



Oregon Water Resources Department Legislative Recap

2017 Legislative Session

	2013-15 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2015-17 Legislatively Approved Budget (Feb Session)	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted Budget*
General Fund	\$ 26,504,946	\$ 29,622,753	\$ 31,185,564	\$31,483,809
Other Funds (Including Fees)	10,626,121	13,469,293	13,777,317	12,633,833
Other Funds (Grants and Loans)	23,920,890	60,476,515	60,476,515	**48,672,536
Lottery Funds (Debt Service)	574,025	2,511,482	2,511,482	3,953,969
Federal Funds	1,272,735	1,302,403	1,312,338	1,879,534
Total Funds	\$ 62,898,717	\$ 107,382,446	\$ 109,263,216	\$98,623,681
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	154.80	162.58	163.25	167.59

*Figures are not final until audited by DAS.

**Includes \$26 million carried over from 2015-2017, which is mostly committed but has not been expended. \$22.2 million in new bonding authority plus cost of issuance.

Water Resources Department Budget and Funding Authorizations

[SB 5542](#) – Agency Budget / [SB 5530](#) - Lottery Bonds / [HB 5006](#) - Budget Reconciliation / [HB 3470](#) – Program Change

Sustaining Current Service Levels: Water Rights Transactions and Dam Safety Fee Schedule Increase (Fee revenue \$838k)

- This package is associated with House Bill 2295, accounting for increases of 15.88%, on average, to the current fee schedule to maintain the current level of services through 2021, based on projected costs supplied by the Department of Administrative Services. *IWRS Recommended Action #7 & 13b. GRB Packages #70/100.*

Protecting the Public and Water Supplies through Dam Safety Inspections (\$123k OF & 123k FF; 1 FTE)

- Protects public safety and water storage capacity of dams through the addition of one dam safety engineer funded by federal (FF) and other funds (OF) to conduct dam inspections, assess dams' ability to pass flood flows, and review hazard ratings. *IWRS Recommended Action 7a. GRB Package #102.*

Payroll Shared Services (\$67k OF revenue)

- Authorizes Department to accept funding from Department of State Lands for payroll shared services, allowing the agencies to efficiently share payroll staff, broaden the knowledge base, establish best practices, and provide backup for staff on leave. *GRB Package #106.*

Umatilla Field Presence (\$334k GF, \$100k OF and \$434k FF; 5.0 FTE)

- Adds position authority for five positions that were previously Umatilla County personnel under supervision of OWRD: includes two assistant watermasters funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and three positions (two assistant watermasters, one administrative assistant) previously funded by the County that will now be funded by General Fund. The County is anticipated to contribute funding to a portion of these positions. *Modified GRB Package #107.*

Helping Communities Plan for Water Needs through Place-Based Planning (\$204k GF, 1 FTE LD)

- Continues one limited duration place-based planning coordinator to pilot place-based planning and help communities identify solutions to meet their instream and out-of-stream water resources needs. *IWRS Actions # 9a. Modified GRB Package#104.*

Grants to Evaluate the Feasibility of Potential Water Projects (\$1.5 million LB, \$47k cost of issuance)

- Helps meet Oregon's water needs by providing \$1.5 million in Lottery Bonds for grants to assess the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse or storage projects (SB 1069). *IWRS Recommended Action #13c. Modified GRB Package#109.*

Grants and Loans to Implement Water Projects (\$22.2 million LB, \$375k cost of issuance)

- Authorizes \$15 million to recapitalize the fund for Water Project Grants and Loans (SB 839) to develop water resources projects that have economic, environmental and community benefits to help meet Oregon's water needs. *IWRS Recommended Action #10a, 10b, 10c, 10e, 11b. Modified GRB Package#110.*
- Allocates \$2.5 million for the City of Carlton's Panther Creek Reservoir, \$2 million for the City of Carlton's Water Supply Line, and \$1.2 million for Santiam Water Control District's Mill Creek Corporate Center. [HB 3470](#) states that these projects aren't subject to application, scoring, or ranking requirements of the Water Project Grants and Loans program.

Water Resources Department Budget Reductions

SB 5542 – Agency Budget Reductions (-\$700k GF)

- Reduces General Fund by \$400k for Feasibility Study Grants, \$100k for new observation wells, \$50k for gaging stations, and \$100k for personal services. Shifts \$50k in services and supplies from General Fund to Water Right Fees. *Modified GRB Package #090.*

HB 5006 – Budget Reconciliation Reductions (-\$1.3 million GF)

- Reductions totaling \$1.3 million in Personal Services, Attorney General rates, DAS services and assessments, travel, and inflation adjustments. Also includes reductions in OF limitation and debt service adjustment of \$2 million in Lottery Funds.

Water-Related Legislation

HB 2066 – Extends Tax Credits on Fish Screening Devices

Extends fish screening tax credit to 2024. See ORS 315.138 for details of the tax credit. *IWRS Recommended Action 11d*

HB 2099 – Municipal Permit Extensions

Modifies the definition of the undeveloped portion of a municipal water right permit for the purpose of determining the amount of water that may be subject to fish persistence conditioning for the first extension of time after June 29, 2005 for pre-1998 municipal permits. Specifies that the undeveloped portion of a municipal permit is the amount of water that has not been diverted as of the later of June 29, 2005 or the date specified in the permit or last approved extension. Requires that a water management and conservation plan be developed and approved as a condition of an extension of time on a municipal permit, and that none of the undeveloped portion, as defined above, can be diverted until the water management and conservation plan is approved. Prohibits issuance of water right certificate for municipal use if extension of time is required but order approving extension has not become final. Effective on passage.

HB 2132 – Local Government Financing of Water Efficiency

Expands purposes for which improvements may be made under local government financing program to include energy storage, smart electric vehicle charging stations and water efficiency. Clarifies provisions relating to liens on benefited qualifying real property. Effective October 6, 2017. *IWRS Recommended Action #13c*

HB 2295 – Water Rights Transactions and Dam Safety Fee Schedule

To maintain current staffing to process water right transactions and inspect dams to protect public safety, House Bill 2295 removes the sunset on the water right transactions and dam safety fee schedules and increases the fees by, on average, 15.88 percent to account for projected increased costs through 2021. Increases effective July 1, 2017. *IWRS Recommended Action: 13b*

HB 2296 – Well Construction

House Bill 2296 helps protect groundwater resources from contamination and waste through proper well construction by increasing the Landowner Permit Application Fee, expanding the requirement to obtain a Landowner Permit, and increasing the bonding requirements for landowners and well drillers. House Bill 2296 increases the Landowner Permit Application Fee from \$25 to \$500 to reflect the minimum cost to the Department to process these requests and expands the requirement to obtain such a permit to include work done by means other than a well-drilling machine. This fee and application only applies when a landowner chooses to work on their own well (construct, repair, modify, decommission) without the expertise of a licensed driller. The bill also increases the well construction bond requirement to \$10,000 for a landowner, who does not use a licensed driller, and \$20,000 for a driller, which covers all of the wells the driller works on, to better reflect the costs of repairing or decommissioning a well that is improperly constructed. Effective January 1, 2018. *IWRS Recommended Action: 12a*

HB 2722 – Enforcement of Condominium Irrigation Requirements and Landscaping

Prohibits enforcement of condominium or planned community governing documents that impose irrigation requirements: during drought declaration by the Governor or finding of drought by the Water Resources Commission, when the governing body of a political subdivision requires conservation or curtailment of water use; or the association adopts rule to reduce or eliminate irrigation water use. Authorizes association for planned community or condominium to adopt rules that require the reduction or elimination of irrigation on any portion of the planned community and permit or require the replacement of turf or other landscape vegetation with xeriscape. Authorizes association to require prior review and approval by association of any plans by unit owner to replace landscape vegetation with xeriscape and requires the use of best practices and industry standards to reduce landscaped areas. Effective June 22, 2017.

Water-Related Legislation (*continued*)

[HB 2933](#) – Cap on Grants for Emergency Projects

Removes limitation on amount Business Oregon’s Infrastructure Finance Authority may grant from the Special Public Works Fund for emergency projects. Effective January 1, 2018.

[HB 3051](#) – Cost-Share Water Measurement Fund

Allows the Water Resources Department, through the existing Water Measurement Cost-Share Program, to partner with well owners to fund the installation of devices to measure groundwater use. The bill itself establishes no new measurement requirements and the program can be used to assist water right holders, regardless of whether installation of a measuring device is voluntary or required. Effective January 1, 2018. *IWRS Recommended Action #2b*

[HB 3427](#) – Dam Safety

Requires owner or operator of a high-hazard dam to develop an emergency action plan and file it with the Department, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the local county emergency agency. For dams constructed prior to January 1, 2018, requires filing of Emergency Action Plan no later than January 1, 2019. Authorizes the Department, in consultation with local emergency managers and OEM, to establish a schedule for conducting emergency response exercises. Directs Department to conduct annual inspections of high-hazard dams, unless a different schedule is deemed appropriate. Exempts dams that are regulated by a federal agency from requirements. Effective January 1, 2018. *IWRS Recommended Action #7*

[HB 5006](#) - Budget Reconciliation - Water Projects (\$1.9 million GF)

Provides \$1.9 million in General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services to fund the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District’s Bradshaw Drop Irrigation Canal project.

[HJM 5](#) – Hanford Groundwater Contamination

Urges Congress to continue to appropriate funds for Hanford Nuclear Reservation cleanup, with specific focus on funding for expansion of existing ground water treatment systems.

[SB 56](#) – Cannabis Coordination

Requires Oregon Liquor Control Commission and Oregon Health Authority to maintain telephone hotlines for Water Resources Department and Watermasters to inquire about license status of particular premises. Provisions relating to telephone hotlines become operative on January 1, 2018. See bill for other modifications to laws related to marijuana. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

[SB 520](#) – Recall of Irrigation District Officials

Requires that recall petition of district officer of irrigation district be filed with members of board of directors of irrigation district who are not subject to recall petition, under specified circumstances. Clarifies that the petition process for recalling public officers applies to irrigation districts. Effective January 1, 2018.

[SB 865](#) – Coordination on Development and Water Infrastructure

Requires county or city governing body to submit notice of tentative plan of a proposed plat of a subdivision or partition to certain special districts (irrigation, drainage, water control, and water improvement) for district to recommend conditions of approval to governing body. Requires districts to submit report by January 1, 2019, detailing district boundaries, facilities, easements, and rights of way held by the district to the city and county. Requires district to notify city or county within 90 days of change to information in report. Effective January 1, 2018.

[SCR 21](#) – Vanport Flood

Commemorates 69th anniversary of 1948 Vanport flood. Remembers 18,500 survivors and the 15 people who lost their lives.

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