

HB 3163 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Place-Based Water Planning Fund consisting of funds from the Legislative Assembly as well as public and private moneys. Continuously **appropriates fund moneys** to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for purposes related to water planning. Directs **Water Resources Director** (director) to use fund moneys to disburse grants to cover up to 75 percent of the costs of developing a place-based integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). Specifies as **eligible expenses** the assessment of critical gaps related to a place-based IWRP, filling of gaps in state and local capabilities and building associated community capacity, developing research designs related to place-based IWRP for a specific area and managing its development and certain aspects of implementation coordination, and networking between involved and interested stakeholders and facilitating their involvement. Specifies as eligible grant recipients, persons, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations and allows the **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and OWRD** to provide technical assistance to or enter into contracts with recipients. Allows for cost sharing with other programs that support water resource planning. Allows director to use fund moneys to contract for situational assessments, data development, technical assistance, and other actions in support of a place-based IWRP. Requires **director in consultation with DEQ, OHA, ODA, and ODFW** to understand agency capacity to participate in developing a place-based IWRP prior to issuing funding. Requires **Water Resources Commission** to consider state-recognized place-based IWRP s when updating the integrated state water resources strategy. Allows the **commission to adopt rules** regarding clarifying eligible expenditures, prioritization of funding issuance, requirements for engaging environmental justice communities, criteria and process for state recognition of a place-based IWRP, and the integration of place-based IWRPs s into the integrated state water resource strategy. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon legislature authorized the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning by making grants and providing technical assistance to communities to engage in place-based planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, places, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based

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integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). In 2019, House Bill 2084 extended the sunset date of place-based IWRP program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. Current grant recipients participating in the pilot program include the Harney County Watershed Council in the Malheur Lake Basin, Union County in the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District in the Lower John Day Sub-Basin, and the Seal Rock Water District in the Mid-Coast Basin.

House Bill 3163 would establish the place-based water planning fund, specify criteria under which the Water Resources Director is directed to disburse grants related to place-based water planning, and require the Water Resources Commission to adopt rules regarding state recognition of a place-based integrated water resources plan.