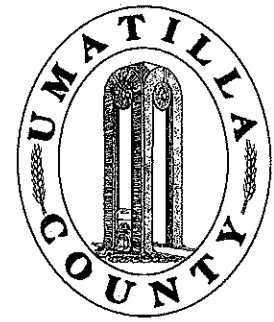


Umatilla County

Board of County Commissioners



Commissioners

Dennis D. Doherty
541-278-6202

W. Lawrence Givens
541-278-6203

William J. Elfering
541-278-6201

March 26, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Ways & Means Natl. Res. Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, H-377
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Oregon Water Resources Department recommended budget

Executive Assistant
Connie Caplinger
541-278-6293

Executive Secretary
Laura Headley
541-278-6204

County Counsel
Douglas Olsen
541-278-6208

Budget Officer
Bob Heffner
541-278-6209

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

Umatilla County constituents have a wide variety of water-related interests and needs. There is not always agreement. The Board of Commissioners works to stay focused on policy, to remain consistent with state law, and to attain consensus as much as possible.

We have found that the scope of water law is huge, that the appetites for water are huge, and that the complexities of managing the waters of the state are huge – meaning, that the job of the Water Resources Department is also huge.

Clearly, the Department's budget is instrumental to its capacity to address these challenges. We fully support the Governor's recommended 2013-15 budget for the Department.


We also generally favor additional budget help, such as that which can be developed through supplemental legislation (e.g., policy option packages and stand-alone bills). Those, of course, must be evaluated one-by-one.


The point is that we want the Department to have the budget it needs to do the jobs that the legislature and our constituents require of the Department.


Umatilla County contributes general fund support to the local arm of the Water Resources Department. And we have become more pro-active in terms of water-related policy. We believe that the welfare and future of our county is closely linked to the state's policy and the Water Resources Department budget.

Thank you for doing all that you can to provide the Department with adequate funding.

Sincerely,


Larry Givens
Chairman


Bill Elfering
Vice Chairman


Dennis D. Doherty
Commissioner