



Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

26 April 2018

TO:

Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: Letter of Support Oregon Water Resources Department HB 2084

Dear Chairman Dembrow, and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP) would like to express our strong endorsement of **HB 2084** in support of Place-Based Water Planning in Oregon's Central Coast and communities across the State. At this critical juncture in our planning process, HB 2084 will provide us certainty as to a base level of resources available for the completion, implementation, and evaluation of a regional water plan that has already engaged over 300 coastal residents and earned commitments from over 75 signed Partners representing diverse stakeholder groups.

Comprehensive, publicly-vetted water planning is necessary to respond to the challenges of climate, infrastructure, conservation, and development in the Central Oregon Coast Region. The MCWPP is working to understand and balance both instream and out-of-stream water needs for communities, environments, and economies. Rooted in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, **the Place-Based Planning approach provides a space for communities to work collaboratively with agency partners to understand and articulate their water resources challenges and needs, as well as identify and implement potential solutions to those needs.** These efforts bring water issues and solutions together ahead of conflict and litigation, providing a tangible value to Oregon's communities as well as the resource.

Over the past three years, support from the Oregon Water Resources Department has enabled the MCWPP to build a diverse, community-based collaborative, establish governance structures, create a communication and outreach plan, develop water quantity and quality assessments for the planning area, and begin work on current and future water demand analyses. **Local and regional partners have committed to our process, providing over \$700,000 worth of cash and in-kind contributions.**

While significant benefits have already been realized based upon our work and the relationships built through our process, additional time and resources are needed to complete the final phases of the Place-Based Planning framework. The complex role of water in our

society and the challenges of consensus-based planning around an issue that people are so passionate about means that Place-Based Planning requires ample time and intentionality.

Our Partners remain committed to this process and building on the hard-won foundation of trust that they have established together. A show of support from the legislature would go a long way toward signaling to our Partners and potential funders that their contributions will be leveraged effectively toward a resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration,

--Alan Fujishin
Gibson Farms, Siletz
Co-Convener, MCWPP

--Timothy Gross
City of Newport
Co-Convener, MCWPP

--Adam Denlinger
Seal Rock Water District
Co-Convener, MCWPP

The MCWPP is a gathering of regional partners who work collaboratively to understand and balance the water needs of Mid-Coast communities, environments and economies.

More information about its ongoing work is online at www.midcoastwaterpartners.com.

Contact us at:

contact@midcoastwaterpartners.com

541-283-6197