

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement 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 - 1 - 1
Yeas:	Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	Atkinson
Exc.:	Boquist
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/10, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Water Resources Department (WRD), in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), to develop an integrated state water resources strategy (strategy). Requires the WRD to give notice to the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) prior to adopting the strategy. Directs that the strategy take effect upon adoption by the Water Resource Commission (WRC). Requires the WRC to review and update the strategy every five years after notifying the EQC. Requires that the WRD in consultation with DEQ and ODFW submit a report to the Legislature detailing progress towards developing the strategy by February 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Approximately 14,000 stream miles do not meet water quality standards
- Surface water nearly fully allocated during summer months
- Next step in Water Supply and Conservation Initiative
- Alaska is the only other western state without a formal water supply plan

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes the WRD to develop an integrated state water resources strategy instead of requiring it. Changes the role of the EQC, DEQ, and ODFW in the development, review, update, and adoption of the strategy. Removes requirements for benchmarks in the report to the Legislature.

BACKGROUND: Oregon is one of two western states without a formal water supply plan. Oregon's surface water is nearly fully allocated during summer months and ground water is showing declines in quantity and quality in some areas. In 2007, the Legislature allocated funds to the Water Resources Department to begin collecting data to increase the state's ability to forecast water demands, as well as identify opportunities for conservation and water storage. This exercise, known as the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (WSCI) began in 2007 and began producing the first of the data in 2008.