



## TUALATIN VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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2330 Elm Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116

Phone: (503) 357-3118

FAX: (503) 359-9510

March 6 2015

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Subject: Temporary Transfer Pilot Project

Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID) was formed by Oregon statute in 1962 for the purpose of shepherding the Tualatin Project through the Congress of the United States. The Tualatin Project, constructed by the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, provides water for the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Forest Grove. It also provides water to improve the quality of the Tualatin River and most importantly the project provides water for the irrigation of crops within the district boundaries. TVID delivered its first water in 1976 and serves 17,000 acres of prime farm ground. TVID was one of the first Districts to participate in the Pilot Project for temporary transfers. TVID is somewhat unique because we are West of the Cascades near the Portland Metropolitan area, and also one of the newest Bureau of Reclamation Projects (Tualatin Project). TVID is 100% metered and enjoys a pressurized pipeline system. TVID recognized early on the need to rotate or temporarily transfer water within the Boundary largely because some of its Customers did not sign up for full coverage of their lands. For example someone with 100 acres only signed up for 50 acres of Project Water. TVID also has considerable crop rotation that goes on each year where wheat, clover, grasses, and other cover crops allow the soils to recover, and do not require irrigation because of the high annual rainfall. So in 1988 TVID filed an Application (69623) to address this problem, this application is currently on administrative hold at the OWRD until a certificate is issued on Permit 35792. In 1991 ORS 540.572 was in place allowing temporary transfers with certain conditions, which created workloads for Staff at a time of year when TVID was busy getting the system ready to deliver water.

The Temporary Transfer Pilot Project is critical to the needs of TVID. TVID works very closely with the local Water Master and also submits a modern mapping system each year that he finds very useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pilot Project and if TVID can help improve the process or be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Joe Rutledge District Manager