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LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY LEVERAGING STATE INVESTMENT

Request: Support and secure \$750,000 of funding for a Deschutes Basin Study led by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in partnership with the State of Oregon.

Background: The Deschutes Water Alliance (DWA) is a regional forum established in 2004 to address long term water supply goals in the Deschutes Basin. Membership of the DWA includes the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the cities and counties of the Deschutes Basin, 7 irrigation districts, private water companies and the Deschutes River Conservancy. Through the efforts of the DWA and its member organizations, multiple conserved water projects have been completed that will result in 50,000 acre-feet of water supply to meet existing and new water supply needs - both instream and out-of-stream.

DWA and its member organizations have also identified a suite of projects that could result in an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water supply to meet current and future water needs. However, before these projects can be fully implemented, a comprehensive basin evaluation is required to obtain additional federal funding and to ensure all stakeholder interests are addressed.

Basin Study Framework: Through its Basin Study Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will partner with basin stakeholders and the State of Oregon to conduct comprehensive analyses and further define options for addressing imbalances in water supply and demand. Basin Studies identify basin-wide water supply issues and potential solutions using the latest science, engineering and climate models. The end product will be a federal level programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the identified, consensus-based, water supply projects that will be eligible for future federal, state and local implementation funding.

Basin Study Funding: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates that a total of up to \$1.5 million is needed for this Basin Study, and requires a 50/50 cost-share match to conduct the project. To this end, the DWA and its members are seeking the State of Oregon's assistance in securing matching funds of \$750,000. This Basin Study and the match funds will build on existing federal, state and local investment already made in the Deschutes Basin.

Leveraging Federal, State and Local Investment in the Future: The Deschutes Basin stakeholders have a proven track record of collaboration and success. The federal Basin Study framework aligns with Oregon's newly adopted Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and will include a diverse "working group" of key stakeholders convened for the study. It will establish a common understanding of water management risks, stressors, and climate change impacts related to the long-term water supply projects being proposed. Moreover, the Basin Study will leverage the State's previous investment in meeting water supply needs in the Deschutes Basin.

Sound regional water supply planning is a key to a sustainable Central Oregon economy. We appreciate your interest and support.

Please Contact:

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