



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

www.Oregon.gov/OWRD

BEFORE THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

PETITION TO AMEND OREGON) ORDER DENYING RULEMAKING
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES) PETITION
CHAPTER 690, DIVISION 512)
)

BACKGROUND

On September 12, 2025, the Department and the Commission received a petition for rulemaking (Petition) to amend Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 512. Similar to the rules proposed by the Department as part of the Commission's ongoing Division 512 rulemaking process (Department Proposal), the Petition proposes new rules within Division 512 establishing one or more critical groundwater areas within the existing Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC). The Petition was filed by a number of governmental entities, businesses, and individuals in the basin as their preferred alternative to the Department Proposal. The Petition differs from the Department Proposal in significant ways, including the number and boundaries of the proposed critical groundwater areas, the groundwater withdrawal limits within those boundaries, and the modelled median groundwater decline after 30 years.

ORDER

The Commission voted to deny the Petition during its meeting on December 11, 2025. The Petition is DENIED.

Vice-Chair

Oregon Water Resources Commission

DATED: December 17, 2025

NOTICE

This is an order under ORS 183.310(6)(a); however, this denial of a rulemaking petition under ORS 183.390 does not constitute a final order. It is not judicially reviewable under ORS 183.484 as construed by the Court of Appeals in *Hayes Oyster Co. v. Oregon Dept. of Agriculture*, 333 Or App 133 (2024).

In the Matter of Harney Basin Groundwater Critical Groundwater Areas

Page 1 of 1