630 S.E. JACKSON STREET, SUITE 1, P.O. BOX 2456, ROSEBURG, OR 97470 | PHONE: 541-957-5900 | FAX: 541-957-5923 | WWW.CAROLLOLEGAL.COM

DOMINIC M. CAROLLO, MANAGING ATTORNEY

EMAIL: dcarollo@carollolegal.com

February 11, 2021

To: House Committee on Water, Chair Ken Helms, Vice-Chair Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Jeff Reardon, and Members of the Committee

Re: Testimony for February 11, 2021 Public Hearing on HB 2244 (2021)

Dear Chair Ken Helms, Vice-Chair Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Jeff Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dominic Carollo, an attorney based in Roseburg, and I am providing this written testimony on behalf of Water for Life, Inc., as its counsel. Water for Life opposes HB 2244 because it would substantially infringe on the due process rights of water right holders subject to certain regulatory orders of the Oregon Water Resources Department ("OWRD") and would do so in a manner that arbitrarily targets the Klamath Basin and, on top of that, provide arbitrary and preferential treatment to instream water rights over all other types of water rights recognized by Oregon water law.

I. Introduction

The intent of HB 2244 is to modify the procedural right to the stay of enforcement of final orders of the Water Resource Commission or Water Resource Department (collectively, "OWRD"), pursuant to ORS 536.075(5), when the order becomes the subject of a petition for judicial review in Circuit Court, or an appeal in the Oregon Court of Appeals. Eliminating this procedural safeguard would, in many contexts, violate the due process rights of water right holders and could result in the State's unlawful taking of private property rights. In addition, the purported need for HB 2244—that the stay provision is being abused by junior water right holders—is simply not true. In reality, the vast majority of lawsuits filed against OWRD under ORS 537.075(5) have been settled on terms favorable to the petitioners who filed the lawsuits or OWRD has lost the lawsuits outright. In particular, many of the lawsuits have to do with groundwater regulation and OWRD's regulatory approach has now been decisively struck down in court. In response to ten of the lawsuits challenging groundwater regulation in 2018, OWRD settled those cases and voluntarily agreed to pay the petitioners' attorney fees. OWRD then adopted new regulations, targeting six wells but, in 2020, OWRD lost a subsequent lawsuit in which Marion County Circuit Court Judge Claudia Burton ruled that those rules were illegally

adopted and, consequently, the agency illegally regulated the plaintiffs' well in violation of their due process rights.

In short, eliminating the automatic stay provision in ORS 536.075(5) is neither lawful nor necessary. The system is working appropriately and as intended by the Legislature when it enacted the automatic stay provision in 1985.

II. Background

A. ORS 536.075

In 1985, the Legislature made a deliberate choice to prescribe special requirements and procedures for judicial review of all OWRD final orders, which vary significantly from the default provisions of the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act ("APA") (applicable here, ORS 183.482 and ORS 183.484). This is particularly significant with respect to the stay provision of ORS 536.075(5). Because an "order in other than contested case" is, by definition, *issued without any prior due process*, the stay provision in ORS 536.075(5) ensures that when such final orders are subject to judicial review, they will not be enforced until after the petitioner is afforded due process in circuit court, unless the agency makes the requisite finding of "substantial public harm." In this sense, *regulating property rights* through an order in other than contested case implicates delicate due process issues. Put simply, this is a unique situation that calls for a unique legal process; and that is exactly what the Legislature wisely gave Oregonians in 1985 in ORS 536.075, which was developed with the input from the likes of former Oregon Supreme Justice "Mick" Gillette. See attached minutes from 1985 hearing.

Under ORS 183.484, there are a number of grounds upon which a final order in other than contested case can be unlawful, including: (1) when and "agency has erroneously interpreted a provision of law[;]" (2) when an agency acts "outside the range of [its] discretion[;]" (3) when the agency's order is "inconsistent with an agency rule, an officially stated agency position, or a prior agency practice, if the inconsistency is not explained by the agency[;]" or (4) when the agency's order is not based on substantial evidence. ORS 183.484(5). For OWRD final orders in other than contested case, the person subject to the order has no opportunity to challenge the order on any of those grounds before OWRD makes a final decision and the order is enforced, often depriving the person the use of their water rights. The orders are, effectively, *ex parte* orders that are the product of virtually no due process. The stay provision in ORS 536.075(5) ensures that, when a person invokes their right to due process by filing a petition for judicial review, the property right deprivation is suspended until due process can be provided by an Oregon circuit court.

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B. The Oregon APA and Due Process



The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides: "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." In evaluating due process claims, "[t]he first issue is whether the state has deprived a person of a liberty or property interest within the meaning of the Due Process Clause. If it has, the second is what process is due." *Stogsdill v. Board, of Parole*, 342 Or. 332, 336 (2007), *citing Wilkinson v. Austin*, 545 U.S. 209, 224 (2005). When a government actor deprives a person use of their water rights without due process—even for just a one-year period—it can be subject to liability for a "taking" without just compensation in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. *See Klamath Irrigation v. United States*, 129 Fed. Cl. 722, 730 (2016) (citations omitted).

The Oregon APA takes due process requirements into account in defining the circumstances in which a contested case is required (vs. when one is not required). See ORS 183.310(2)(a) (defining "contested case"). One of the leading Oregon cases on determining when the due process clause requires a contested case under ORS 183.310(2)(a)(A) is Corey v. Dep't of Land Conservation & Dev., 210 Or. App. 542, on reconsideration, 212 Or. App. 536 (2007) ("Corey v. DLCD"). In that case, the question was this: "Does anything in the United States Constitution require DLCD to provide a Measure 37 claimant with notice and a hearing before DLCD decides not to waive certain land use regulations for the benefit of the claimant?" Id. at 546. The Court of Appeals decided that the petitioners had a "protected property interest" in the waivers and were, therefore, entitled to a contested case hearing. In short, under Corey, when deprivation of a "protected property interest" is at stake, a state agency must provide due process prior to depriving the person of the property interest. Notably, Justice Gillette also discussed the due process requirements encapsulated in the APA when he testified on the current statute in 1985.

Oregon law is clear that "[t]he right to the use of water constitutes a vested property interest which cannot be divested without due process of law." Skinner v. Jordan Valley Irr. Dist., 137 Or. 480, 491, opinion modified on other grounds on denial of reh'g, 137 Or. 480 (1931) (citations omitted). Accordingly, OWRD cannot deprive a water right holder the use of their water right without providing, at a minimum, and opportunity for due process of law. The stay provision in ORS 536.075 preserves the opportunity for due process for water rights holders subject to regulation orders. It is clear this was a delicate and decisive choice the Legislature made in 1985.

C. OWRD's Use of Orders in Other Than Contested Case.

OWRD's practice is to issue final orders in other than contested case when it regulates water use among water right holders during an irrigation season. OWRD will issue a final order directing junior water rights holders to cease water use in order to fulfill senior water right holders. OWRD will normally do so, as a matter of course, without giving affected water right holders any opportunity to contest the factual findings and legal conclusions of the agency prior



to the order going into effect. Many of these orders are issued based on a straightforward application of the prior appropriation doctrine and are not controversial—no lawsuits are ever filed.

However, in some cases, OWRD is making regulation decisions based not merely on the basis of seniority and the prior appropriation doctrine but, rather, based on controversial scientific determinations, poorly-investigated facts and inconsistent application of statutes and rules. As discussed, in the groundwater context, across the state OWRD has recently tried to rely on hydraulic modeling to regulate groundwater users in favor of surface water users; these orders are issued without giving irrigators any kind of due process to challenge the scientific methodologies or providing opportunities to have neutral third-party decision-makers make findings of fact about groundwater-surface water connection and interference. In the absence of a stay in the effect of such orders, recipients of unlawful orders will have suffered an erroneous deprivation of their vested property rights without due process. ORS 536.075(5) represents the Legislature's wise solution for ensuring that water right holders subject to a final order in other than contested case are accorded due process—before any deprivation of their protected property rights—when such orders are the subject of a petition for judicial review.

D. Recent Petitions for Judicial Review Filed Against OWRD.

Contrary to certain parties' representations, the vast majority of petitions for judicial review filed against OWRD have been meritorious and resolved favorably to the petitioners. Below are examples:

- 2016/2017 TPC, LLC v. OWRD, Marion County Circuit Court, Nos. 16CV27427 and 17CV22113 the "Hyde Case".
 - OWRD shut off irrigators' (the Hyde's) water in violation of a contract signed by the agency and the Klamath Tribes. Plaintiffs won a judgment requiring OWRD to honor the contract. The judge separately awarded attorney fees and costs to plaintiffs because OWRD took frivolous positions in the case. The decision was recently reversed by the Oregon Court of Appeals on subject matter jurisdiction grounds but is subject to a pending petition for reconsideration.
 - O Even if the reversal on subject matter jurisdiction stands, the dispute between the Hydes and the Klamath Tribes will remain an active dispute, including in the Klamath Basin Adjudication. The Hyde family granted the Klamath Tribes a permanent conservation easement over their ranch that was intended to support fish and other tribal resources. *See TPC, LLC v. Oregon Water Res. Dep't*, 308 Or. App. 177, 183 (2020). In exchange, OWRD and the Klamath Tribes promised that the Hyde family's water use would not be curtailed as long as they left 50% of the streamflow in the Upper Williamson River. *Id.* The Hydes are simply



trying to get a court to enforce the bargain that they struck with OWRD and the Klamath Tribes.

- 2017 NBCC, LLC v. OWRD, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 17CV21859.
 - OWRD used inaccurate streamflow gauging data as basis for shutting off irrigators. The case settled after OWRD agreed to reconsider how it measures the Wood River in Fort Klamath, Oregon. Following the lawsuit, the irrigators have received funding for new, more accurate gauges. The petitioners have not filed a subsequent lawsuit since these important changes took place, as a direct result of the lawsuit.
- 2017 Mosby v. OWRD, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 17CV22113.
 - OWRD shut off irrigator's water in violation of futile call doctrine and OAR 690-250-0020. The case settled after OWRD changed its position on application of futile call doctrine in favor of the irrigator. The irrigator's use of the surface water source in question has not been regulated since filing the lawsuit.
- 2018 Sprague River Cattle Company v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV201167; Jacobs v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26118; Duane Martin Ranches, L.P. v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26120; Newman v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26125; Miller v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26130; Melsness v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV2615; Wilks Ranch Oregon, LTD. v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26122; Edwards v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 18CV26122; Edwards v. Byler, Marion County Circuit Court, Case No. 18CV26126 (Marion County Circuit Court).
 - OWRD decided to regulate 140 wells in the Upper Klamath Basin in favor of instream water rights based on a technical memo dated April 26, 2018, purporting to determine an impact on streamflows. The regulation orders were dated and issued a day later, on April 27, 2018, but did not even include the technical memo. I have attached a copy of one of the regulation orders as an example of how little information is provided to the water right holder.
 - Ten lawsuits were filed challenging OWRD's groundwater regulation in the Upper Klamath Basin.
 - The cases settled after OWRD agreed to propose new groundwater regulation rules that reduced the number of wells subject to regulation in the Upper Klamath Basin from more than 140 wells to 6 or 7 wells. As part of the settlement, OWRD agreed to pay the irrigator's attorney fees and court costs. I have attached a copy of one of the ten judgments that were entered.
- 2019 *Brooks v. OWRD*, Marion County Circuit Court, No. 19CV27798.



- This was the only lawsuit filed in the summer of 2019 challenging an OWRD regulatory shut-off order in the Klamath Basin, based on the agency's enforcement of the newly-adopted Division 025 rules. The petitioner was one of the 6 well owners subject to the new OWRD groundwater rules.
- O Petitioners presented two core theories in the case:
 - Division 025 rules create a de facto CGWA for all wells within 500 feet of a surface water source without adherence to the statutory procedures required for establishment of a CGWA.
 - Existing wells cannot be regulated in favor of surface water without first providing a contested case; doing so violated petitioners' due process rights.
- Marion County Circuit Court Judge Claudia Burton found in favor of the Brooks on all four counts of their petition:
 - Count 1: As-applied to the Final Order, Respondents lacked statutory authority because the Division 025 rules declare a critical groundwater area but did not follow the statutory requirements under ORS 537.730-742.
 - Count 2: As-applied to the Final Order, the Division 025 rules did not provide adequate due process to existing water right holders prior to regulating off groundwater use.
 - Count 3: The Division 025 rules and the Final Order were not authorized by ORS 537.525 because the Division 25 rules declare a critical groundwater area without following the statutory requirements under ORS 537.730-742.
 - Count 4: Respondents' issuance of the Final Order without providing Petitioners' a contested case hearing, or an adequate due process substitute, violated Petitioners' due process rights under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- OWRD did not appeal and the judgment is therefore binding on OWRD. I have attached a copy of the circuit court's judgment and its order granting summary judgment.
- O The upshot of the court's judgment is that it essentially ruled that OWRD's Division 025 groundwater regulations were illegal because they did not conform to the applicable statutory standards and procedures and because OWRD adopted them without affording affected water right holders' due process. Thus, although the regulations were set to sunset two years after their adoption in 2019, they were effectively rendered void by the court's judgment.

Many of these litigants would not have been able to afford to pursue their meritorious lawsuits against OWRD if the automatic stay provision had not taken effect. In the *Brooks* case,



had the stay provision not been in place, they would have had their water shut off through the 2019 irrigation season, lost their crops and forage for cattle, and the State would have likely been subject to paying substantial compensation for regulating their property rights without first providing them due process.

III. Discussion

In light of the *Brooks* case, SB 2244 is inappropriate because it would give OWRD even more power to regulate water right holders without giving them due process. The *Brooks* case validates the contentions of numerous irrigators that OWRD was illegally regulating wells in the Upper Klamath Basin in violation of water right holders' due process rights. OWRD has publicly acknowledged that its approach was wrong and will have to consider an alternative. Yet, passing HB 2244 would invite OWRD to take yet another run at short-cutting irrigators' due process rights. That cannot be the public message this committee wants to send.

The reality of the situation is that the current system works. Without the stay provision, OWRD would have likely owed Brooks, and the dozen or so irrigators that filed suit in 2018 on the same grounds, substantial compensation for unconstitutional takings.

Similarly, contrary to what some parties have suggested, removing the stay will leave water right holders subject to an order in other than contested case without a traditional Oregon Administrative Procedures Act remedy. ORS 183.484 governs judicial review of "orders in other than contested case" and that statute **does not provide** a right to a stay, nor a procedure or standards for obtaining a stay, unlike for "orders in contested cases" under ORS 183.482. "Contested case orders" are the result of an administrative hearing, where parties can obtain discovery, present documents and evidence, and call and cross-examine witnesses. None of that occurs for "orders in *other* than contested case," which is the kind of order OWRD uses to regulate water use. That means that passing HB 2244 would leave water right holders with just one option for intermediary relief while a lawsuit was pending, a preliminary injunction, which is a completely inadequate remedy in this context, where an agency order is being issued without any prior hearing, public comment, or any other kind of publicly-accountable process.

In fact, removing the stay provision will likely make it harder, not easier, for OWRD to regulate in a timely and effective manner because it will raise the issue of whether a contested case is required before OWRD can regulate. Further, this particular bill raises equal protection

¹ Judge: Oregon water regulations exceeded authority, Associated Press, March 18, 2020 (https://apnews.com/article/90615b6accab506b0da55627324aa611); Oregon water regulators exceeded authority, judge rules, Capital Press, March 17, 2020 (https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/oregon-water-regulators-exceeded-authority-judge-rules/article 19917ac8-68a9-11ea-adab-07f40fff6fbd.html).



concerns, on top of due process concerns, because it arbitrarily gives preference to instream water rights at the expense of the due process rights of consumptive use water right holders.

Beyond these consequences, HB 2244 is simply not necessary. Throughout the entire State, just a single shut-off order was challenged in 2019 and OWRD lost that lawsuit, confirming the complaint of numerous irrigators that OWRD was illegally regulating groundwater use. Likewise, the majority of pre-2019 lawsuits were meritorious and settled on favorable terms to the petitioners. For the small number of lawsuits filed that arguably lacked merit, ORS 536.075 vests OWRD with the necessary power to deny the automatic stay based on a finding of substantial public harm. OWRD has, and should, utilize that authority when circumstances warrant.

In short, the current system of due process and justice is working appropriately, as intended by the Legislature when enacted in 1985.

IV. Conclusion

The stay provision in ORS 536.075(5) strikes a careful and necessary balance between OWRD's practical need to be able to make timely and effective decisions affecting water right holders' water use, while also upholding the state's strict legal duty to provide due process consistent with the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution before depriving people of protected property interests. HB 2244 would either force OWRD into a process for water use regulation that expands the use of contested cases, which would be untimely and ineffective or, alternatively, expose the agency and state to costly litigation based on the deprivation water right holders' protected property rights without due process of law. Moreover, HB 2244 is not necessary. Claims of litigants abusing the current system are incorrect. Only one lawsuit was filed in 2019. The vast majority of pre-2019 lawsuits were meritorious and have been mutually resolved. Far from broken or flawed, the system is working the way it was intended.

Water for Life respectfully urges the Committee to reject HB 2244 and leave ORS 536.075 undisturbed.

Sincerely,

Dominic M. Carollo



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hearing even in circumstances where it is not needed. Referring to section 10, he said the court cannot take testimony. They handle appeals, not trial matters. He suggested deleting the last sentence of section 10.

- KIP LOMBARD, Oregon Water Resources Congress, submitted and explained proposed amendments to SB 287 (EXHIBIT B). Those amendments also suggested deleting the second sentence in section 10.
- MOTION: Rep. Harper moved that the second sentence in section 10 be deleted.
- MS. HOLMAN explained the impact of that deletion would be that the Court of Appeals would basically follow their usual procedure that is set out in the Administrative Procedures Act.

TAPE 39, SIDE B

- VOTE: Aye Sen. Ryles, Rep. Harper, Rep. Throop, Sen. Starkovich. Motion carried.
- CHAIR STARKOVICH referred to section 9. JUDGE GILLETTE reviewed subsection (1). He read the definition of "order" in the APA, ORS 183.310, referred to in section 2(5) of the bill. Subsection (1) provides that an order can be appealed to the commission and subsections (2) and (3) provide the degree of formality that the commission is to use in reviewing the director's order. There needs to be more careful delineation between kinds of orders. He also said there is a problem in subsection (2) with respect to what a "hearing" means as opposed to "contested case hearing" in subsection (3).
- In response to CHAIR STARKOVICH, MS. HOLMAN said she believes it is the intention in subsection (2) to refer to contested case hearing.
- MOTION: CHAIR STARKOVICH moved that in line 24, page 3, the language read: "after a contested case hearing".

 (NO VOTE TAKEN)
- JUDGE GILLETTE, in response to SEN. RYLES, said it has to be decided whether the director or the commission is to have the final say on any order. The language in subsection (1) needs to be changed if the director is to have to final say.
- 139 CHAIR STARKOVICH asked MR. SADLO and MS. HOLMAN to work with JUDGE GILLETTE on that issue.

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- JUDGE GILLETTE said, in reference to subsection (3), that a contested case hearing is granted only in circumstances in which a statute or due process require that a hearing to that extent be held. He suggested language to the effect that the commission shall conduct such hearing as may appear necessary and appropriate, in which case the commission, having a constitutional obligation to provide due process, can be deemed by rule which ones it will hear by a full hearing.
- MR. LOMBARD said he agreed with JUDGE GILLETTE's comments. He said in OWRC's proposed amendments (Exhibit B), they drafted a new section 8a to precede section 9. A major concern is due process and having an adequate evidentiary hearing and factfinding process. He will not be at the hearing tomorrow, but Dave Nelson will be able to answer questions.
- CHAIR STARKOVICH referred to item 1(A) on the Policy Decisions memo (Exhibit B, 2/28/85).
- MOTION: REP. HARPER moved leaving the language as is in section 3(1) and add a statement to the effect that two members of the commission shall reside east of the Cascades.
- VOTE: Aye Rep. Harper, Sen. Ryles, Rep. Throop, Sen. Starkovich. Motion carried.
- MS. HOLMAN said there are provisions in the bill now that the board makeup stays the same when it is changed to the commission. She asked if the subcommittee wants a provision to state the makeup will be changed as members are replaced. The subcommittee agreed that they did not want to bump anyone off the board. Discussion on term expirations coming up.
- SEN. RYLES suggested saying by a date certain there has to be two members. Staff will check on this question for tomorrow's meeting.
- MR. SADLO reviewed item 1(B) of the memo (Exhibit B, 2/28/85).
- MOTION: REP. THROOP moved to retain the policy decision that is written into the bill that the Governor has the authority to remove a member without cause.
- 375 MOTION WITHDRAWN. REP. THROOP said he would like to review information on how other agencies treat this issue.

April 27, 2018

RE: GROUNDWATER USE AND REGULATION - PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE NOTICE

This is a Final Order other than contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review of the order must be filed within the time specified by ORS 183.482(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080 you may either petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

Dear Groundwater User,

Water right records at the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) indicate that you are the owner, in full or in part, of the water rights and associated wells listed below. If you are not the property owner, or if you lease the land to another operator, or are using a different well than is listed below, please contact us immediately.

and the same of th	100	
Water Right(s):	Well Location:	
Water Mgill(3).	vveil Location: 1	

REQUIRED ACTION: You are regulated off of the above-listed wells for the rest of the current irrigation season or until otherwise notified by the Watermaster.

AUTHORITY: Where groundwater and surface water are hydraulically connected and pumping a well will result in the potential for substantial interference with a surface water source, the OWRD regulates junior groundwater users in favor of a senior surface water right or a senior claim as provided in the Amended and Corrected Findings of Fact and Order of Determination in the Klamath Adjudication in accordance with the criteria set forth in OAR Chapter 690, Division 09. ORS 537.525(9); ORS 539.170; OAR 690-009-0050(2). Division 09 is available at:

http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars 600/oar 690/690 009.html

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. A call was made by a senior water right holder or holder of a senior determined claim on the SPRAGUE RIVER. This call was investigated and validated by the Watermaster.
- 2. Your well is located within one mile from the PARADISE CREEK and your water right is junior in priority to the senior determined claim or water right of record.

- 3. Use of groundwater from your well(s) identified above has the potential for substantial interference with the PARADISE CREEK.
- 4. The Department has determined, using hydrogeologic principles and available well-specific data, that regulation of your well(s) identified above will provide effective and timely relief to the SPRAGUE RIVER.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The Watermaster is authorized to regulate junior rights based on a valid call by senior rights (ORS 540.045; OAR 690-009; OAR 690-250-0120.)

ORDER

Immediately shut off your well pump(s) or close the valve on the well(s) if it is flowing artesian. Service of this order is the date of mailing or the date of hand delivery. Failure to comply with this order may result in further action including assessment of civil penalties. This order is effective as of the date of service and remains effective only during the current irrigation season. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you would like more information from the Department, please contact Dani Watson, Watermaster (contact information provided below). Information in support of the findings in this order is available at http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/Groundwater-Management-and-Regulations.aspx.

Sincerely,

Dani Watson – Watermaster, District 17 Danette.M.Watson@oregon.gov

541-883-4182

DATE OF MAILING: <u>April 27, 2018</u>	_
OR	
DATE OF HAND DELIVERY:	

18CV26126

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3			
4	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT	OF THE STATE OF OREGON	
5	FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION		
6 7	LON D. BROOKS and MARY E. BROOKS, Trustees of the Brooks Revocable Trust, UTD	Case No. 18CV26126 Honorable David E. Leith	
8	May 23, 2002, TROY BROOKS and TRACEY BROOKS, husband and wife,	STIPULATED GENERAL JUDGMENT	
9	Petitioners,		
10	V.		
11	THOMAS BYLER, in his official capacity as the Oregon Water Resources Department	ORS 20.140 - State fees deferred at filing	
12	Director; DANETTE WATSON, in her official capacity as District No. 17		
13	Watermaster; and the OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,		
14	Respondents.		
15	This matter came before the Court on the following Stipulation of the parties:		
16	STIPULATION		
17	WHEREAS, the Petition for Judicial Review in the above-entitled matter challenged a		
18	final groundwater regulation order issued April 27, 2018, prohibiting Petitioners from pumping		
19	water from certain wells located in Klamath Co	ounty, Oregon within one mile of certain surface	
20	water sources; and		
21	WHEREAS, the order under review asserted as authority, inter alia, the criteria set forth in		
22	OAR Chapter 690, Division 09 for determining substantial interference with a surface water		
23	supply; and		
24	WHEREAS, the Petition challenged the statutory and regulatory limits and boundaries of		
25	Respondents' authority to regulate or control the use of existing groundwater rights located		
26			
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1	outside of a designated critical groundwater area and Petitioners alleged, inter alia, that, as-
2	applied to the order under review, the OAR Chapter 690, Division 09 rules were ultra vires; and
3	WHEREAS, Respondents denied Petitioners' allegations of error and by this settlement
4	admit no error or violation of law;
5	WHEREAS, the order under review expired by its own terms on October 31, 2017, and is
6	of no further force or effect; and
7	WHEREAS, the Oregon Water Resources Department intends to initiate an administrative
8	process for considering new, or amended, administrative rules governing the regulation of
9	groundwater rights in the Klamath Basin, with input from the public and interested stakeholders;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, Respondents have paid Petitioners an agreed upon amount in full and final
12	settlement and compromise of all claims raised herein, receipt of which is acknowledged by
13	Petitioners.
14	NOW THEREFORE, based on the parties' settlement and compromise of all claims raised
15	herein, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows:
16	1. The Petition for Judicial Review is dismissed as moot; and
17	2. This judgment shall not have any preclusive effect on any of the parties
18	whatsoever on any future litigation that is based on the alleged occurrence or recurrence of any
19	claim, fact, circumstance or legal issue raised in the Petition; and
20	
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1	3.	No costs, disbursements, attorney fees or prevailing party fees shall be awarded
2	by the court to	any party.
3		
4		
5		Signed: 1/3/2019 04:01 PI
6		be Chatern
7		Circuit Court Judge Sean E. Armstrong
8		
9	IT IS SO STI	PULATED:
10		
11	/s/ Dominic M. C	arollo, OSB #093057
12		o LLP n Street, Suite 1
13	PO Box 2456 Roseburg OR	97470
14	E: dcarollo@y Of Attorneys for	
15		
16		
17	/s/ Darsee Sta Darsee Staley,	<u>OSB # 873511</u>
18	Senior Assista 100 SW Marke	nt Attorney General
19	Portland, OR 9 E: Darsee.stale	7201 y@doj.state.or.us
20	Of Attorneys fo	r Respondents
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Department of Justice 100 SW Market Street Portland, OR 97201 (971) 673-1880 / Fax: (971) 673-5000

1 **CERTIFICATE OF READINESS** 2 This proposed **JUDGMENT** is ready for judicial signature because: 3 1. [X] Each party affected by this order or judgment has stipulated to the order or judgment, as shown by each opposing party's signature on the document being submitted. 4 5 2. Each party affected by this order or judgment has approved the order or judgment, 6 as shown by each party's signature on the document being submitted or by written confirmation 7 of approval sent to me. 8 3. I have served a copy of this order or judgment on each party entitled to service 9 and: 10 No objection has been served on me. 11 I received objections that I could not resolve with a party despite b. Γ 1 reasonable efforts to do so. I have filed a copy of the objections I received and indicated which 12 13 objections remain unresolved. After conferring about objections, [role and name of objecting party] 14 agreed to independently file any remaining objection. 15 16 4. Service is not required pursuant to subsection (3) of this rule, or by statute, rule, or otherwise. 17 18 5. This is a proposed judgment that includes an award of punitive damages and 19 notice has been served on the Director of the Crime Victims' Assistance Section as required by 20 subsection (5) of this rule. 21 22 23 24 25 26

CERTIFICATE OF READINESS DS1/maf/9347566-v1

Page 1 -

1	6.	[] Other:	·
2		DATED this 17 day of December, 201	8.
3			
4			s/ Darsee Staley DARSEE STALEY #873511
5			Senior Assistant Attorney General
6			Trial Attorney Tel (971) 673-1880
7			Trial Attorney Tel (971) 673-1880 Fax (971) 673-5000 Darsee.Staley@doj.state.or.us Attorneys for State of Oregon
8			Attorneys for State of Oregon
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Page 2 - CERTIFICATE OF READINESS DS1/maf/9347566-v1

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I certify that on December 17, 2018, I served the foregoing STIPULATED GENERAL 3 JUDGMENT upon the parties hereto by the method indicated below, and addressed to the 4 following: 5 Dominic Carollo HAND DELIVERY x MAIL DELIVERY Matthew D. Query 6 Yockim Carollo LLP OVERNIGHT MAIL PO Box 2456 ___ SERVED BY E-FILING 7 630 SE Jackson Street, Suite 1 8 Roseburg, OR 97470 Of Attorneys for Petitioners 9 10 11 s/ Darsee Staley 12 DARSEE STALEY #873511 Senior Assistant Attorney General 13 Trial Attorney Tel (971) 673-1880 14 Fax (971) 673-5000 Darsee.Staley@doj.state.or.us 15 Of Attorneys for Respondents 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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STATE OF OREGON Marion County Circuit Courts

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGONMAR 1 0 2020

FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

FILED

TROY BROOKS and TRACEY BROOKS,) husband and wife,

Case No. 19CV27798

husband and wife,

Petitioners,

ORDER GRANTING PETITIONERS'
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT

THOMAS BYLER, in his official capacity as the Oregon Water Resources Department Director; DANETTE WATSON, in her official capacity as District No. 17 Watermaster; and the OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,

v.

Respondents.

THIS MATTER came before the Court for a hearing on February 10, 2020 before the Honorable Claudia M. Burton on Petitioners' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ("Petitioners' Motion"), filed November 15, 2019, and Respondents' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment ("Respondents' Motion"), filed December 13, 2019. Dominic M. Carollo of Yockim Carollo LLP appeared for Petitioners. Darsee Staley of the Oregon Department of Justice appeared for Respondents.

The Court, having considered the parties' motions, the pleadings, the parties' declarations and supporting documents filed herein, and the arguments of counsel, and being otherwise fully informed in the premises, for the reasons stated by the Court on the record, the transcript of which findings and opinion is attached hereto as Exhibit A,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- 1. Petitioners' Motion is GRANTED;
- 2. Respondents' Motion is DENIED;

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- 3. Petitioners are entitled to judgment in their favor on each of the four counts stated in Petitioners' First Claim for Relief; and
- 4. The parties shall confer on an appropriate form of judgment in light of the Court's rulings on the parties' motions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

3/10/20 cm m

Prepared and Submitted by:

Dominic M. Carollo, OSB No. 093057

3 | Email: dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

Matthew D. Query, OSB No. 174400

4 | Email: mquery@yockimlaw.com

Yockim Carollo LLP

| 630 S.E. Jackson Street, Suite 1

P.O. Box 2456

Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Phone: (541) 957-5900

Fax: (541) 957-5923

Attorneys for Petitioners

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23

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

TROY BROOKS, TRACY BROOKS, Plaintiff,	<pre>) Marion County) Circuit Court)</pre>
VS. THOMAS BYLER, DANETTE WATSON, OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPT, Defendant.) Case No. 19CV27798))))) Volume 1 of 1) Pages 1 - 37

BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled matter came on regularly for trial before the Honorable CLAUDIA M. BURTON, Judge of the Marion County Circuit Court, Friday, February 10, 2020, at the Marion County Courthouse, Salem, Oregon.

<u>APPEARANCES</u>

For the Plaintiff:

Dominic Carollo, OSB #093057 Yockim Carollo LLP 630 SE Jackson Street, Suite 1 P.O. Box 2456 Roseburg, OR 97470 541.957.5900 dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

For the Defendant:

Darsee Staley, OSB #873511 Oregon Department of Justice 116 Court Street, NE Salem, OR 97301 971.673.1880 darsee.staley@doj.state.or.us

1 is the fact that a senior water right holder is not getting 2 satisfied doesn't mean it's my well that's causing it, 3 basically. 4 MR. CAROLLO: Correct. Yes. And that -- that's 5 what the statute reflects. 6 THE COURT: Ms. Staley? 7 MS. STALEY: I -- just one point that I -- I 8 meant to make, Your Honor, with respect to the citation to 9 the KID case as if that established if there was a taking. 1.0 The ultimate outcome of the Bailey case, which is 11 derivative of that, is that the senior rights -- because of 12 the senior rights, we're entitled to the water there was 1.3 none taken. 14 MR. CAROLLO: Very true, they were both surface 15 water rights, though. 16 THE COURT: Okay. So I told you earlier that we 17 don't do a lot of water rights cases here, so all I can do 18 is do the best I can. I did spend a lot of time reading 19 your briefs and the authorities that you cited. 20 So the first issue that the Petitioner raises, I 21 would sort of rephrase -- or the Petitioner and the 22 Respondent, is basically does 537.525 (9) -- does that 23 allow the commission authority to act on groundwater use which they think is interfering with surface water? 24 2.5 other words, is that an independent grant of authority, or

is it just a policy statement and what they can actually do about it is specified in 537.730 and 537.775.

So I'm inclined to think the latter. That just saying this agency needs to address this problem doesn't necessarily, specifically, tell the agency how they can address that problem or doesn't necessarily vest them with discretion to do anything in the world to address that problem. But in this case, I don't think the issue is that broad because what I do think is the legislature did tell them what they have to do to declare a critical groundwater area. And that is exactly what this administrative rule does.

So if you look at 537.730, they can designate an area of the state a critical groundwater area if -- as the Plaintiff points out, under 1D, they find that there's a pattern of substantial interference between wells within the area in question, and an appropriator of surface water whose water right has an earlier priority date.

So 690-025-040 specifies an area, the upper Klamath basin, they make a specific finding that groundwater wells are reducing the surface water flow. They make a specific finding that regulating these wells is going to result in relief to surface water rights. And then they state which wells they're going to regulate.

I just don't see how that isn't designating a

critical groundwater area. And so, I could potentially buy that 537.529 Subsection 9 gives them discretion to take actions maybe that aren't set out in 537.730 or 537.775. And my thought of an example would be maybe there was just one particular well that's a problem, it's not a whole area.

But I do think the legislature told them what they had to do if they were going to declare a critical groundwater area, and I do not think that you can read 537.525 (9) as saying you can do it the way we told you or you can do it some other way. When they're clearly specifying an area, making findings that the groundwater use is interfering with the surface water rights that has higher priority, making findings that regulating that groundwater use is going to provide relief to the surface water rights people.

So I'm granting the partial summary judgment motion first on the basis that what the legislature has done in the rule is declare a critical groundwater area, and they have to do that as provided in 537.730 and the subsequent statutes. Regardless of what authority 537.529 9 gives them, it doesn't give them blanket authority to declare a critical groundwater area any way they would like to.

Regarding the due process issue, and I think I'm

2.0

really just talking here about straight 14th Amendment due process. Everyone agrees that water rights are property rights. Everybody agrees that the extent, if at all, to which the junior water right holder can use theirs is dependent on whether the senior people are satisfied.

But nevertheless, I think there is still some kind of property right in that junior water right holder. And in particular, the Plaintiff's argument is the basis on which you are interfering with our rights is a finding that we are interfering with the surface water rights. And you made that finding without us having an opportunity to put on evidence and cross-examine your witnesses and talk specifically about our well.

And I agree with the Petitioners that telling them they can go to the Court of Appeals and argue that there wasn't substantial evidence in the record is not a very good due process substitute for the reasons that were articulated. They're stuck with a limited kind of record from a rulemaking proceeding that doesn't include calling witnesses and cross-examine, and they're stuck with an extremely differential standard of review, the substantial evidence standard, as opposed to having an opportunity to put on evidence and so forth.

And I would also add that even if they, I guess, enter the second claim for relief, which I'll confess to

not having looked at very much since it wasn't an issue.
But even if they get this Court to review for substantial
evidence and they would have the opportunity to make a
record and call witnesses and cross-examine, but it's still
a substantial evidence review standard. So I believe also
that the Petitioners' due process rights were violated by
regulating them off their well based on this administrative
rule.
So for that reason as well, I am granting partial
summary judgment to the Petitioner. So my question is, are
you guys off on your merry way to the Court of Appeals, or
are we doing something with any remaining claims that were
plead here?
MR. CAROLLO: We'd like an opportunity, I think,
to confer about that and get back to the Court maybe in a
status conference. But I think probably it's going to moot
the rest of the case and that we'd probably be able to
finalize this in a judgment.
THE COURT: Okay.
What time frame, when would you like to come back
for a status conference, like, 30 days or longer?
MR. CAROLLO: Could we do it the first week of
March just because I'm going to be out of town for a week
starting next Wednesday.

You cannot because I will be out of

THE COURT:

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER 2 3 I, Courtney Montgomery, court-approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a full and 4 correct transcript from the official electronic sound 5 recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter. 6 7 8 9 10 /s/ 11 Courtney Montgomery 12 Weber Reporting Corporation 13 2755 Commercial Street SE, #101-216 14 Salem, OR 97302 15 970.405.3643 16 17 Date: February 20, 2020 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (UTCR 5.100)

This propos	sed order or judgment is ready for judicial signature because:		
1	Each party affected by this order or judgment has stipulated to the order or judgment as shown by party's signature on the document being submitted.		
2	Each party affected by this order or judgment has approved the order or judgment, as shown by each party's signature on the document being submitted or by written confirmation of approval sent to me.		
3. <u>X</u>	I have served a copy of this order or judgment on each party entitled to service and:		
	a. X No objection has been served on me.		
	b I have received objections that I could not resolve with a party despite reasonable efforts to do so. I have filed a copy of the objections I received and indicated which objections remain unresolved.		
	c After conferring about objections, [role and name of objecting party] agreed to independently file any remaining objection.		
4	Service is not required pursuant to subsection (3) of this rule, or by statute, rule, or otherwise.		
5	This is a proposed judgment that includes an award of punitive damages and notice has been served on the Director of the Crime Victims' Assistance Section as required by subsection (5) of this rule.		
6	Other:		
DATED th	is 27 th day of February, 2020		

YOCKIM CAROLLO LLP

/s/ Dominic M. Carollo

Dominic M. Carollo, OSB #093057
dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

Matthew D. Query, OSB #174400
mquery@yockimlaw.com
Yockim Carollo LLP
630 S.E. Jackson Street, Suite 1
P.O. Box 2456
Roseburg, OR 97470
Telephone: (541) 957-5900
Facsimile: (541) 957-5923
Attorneys for Petitioners

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 21, 2020, I served the foregoing proposed **ORDER GRANTING PETITIONERS' MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT** on:

Darsee Staley
Oregon Department of Justice
1162 Court Street N.E.
Salem, OR 97301
Darsee.Staley@doj.state.or.us

Attorney for Respondents

by the fo	ollowing indicated method or methods:
	by the Court's Electronic Case Filing system.
X	by mailing a copy thereof in a sealed envelope, First Class postage prepaid, and deposited in the United States Postal Service at Roseburg, Oregon, on the date set forth below.
<u>X</u>	by emailing a copy thereof to the person(s) and/or attorney(s) at the email address shown above, on the date set forth below.
DATED	this 21st day of February, 2020.

YOCKIM CAROLLO LLP

/s/ Dominic M. Carollo

Dominic M. Carollo, OSB #093057
dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

Matthew D. Query, OSB #174400
mquery@yockimlaw.com
Yockim Carollo LLP
630 S.E. Jackson Street, Suite 1
P.O. Box 2456
Roseburg, OR 97470
Telephone: (541) 957-5900
Facsimile: (541) 957-5923

Attorneys for Petitioners

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

3	TROY BROOKS and TRACEY BROOKS,) Case No. 19CV27798
	husband and wife,)
4) GENERAL JUDGMENT
	Petitioners,)
5)
	v.)
6)
	THOMAS BYLER, in his official capacity)
7	as the Oregon Water Resources Department)
	Director; DANETTE WATSON , in her)
8	official capacity as District No. 17)
	Watermaster; and the OREGON WATER)
9	RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,)
)
10	Respondents.)
)
11		<u> </u>

THIS MATTER came before the Court on the *Petition for Judicial Review of Final Order In Other Than Contested Case*, *and Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunction* ("PJR"), filed by Petitioners Troy Brooks and Tracey Brooks, husband and wife, on June 24, 2019. In the PJR, Petitioners challenge the lawfulness of a final order in other than contested case ("Final Order") Respondents issued to Petitioners on June 18, 2019. The Final Order "regulated off" Petitioners' use of their well for irrigation (KLAM 2431; Certificate No. 47916) in Klamath County, Oregon, in response to a call for fulfillment of senior instream surface water rights.

The Final Order was based on rules adopted at Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 025 ("Division 025 Rules").

The Upper Klamath Basin is not within a critical groundwater area ("CGWA") designated under ORS 537.730-472. Respondents did not provide Petitioners with the opportunity for a contested case hearing prior to issuing the Final Order and regulating off Petitioners' use of their well.

Page 1 – GENERAL JUDGMENT

Petitioners filed a *Motion for Partial Summary Judgment* on November 15, 2019, seeking judgment on their First Claim for Relief asserted in the PJR. Respondents filed a *Response to Motion for Partial Summary Judgment and Cross-Motion for Partial Summary Judgment* on December 13, 2019. On January 3, 2020, Petitioners filed their *Combined Response/Reply in Support of Petitioners' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment and in Opposition to Respondents' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment*. Respondents' filed their *Reply in Support of Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment* on January 17, 2020. On February 10, 2010, the Court heard oral arguments from the parties on their respective motions. Dominic Carollo of Yockim Carollo LLP appeared and argued on behalf of Petitioners. Darsee Staley of the Oregon Department of Justice appeared and argued on behalf of Respondents. At the oral argument hearing, the Court ruled in favor of Petitioners and against Respondents.

On March 10, 2020, the Court issued an order granting Petitioners' motion and denying Respondents' motion. The order provides that Petitioners are entitled to judgment in their favor on each of the four counts stated in Petitioners' First Claim for Relief. The parties subsequently informed the Court that they consider the Court's ruling in Petitioners' favor on the First Claim for Relief effectively renders moot the remaining claims asserted in the PJR.

The Court having issued an order granting partial summary judgment to Petitioners and otherwise being fully informed in the premises;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. On Petitioners' First Claim for Relief, judgment is for Petitioners and against Respondents. Respondents lacked statutory authority to issue the Final Order. The Division 25 rules effectively designated a CGWA but without following the Legislatively-mandated process and procedures for establishing such an area under ORS 537.730-742.

- 2. On Count 1 of Petitioners' First Claim for Relief, the Court declares as follows:
 - a. As-applied to the Final Order, Respondents lacked statutory authority because the Division 025 rules declare a critical groundwater area but did not follow the statutory requirements under ORS 537.730-742.
- 3. On Count 2 of Petitioners' First Claim for Relief, the Court declares as follows:
 - As-applied to the Final Order, the Division 025 rules did not provide adequate due process to existing water right holders prior to regulating off groundwater use.
- 4. On Count 3 of Petitioners' First Claim for Relief, the Court declares as follows:
 - a. The Division 025 rules and the Final Order were not authorized by ORS 537.525 because the Division 25 rules declare a critical groundwater area without following the statutory requirements under ORS 537.730-742.
- 5. On Count 4 of Petitioners' First Claim for Relief, the Court declares as follows:
 - a. Respondents' issuance of the Final Order without providing Petitioners' a contested case hearing, or an adequate due process substitute, violated Petitioners' due process rights under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- 6. Pursuant to ORS 183.484(5)(a), the Court finds that Respondents erroneously interpreted a provision of law and that a correct interpretation requires a judicial declaration that the Final Order is unlawful and invalid. Accordingly, the Final Order is hereby SET ASIDE.
- 7. The remaining claims asserted in the PJR are dismissed as moot.

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1	8.	Matters	relating to	Petitioners'	request	for	attorney	fees	and	costs	shall	be
2		consider	ed pursuant	to ORCP 68.								
3												
4							Signed: 5/5/2020	03:46 PM				
5							m	Pou	~			
6						Cir	cuit Court Judge C	laudia M. Bu	rton			
7	Prepared an	d Submit	ted by:									
8	Dominic M. Email: dcarol	Carollo, (OSB No. 093	3057								
9	Yockim Caro	llo LLP										
10	P.O. Box 245 Roseburg, Or	66										
11	Phone: (541) Fax: (541) 95	957-5900										
12	Attorney for		3									
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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (UTCR 5.100)

This propo	sed order or judgment is ready for judicial signature because:							
1	Each party affected by this order or judgment has stipulated to the order or judgment as shown by party's signature on the document being submitted.							
2	Each party affected by this order or judgment has approved the order or judgment, as shown by each party's signature on the document being submitted or by written confirmation of approval sent to me.							
3. <u>X</u>	I have served a copy of this order or judgment on each party entitled to service and:							
	a. X No objection has been served on me.							
	b I have received objections that I could not resolve with a party despite reasonable efforts to do so. I have filed a copy of the objections I received and indicated which objections remain unresolved.							
	c After conferring about objections, [role and name of objecting party] agreed to independently file any remaining objection.							
4	Service is not required pursuant to subsection (3) of this rule, or by statute, rule, or otherwise.							
5	This is a proposed judgment that includes an award of punitive damages and notice has been served on the Director of the Crime Victims' Assistance Section as required by subsection (5) of this rule.							
6	Other:							
DATED th	is 4 th day of May, 2020.							

YOCKIM CAROLLO LLP

/s/ Dominic M. Carollo

Dominic M. Carollo, OSB #093057
dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

Matthew D. Query, OSB #174400
mquery@yockimlaw.com
Yockim Carollo LLP
630 S.E. Jackson Street, Suite 1
P.O. Box 2456
Roseburg, OR 97470
Telephone: (541) 957-5900

Facsimile: (541) 957-5923 Attorneys for Petitioners

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 4, 2020, I served the foregoing proposed **GENERAL JUDGMENT** on:

Darsee Staley
Oregon Department of Justice
1162 Court Street N.E.
Salem, OR 97301
Darsee.Staley@doj.state.or.us

Attorney for Respondents

by the fo	ollowing indicated method or methods:
X	by the Court's Electronic Case Filing system.
	by mailing a copy thereof in a sealed envelope, First Class postage prepaid, and deposited in the United States Postal Service at Roseburg, Oregon, on the date set forth below.
X	by emailing a copy thereof to the person(s) and/or attorney(s) at the email address shown above, on the date set forth below.
DATED	this 4 th day of May, 2020.

YOCKIM CAROLLO LLP

/s/ Dominic M. Carollo

Dominic M. Carollo, OSB #093057

dcarollo@yockimlaw.com

Matthew D. Query, OSB #174400

mquery@yockimlaw.com

Yockim Carollo LLP

630 S.E. Jackson Street, Suite 1

P.O. Box 2456

Roseburg, OR 97470

Telephone: (541) 957-5900

Facsimile: (541) 957-5923

Attorneys for Petitioners