

April 8, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Oregon Water Resources Department's 2015-2017  
Budget



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Dear Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Subcommittee Members:

The City of Bend supports the 2015-2017 budget for the Oregon Water Resources Department that is described in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

The City of Bend is required to provide an adequate, reliable, safe and cost effective water supply for its residents and visitors. Water management in Central Oregon is, however, a complex endeavor:

JIM CLINTON  
*Mayor*

SALLY RUSSELL  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY  
*City Councilor*

DOUG KNIGHT  
*City Councilor*

NATHAN BODDIE  
*City Councilor*

CASEY ROATS  
*City Councilor*

BARB CAMPBELL  
*City Councilor*

ERIC KING  
*City Manager*

- The surface waters in the Deschutes Basin are generally not available for new use;
- Since 2002, new groundwater use can only occur with "mitigation" approved by Oregon Water Resources Department;
- Water supply imbalances exist between agricultural use, instream resources, and the need for potable water supply; and
- Several stream reaches are in need of restoration.

In addition to its interests in its water supply, the City is also deeply invested in the sustainability of the Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek so that Central Oregon continues to be an attractive place to work, live and visit.

As a result, the City depends on the Water Resources Department being fully staffed so that the City can complete necessary water rights transactions. The City also depends on local Water Resources Department field staff to function as a resource as water-related issues arise. Finally, State of Oregon investment is critical in the planning, evaluation, and implementation of water supply development, which is important for both economic development (for the City and statewide) and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the City of Bend's support for the Oregon Water Resources Department's proposed budget for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Sincerely,

Eric King, City Manager