

HB 2084 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends the sunset date for the place-based integrated water resources strategies grant program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 56; Nays, 3--Nearman, Post, Reschke; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Speaker Kotek.

Fiscal impact statement issued; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and elements of place-based planning program
- Four existing pilot projects
- Significant volunteer time and effort invested in pilots
- Each community has different water needs/issues to be addressed

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the legislature passed Senate Bill 266, which provided statutory authority and funding for the Oregon Water Resources Department to issue grants and provide technical assistance to facilitate place-based integrated water resources planning efforts through July 1, 2019. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to the specific water challenges and stakeholder needs and preferences of the place where the planning effort is occurring. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify gaps in knowledge; examine current and future water needs for people, the economy, and the environment; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan.

Grant recipients currently participating in the program include the Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District in the Lower John Day Sub-Basin, Union County in the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, the Harney County Watershed Council in the Malheur Lake Basin, and the City of Newport in the Mid-Coast Basin.

House Bill 2084 would extend the sunset for the place-based integrated water resources strategies program by four years, to July 1, 2023.