

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Atkinson, Bates
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Water Resources Department to conduct a statewide water supply and conservation opportunities assessment, to be completed by July 1, 2009. Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resources Department to pay the costs of the assessment. Sunsets January 2, 2010.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Factors that increase demand for water such as climate change, population growth and potential expansion of agricultural commodities to meet demand for biofuels
- Amount of water currently withdrawn from the Columbia River for use by Oregon, Washington and Idaho
- Whether the study should be expanded to place more emphasis on conservation and reduce water demand
- Consideration of ecological benefits of peak flows to biodiversity and the health of aquatic species
- Opportunities to support partnerships in the Umatilla and Walla Walla River watersheds

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Directs the department to assess the benefits of ongoing partnerships and analyze water supply benefits of water exchanges in the Umatilla River and Walla Walla River sub-basins. Specifies \$1,000,000 be allocated from the General Fund for the costs of the assessment, including \$50,000 to support the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation "Umatilla Basin Project Phase III Feasibility Study" and \$50,000 to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Walla Walla In-stream Flow Project."

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Progress Board's State of the Environment Report 2000 identified a concern about the adequacy of Oregon's water supply. Surface waters in most of the state are fully appropriated by existing out-of-stream and in-stream uses, except during periods that fall outside of the irrigation season when stream flows are generally higher. Additionally, there are some areas of the state that experience an unstable supply of groundwater resources.

Senate Bill 600-A directs the Water Resources Department to conduct a statewide water supply and conservation assessment that would identify challenges in ensuring sufficient water supplies to meet existing and future beneficial uses, provide data that would be used for prioritizing future water storage and conservation projects, and identify periods when water would be available for withdrawal from the Columbia River for possible use in Oregon.

The water supply and conservation study will also develop a funding program for community-based water supply planning that provides incentive funding to communities who develop strategies to meet their long-term water supply needs. The measure appropriates an unspecified amount from the General Fund.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.