



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS CONTACT

Racquel Rancier, Policy Manager, 503-302-9235  
Alyssa Rash, Public Information Officer, 971-707-3493  
WRD\_dl\_mediaquiries@oregon.gov

## Oregon Water Resources to Host 2023 Budget and Legislative Kick-Off Meeting on January 27, 2022

Salem, OR – The Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) is hosting a virtual meeting on the development of the Department’s potential legislative concepts and budget proposals for the 2023 legislative session on **January 27, 2022 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** The Department will also provide an update on its implementation of projects assigned during the historic 2021 legislative session.

Those interested in attending can [register for the meeting online](#) until 8:00 a.m. on January 27 to receive a meeting link.

Five community meetings are slated between January and June 2022 with a focus on discussions with stakeholders about 2023 budget requests and legislative concepts. These meetings are intended to:

- Obtain ideas about potential requests and share the Department’s ideas about potential requests.
- Obtain feedback on all potential proposals, providing stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions, provide advice and feedback, and to tell the Department about whether they think a proposal should proceed.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Department received over 30 new positions and over 40 new projects, in addition to existing workloads. To address these new projects, the Department is working to fill the new positions, form project teams, hire contractors, and engage stakeholders. A portion of the January 27 meeting is dedicated to an update on the Department’s progress in implementing the 2021-2023 legislatively approved and existing projects.

OWRD is working to advance racial equity and help historically and currently underserved and under-resourced communities engage in development of the program’s policies and budget in order to have a voice in decisions that affect their interests and for integration of equity into water policy and funding.

The Oregon Water Resources Department is the state agency charged with studying, allocating, and distributing water in Oregon. To learn more about OWRD, visit [www.oregon.gov/owrd](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd).

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