particular note is a budget and policy proposal that will position the state to play a more active role in water supply development - benefitting both instream and out-of-stream interests. Again, the position of the Governor's office on these proposals will be available early December.

V. 2013 Calendar

December 2012 ..... Governor's Recommended Budget Released
December 14, 2012 ..... Governor's Office/DAS Files Agency Bills with the Legislature
December 14, 2012 .....Stakeholder Meeting re IWRS Implementation
January 14-17, 2013.....77th Oregon Legislative Assembly Begins; Bills Introduced
February 4, 2013 .....Legislative Hearings Begin
On or before July 13, 2013 .....Legislative Session Adjourns
2017..... Next Integrated Water Resources Strategy Due to Legislature

Brenda Bateman
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Attachment 1: Allocation of Conserved Water Program Brochure
Attachment 2: The Klamath Falls *Herald and News* Article, dated July 26, 2012
Attachment 3: *Western Water Law* Newsletter Article, dated September 2012
Attachment 4: *California Water Plan ENews* Article, dated September 19, 2012
Attachment 5: *Daily Journal of Commerce* Article, dated September 19, 2012

Allocation of Conserved Water Program

Benefits for Oregon Agriculture and Instream Flows

What is it?

The Allocation of Conserved Water Program (ACW) is a voluntary program that provides benefits to both water right holders and instream flows. ACW allows a water user who conserves water to use a portion of that water on additional lands, lease or sell the water, or dedicate the water to instream use.

Why should I take advantage of the Conserved Water Program?

Without this law, the water user would not be entitled to use conserved water to meet new needs; instead, the water would return to the stream where it would be available for the next downstream appropriator. This program provides economic return on conservation investments by allowing water for use on additional lands and allowing for new uses of water. In exchange for granting the user the right to allocate a portion of the conserved water, the law dedicates a portion to instream use.

How much water will I be able to use?

Unless water is needed to mitigate against injury, the standard allocation for the remainder of the conserved water is 75% to the applicant and 25% to the state (typically in the form of an instream water right). These percentages will change if public funding was used to complete the project. The 25% allocated to the state may go as high as 75% depending on the amount of non-repayable public funds used. The applicant may also choose to dedicate all of the conserved water, minus any water needed for mitigation, to an instream right.

OUR MISSION

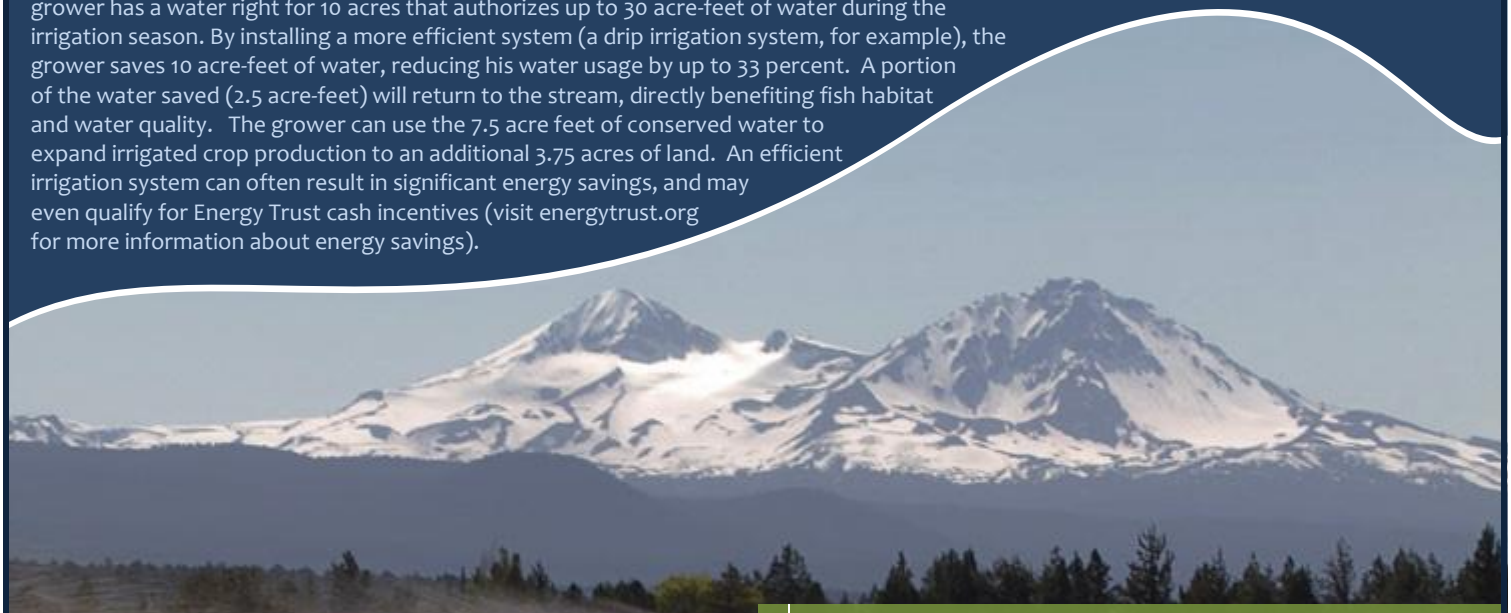
To serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through two key goals:

(1) to directly address Oregon's water supply needs, and

(2) to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

Photo: Kyle Gorman, OWRD

BASIC CONSERVED WATER SCENARIO In this example, a Central Oregon grower has a water right for 10 acres that authorizes up to 30 acre-feet of water during the irrigation season. By installing a more efficient system (a drip irrigation system, for example), the grower saves 10 acre-feet of water, reducing his water usage by up to 33 percent. A portion of the water saved (2.5 acre-feet) will return to the stream, directly benefiting fish habitat and water quality. The grower can use the 7.5 acre feet of conserved water to expand irrigated crop production to an additional 3.75 acres of land. An efficient irrigation system can often result in significant energy savings, and may even qualify for Energy Trust cash incentives (visit energytrust.org for more information about energy savings).



Does the priority date change?

A new water right certificate is issued with the original priority date reflecting the reduced quantity of water being used with the improved technology. Other certificates are issued for the applicant's portion of the conserved water and for the state's instream water right. The priority dates for these certificates are either the same as the original right, or one minute junior. It is up to the applicant to decide which priority date they want to establish for the conserved water. The instream right and the right for the new lands must have the same priority date.

Who can apply?

The holder of a water right subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505 may submit an application. If the proposed conservation measures are within the boundaries of an Irrigation District, the person must also submit evidence that the District has approved the application. It is best to submit an application before the start of a conservation project, but the application may be submitted up to five years after the implementation of conservation measures.

Examples of Efficiency Improvements

- Piping or lining earthen canals and ditches
- Converting to a pressurized system
- Metering water deliveries
- Variable frequency drive pump systems
- Scientific irrigation scheduling (soil sensors, weather data, ET rates, etc.)

Potential Agricultural Benefits

- Provides water for previously dry lands
- Improves crop yields and quality by giving plants the correct amount of water
- Reduces field erosion
- Cuts down on energy, labor, and other costs

Potential Community Benefits

- Local economic opportunities and creation of jobs
- Conservation of a scarce resource for future generations
- Improvement in water quality by reducing runoff
- Wildlife: more water = more fish
- Recreational benefits

References in Statute & Rule

ORS 537.455 and OAR 690-18

Contact

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Oct. 2012

NewsBank
America's News

English

What will the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy do?

Herald and News (Klamath Falls, OR) - Thursday, July 26, 2012

While the Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** doesn't set law itself, it can act as a framework or guide for the future.

Short-term goals include gathering information on **Oregon** 's water resources, understanding water needs (both instream and diverted, or out-of-stream, water), understanding future needs and meeting those needs.

Some actions are already being taken, Alyssa Mucken, a water resources department policy coordinator working on the strategy said. For example, the work to track invasive species in **Oregon** 's waterways is tied to the strategy.

The water resources department hopes to expand monitoring wells and existing stream gauge networks to get a better idea of how much water is in the state and how it is being used.

Gathering such data can help the water resources department and the strategy better address water needs on a regional basis, including in the Klamath Basin, Mucken said. In the future - under the goal of meeting in-stream and out-ofstream needs - the strategy calls for "place-based efforts," or a local approach to finding information and answers.

"We hope to facilitate efforts for the local community to enter into their own water resources planning," Mucken said.

Under the recommended action of "water management and development," the strategy recommends increasing water-use efficiency and conservation and improving access to built storage.

The strategy also calls for an increased water management presence in the Klamath Basin, especially as water adjudication comes to a close in the region.

"For post-adjudication water management, we'll need to expand our field presence in that Basin for technical assistance and to make sure water users get the attention they need. Expanding our field capacity is part of the plan," Mucken said.

Greg Addington, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, said his organization is glad the state is looking at these issues and forming a plan. But he does not know how much it will have an affect on the federal water issues that impact Bureau of Reclamation Klamath Area Project irrigators.

"Conceptually it's a smart thing for the state to have a plan," Addington said. "The state should be leading the charge on storage of water."

He said the water users association gave its comments on the strategy in August 2011. The association was concerned about the environmental issues, such as the idea of pooling together water quality and water quantity, two things Addington said the association thought should remain separate. He said there should also be more focus on water storage and the importance of energy costs.

- Samantha Tipler

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NewsBank
America's News

English

Balancing water needs - Integrated water strategy will not impact water law, adjudication

Herald and News (Klamath Falls, OR) - Thursday, July 26, 2012

Author: *SAMANTHA TIPLER ; H&N Staff Reporter*

T he O regon I nt eg rat ed Wat er Resources Strategy will be the state's first look at how to balance its water needs. On Aug. 2, the **Oregon** Water Resources Commission will consider the draft plan, and those who worked it over the last three years say it will provide a framework for policy and possible legislation in the future, but won't impact current water law or adjudication.

"One of the priorities was to make sure we do not change existing water law," said Tracey Liskey, a member of the Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** policy advisory group and co-owner of Liskey Farms. "It will maybe have an effect on future water rights and how they're looked at. We wanted to make sure we're looking at all aspects of where we want to be in the future."

The strategy could provide recommendations in the **Oregon** Legislature for new authorizations, but makes no changes to existing law, agreed Alyssa Mucken, a water resources department policy coordinator working on the strategy.

"We made that perfectly clear, we're not going to jeopardize existing water rights," she said. "We want to provide our water users a level of certainty with this strategy and not overhaul **Oregon** water law or take any water rights away."

How did the strategy come about?

The Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** was part of the 2009 House Bill 3369. According to the strategy's executive summary, the Legislature asked: What is the current state of **Oregon** 's **water supply** relative to its need? And what must the state do to ensure that sustainable supplies of clean and abundant water are available to meet its future in-stream and out-of-stream needs?

" **Oregon** is one of the few states without a water strategy," Liskey said. Such a framework is needed to guide lawmaking, future water rights and other waterrelated issues for the state, he said.

Liskey was one of 18 people from around the state working on the advisory group.

"I was very pleased with the willingness of people to listen to all different points of view and come up with a pretty good plan," he said.

Four state agencies worked together to form the strategy: the **Oregon Water Resources Department** , the **Oregon** Department of Environmental Quality, the **Oregon** Department of Fish and Wildlife and the **Oregon** Department of Agriculture.

Those agencies host workshops in 11 communities, including Klamath Falls in May 2010.

"It's important to make sure we're looking at everyone's point of view," Liskey said. "A lot of history is done without looking at a total picture. This gives a total picture of how we move forward and address everybody's issues."

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noted that the primary focus of PacifiCorp's mitigation efforts comprises of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout habitat and recreational opportunity improvements largely focused in the Oneida Narrows canyon. A new dam and reservoir in the canyon threatened to undo significant effort and funding already expended since 2002 when PacifiCorp's FERC license was being renegotiated. Essentially, the IDWR concluded that the utility of the Lower Division of the Bear River (for irrigation diversions, hydropower generation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and recreation) was already consumed, and that the Company's proposed project would upset the existing balance. According to the IDWR:

> ...[t]he public interests associated with the Bear River in its current state far outweigh the public interests associated with the [Company's] proposed project . . . any mitigation proposed to offset impacts to the local public interests caused by the inundation of the Oneida Narrows would have to be substantial, far greater than has been proposed by TLCC.

Conclusion and Implications

Though the IDWR denied the Twin Lakes Canal Company's Application for Permit, the current administrative order is only preliminary. The Company filed an exception to the preliminary order. Therefore, the final resolution of the matter remains to be seen. In the meantime, application protestants, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, are pleased with the IDWR's current decision because the application denial preserves the last free-flowing section of the Bear River that is easily accessible by the public, and preserves the fisheries and wildlife habitat fostered by the Oneida Narrows canyon. (Andrew J. Waldera)

OREGON'S FINAL INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY: A THOROUGH ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

The Oregon Legislature in 2009 enacted a sweeping mandate for a thorough re-make of state water resources planning. It required the creation of a "coordinated, integrated state water resources policy." ORS 536.220(2)(a). The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) was given the task of developing an "integrated state water resources strategy" that would enable it work better with other state, federal, and local agencies, and the Tribes, to improve data management, address climate change, population growth, land use matters, water supply, ecosystem services, in- and out-of-stream needs, and almost every other possible water-related matter. ORS 536.220(3)(a). The OWRD accepted the challenge and completed its work in August 2012. The result is 125 pages of a carefully thought-out Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) that should guide Oregon's water resources planning and management for many years to come.

The Structure of the Final Integrated Water Resources Strategy

The draft strategy from which the final version came originally consisted of twelve "bulletins," which appeared to be short essays on a variety of subjects covered. The final IWRS is a far more cohesive document built simply around four primary objectives, spelled out in as many chapters: (1) Objective One: Understand Oregon's Water Resources Today; (2) Objective Two: Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs; (3) Objective Three: Understand the Coming Pressures That Affect Our Needs and Supplies; (4) Objective Four: Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

This appears to be a logical sequence of objectives. It is first important to understand the compass of water resources (chapter 1) and what the present and future demands will be on those resources (chapter 2). Those resources, however, will be affected by larger issues than solely local demands. Climate change, expanding populations, land-use changes and limitations imposed by energy costs (to name just some external factors at work) will affect the future availability and use of water resources. Hence the IWRS addresses (chapter 3) the pressures that affect both the water needs and the supplies. The first three chapters round out the "water universe" as it exists in

Oregon; the final chapter (chapter 4) comes to grips with vexing issues of how to meet actual instream and out-of-stream demands. The chapter stresses a whole spectrum of issues of encouraging water management that goes far beyond simply taking new water from existing sources. There is emphasis on conservation, new storage, water reuse, and water supply development projects. The chapter concludes with a significant section on watershed restoration and fish protection.

The First Objective: Understanding Oregon's Water Resources Today

The IWRS recognizes a "knowledge gap" regarding water resources information. Much of the first chapter is devoted simply to explaining ground and surface water hydrology, water availability, water quality, the doctrine of prior appropriation, permitting, and the various laws that affect the administration of water resources in Oregon. Laying the groundwork of basic knowledge, as the plan does, puts the latter part of the chapter in context: it makes clear why data in almost every sphere of water resources management is necessary. It explains why monitoring wells are necessary, the importance of data in decision-making, and a whole host of other data needs related to water resources. The end-of-chapter "Recommended Actions at a Glance" call for new or improved groundwater investigations, data collection, and monitoring.

The Second Objective: Understand Oregon's Instream and Out-Of-Stream Needs

This chapter addresses the primary categories of water needs in Oregon. Agriculture, which uses an estimated 85 percent of the diverted water in Oregon, is prominently featured, followed by uses in food processing, industrial, municipal, commercial, and domestic use, including exempt domestic wells. Here too is an emphasis on improving water use measurement and reporting, and updating water records (including water rights certificates). The consumptive use portion of the water picture precedes commentaries on instream needs: mainly navigation, recreation, and, of course, fisheries. Echoing the legislation referred to above, and ongoing discussions on the subject in the state, there is clear call to understand the "peak and ecological flow" requirements for ecological health in stream systems. The Recommended Actions at a Glance at the end of the chapter suggest improving consumptive use demand forecasts, water use measurement, reporting, and records. For understanding instream needs, the actions urge determining what flows, both in quantity and quality, are necessary to support those instream needs, including groundwater dependent ecosystems.

The Third Objective: Understand the Coming Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

The IWRS looks ahead to forces that will affect future water use and availability. It points out the tremendous amount of energy used to deliver water to where it is needed. Likewise, we need water to produce electricity. The key here is to think about linking goals for the development of new electricity to the actual presence and availability of water that is needed for such goals to be realized. The IWRS here surveys hydroelectric projects and their relationship to other aspects of water use and conservation. Of particular note in this chapter is a seven page discussion of climate change and its likely impacts. Recommended actions include providing support to communities to incorporate climate change in their planning decisions. Also featured is the need to emphasize conservation, storage, and reuse of water in anticipation of climate change. It is possible that there will be pressures on water rights to change with changing crop needs. Wastewater services, too, might be affected in a changing climate.

Climate change, of course, will not be the only external pressure. The chapter addresses Oregon's land-use planning goals and how changes within forested landscapes, for example, may decrease the quantity of available public drinking water. Increased urbanization will undoubtedly result in increased consumptive use of the water, and at the same time alter storm water regimes and contribute to nonpoint source pollution. There is much more in this chapter, ranging from decommissioning dams and wells, planning for infrastructure emergencies, infrastructure funding for drinking water, environmental literacy, community education and outreach, and a variety of other topics.

The Fourth Objective: Meeting Oregon's Instream and Out-Of-Stream Needs

The final chapter in the IWRS tries to encourage local "place-based planning" and coordination with

existing natural resource plans. The chapter repeats a theme that runs throughout the IWRS—the importance of encouraging communication and partnerships among tribes, federal agencies, stakeholder groups, and communities in the effort to successfully manage diminishing and changing resources. The IWRS suggests designing a "template" for place-based plans that would assist in planning and acquiring funding to implement plans. The IWRS encourages partnerships with agencies and governments both to protect interests in shared water resources and improve access. The strategy also surveys other tools such as water right transfers, specific water conservation techniques, modern irrigation approaches, and methods of storage. Significantly, the plan suggests identifying potential above-ground storage sites for possible future storage. Again, water reuse and non-traditional approaches to meeting water resources are also examined. In all, it is a large chapter full of ideas and ambitious goals, the accomplishment of any one of which would be a significant achievement.

Conclusion and Implications

This article has only touched upon a few select components of this plan. It is worth reading in full. The plan unquestionably clarifies management direction and priorities for many years ahead. At the conclusion of the IWRS is a section called "Next Steps" which briefly outlines five and ten year outcomes. It sets forth some guiding principles on how this plan may be implemented, and money is the big key. Many of the components of the plan will require serious fiscal attention. Money is the invisible partner to the plan, and without it the plan will not be fully realized. It is likely that the legislature will have to weigh in frequently in the ongoing implementation of IWRS. This should not be surprising, for implementing the IWRS is presumably what the legislature had in mind when it set the ball rolling in its original bill in 2009. The final IWRS is available online at: http://cms.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/law/integrated_water_supply_strategy.aspx (Douglas MacDougal)

WASHINGTON STATE POLLUTION CONTROL HEARINGS BOARD APPLIES NEW STANDARDS FOR WATER RIGHTS PERMIT EXTENSIONS

Concerned Neighbors of Lake Samish v. Washington St. Department of Ecology and Mercedes Holdings, Inc., PCHB Nos. 11-126, 11-127, 11-128 (Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order, July 24, 2012).

In a recent decision, the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB or Board) reversed water rights permit extensions granted by the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) to the beleaguered developer of a residential subdivision on Lake Samish in Whatcom County, Washington. The decision is surprising in a number of respects, including the Board's second-guessing of Ecology's prior permit extensions, applying newly-announced standards – such as "vigilance"—beyond the statutory extension requirements, and effectively shifting the burden of proof from the appellant to the permittee. An appeal of the decision is likely.

Statutory Background

Ecology has authority to grant extensions of time to begin construction, complete construction, and put water to beneficial use under a water right permit. The Washington Water Code provides in pertinent part:

> Actual construction work shall be commenced on any project for which permit has been granted within such reasonable time as shall be prescribed by the department, and shall thereafter be prosecuted with diligence and completed within the time prescribed by the department. The department, in fixing the time for the commencement of the work, or for the completion thereof and the application of the water to the beneficial use prescribed in the permit, shall take into consideration the cost and magnitude of the project and the engineering and physical features to be encountered, and shall allow such time as shall be reasonable and just under the conditions then existing, having due regard for the public welfare and public interests affected.

California Water Plan eNews

Wednesday's Update

wpenews@water.ca.gov

Sept. 19, 2012

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This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

Water Plan plenary meeting presentations and other materials posted online

If you missed last week's plenary meeting for *California Water Plan Update 2013*, or if you are looking for a copy of the presentations, they are all available online. The plenary agenda on the Water Plan calendar webpage has links to the presentations and other materials. An updated production schedule and timeline graphic for the Water Plan has also been posted.

Details for planning process of IRWM now available on DWR website

DWR has launched a website dedicated to the development of a strategic plan for integrated regional water management (IRWM). The website provides general information on the plan, a project fact sheet and a link to sign up for the plan's mailing list. IRWM incorporates all aspects of water management into regional solutions to promote sustainable water use.

DWR releases PSP for up to $25 million in flood project funding

DWR has released a proposal solicitation package (PSP) for up to $25 million in funding under the Central Valley Flood System Conservation Framework and Strategy Guidelines. The funding will be allocated to projects that support the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The projects must integrate environmental stewardship and sustainability principles into flood management activities. Details are available here.

State finalizes planning guide for dealing with climate change

The California Natural Resources Agency has finalized and posted the *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. It is a series of documents that provide communities with guidance in dealing with the effects of climate change. The information includes a nine-step process for developing an adaptation plan.

Summit on Silicon Valley watersheds set for this weekend

The Silicon Valley Watershed Summit will be held this Saturday, Sept. 22, in Los Altos Hills. It will focus on protecting and enhancing the watersheds in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The day will include a free showing of the film *Last Call at the Oasis*, which looks at how water could become a central global issue during this century.

Oregon makes state history with integrated water resources strategy

Oregon has approved the first integrated water resources strategy in the state's history. It is a plan for meeting Oregon's water quantity, water quality and ecosystem needs. The strategy includes recommendations for meeting the water-related challenges in the state.

Click on links below for more information.

Upcoming Meetings | Water Plan Website

NewsBank
America's News

English

Commentary: Oregon (finally) begins to integrate water and land-use planning

Daily Journal of Commerce (Portland, OR) - Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Author: *Edward Sullivan and Carrie Richter*

The famous quote “Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over,” attributed to Mark Twain, continues to resonate today. In the American West, water regimes have prompted lawsuits, mayhem and confusion. In the land-use planning and development arena, conflicts and complications over water availability and quality have reached a crescendo.

Recently, however, **Oregon** began to move toward a comprehensive approach, including modest moves to integrate water resource planning and regulation with its land -use regime.

On June 22, the **Oregon** departments of Water Resources, Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture released a draft of the state’s Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** , which the Water Resources Commission adopted on Aug. 3. This document attempts to bring together public agencies whose views, regulatory priorities and constituencies concerning water are so diverse that they may be said to come from different planets.

Support of the current “prior appropriation” system of allocating and regulating water based on the time of application largely binds the agricultural community together, while pressure from environmentalists and water quality regulatory agencies motivates them to push for mandatory allocation of sufficient clean water to accommodate the needs for humans and other species.

While much of western **Oregon** has sufficient rainfall and snowmelt to meet water demands most years, it is not always the case and it is certainly not so for the generally more arid regions of eastern **Oregon** .

Another way of understanding the dilemma is to acknowledge that although there is a lot of water in western **Oregon** , it’s not stored in a way that sufficient amounts are available when needed most – namely, hot summer months. Moreover, the struggle for sufficient water in eastern **Oregon** is being replicated in the wetter parts of the state, as overall water demands increase.

One of the many difficulties with planning for sufficient amounts of clean water to accommodate the many types of regulated land uses is that there is a limited amount of integrated planning that brings the water resource professionals in contact with state and local land use planners.

When the **Oregon** land-use system was devised in 1973, water considerations were often relegated to a determination that there would be sufficient water for future uses, so no integrated system was incorporated to assure there would be sufficient water overall. For example, planning commissions adopt findings with reference to a water certificate, although the record is absent any hard evidence that the water source exists.

Brief mentions are made about water in deciding which natural resources to protect (such as stream corridors, wetlands, and wild and scenic rivers), meeting water quality standards, and providing for adequate public facilities and services.

While water is a guiding principle in 11 of our statewide planning goals, the depth of these efforts to integrate water and land use has been fairly shallow and the Land Conservation and Development Commission does not demand much of local governments or other state agencies that deal with water.

The Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** seeks to change that approach. It looks to

coordinate state and local government management consistent with local plans. This sets the stage for "place-based" integrated water management and planning.

The strategy notes the fact that only one state agency has updated its coordination program to assure that its plans and actions are consistent with the statewide planning goals and local plans. It notes the impacts of climate change, which will require both additional research and the use of adaption and resilience strategies in future planning efforts.

Finally, the strategy shows the need to deal with river contaminants that threaten public health and the need for comprehensive improvements in the ecology of rivers and streams.

This is not the first time that the relationship between water and land-use planning has been discussed. The byzantine manner in which water is allocated, used and adjudicated is perhaps loved only by certain lawyers who specialize in the area.

However, the relationship of water planning and land-use planning does require further integration. Farms and forests must have sufficient water to assure their significant role in the economy of the state. Similarly, humans, land animals and fish must have sufficient water to thrive.

Only when we understand how to deal with these water needs and allocate water for our residential, commercial and industrial uses at the same time will **Oregon** 's planning efforts be adequate. The Integrated **Water Resources Strategy** is a good start. Implementation, however, will require adequate funding and buy-in from all state agencies and local governments.

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