

REPRESENTATIVE HELM
REPRESENTATIVE OWENS

DROUGHT RELIEF AND WATER SECURITY

BIPARTISAN PACKAGE

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PRINCIPLES

**BENEFIT
FAMILIES, FARMS,
AND FISH**

**BREAK
THE CYCLE OF
EMERGENCY**

**PREPARE FOR
LONG-TERM
WATER SCARCITY**

**COORDINATE
AND INVEST
STRATEGICALLY**

**LEVERAGE
FEDERAL
FUNDING**

OUTLINE

1. Planning, Coordination, and Capacity
2. Data and Analysis
3. Water for Families: Drinking Water Security
4. Water for Farms: Agricultural Resilience and Food Security
5. Water for Fish: Instream Priorities and Watershed Health
6. Water Project Investments
7. Outreach and Engagement

Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Reviewed 51 Recommended Actions detailed in the most recent update to the IWRS.

Executive Branch Budgets and POPs

Reviewed the Governor's proposed budget and over 100 relevant policy option packages.

Secretary of State Advisory Report

Reviewed the 2023 Advisory Report on water security and its 11 Recommended Actions.

Task Force on Drought Emergency Response

Reviewed the report from the 2016 Task Force on Drought and its 13 Recommendations.

Legislative Concepts and Input from Experts

Surveyed colleagues, reviewed bill proposals, and sought input from experts on water issues.

Federal Funding Opportunities

Reviewed federal programs and opportunities to maximize state access to federal funds.

NOTABLE RESOURCES REVIEWED

PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND CAPACITY

A sustainable water future will require strategic direction and greater investment in water resource planning and coordination. Examples of key components:

Strengthening Our Strategy

Direct interagency coordination and support to better implement Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Improving Core Functions

Ensure appropriate resources for efficient agency functions, improved permitting, and other core processes.

Supporting Planning

Support place-based water resource planning and evaluate basin planning statutes to ensure effectiveness.

Coordinating with Partners

Invest in local collaboratives, build community capacity, and extend funding for the Tribal Water Task Force.

DATA AND ANALYSIS

Adequate water data is essential to informed decision-making and sustainable resource management. Examples of key components:

Understanding Resources

Perform basin assessments, study our resources, and improve tools necessary for responsible water management.

Assessing Risks

Perform hazard mapping and analyses of drought-related risks such as debris flows and wildfires.

Managing Data Effectively

Advance a functional water data portal for the state and work to improve water-related datasets across agencies.

Retaining Expertise

Maintain existing agency capacity and positions such as the State Climatologist at Oregon State University.

WATER FOR FAMILIES: DRINKING WATER SECURITY

Action is needed to support local water systems, meet water quality standards, and ensure ample clean water for communities. Examples of key components:

Protecting Water Sources

Provide resources for communities to protect, enhance, and restore sources of drinking water they rely on.

Aiding Small Water Systems

Assess vulnerabilities of small water systems, provide technical assistance, and support best practices.

Assisting Domestic Users

Help with domestic well repairs and explore a water/sewer rate assistance program for low-income individuals.

Addressing Contamination

Support emergency response efforts on groundwater contamination in Umatilla and Morrow County.

WATER FOR FARMS: AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE AND FOOD SECURITY

Agriculture is vital to all, and increasing water scarcity necessitates investment in both near-term relief and long-term resilience. Examples of key components:

Protecting Against Losses

Establish a cost-share program to help producers access federal crop/livestock insurance and pull down federal funds.

Allocating Safety Nets

Extend relief for producers, districts, and workers impacted by drought emergencies and associated conditions.

Increasing Efficiency

Provide resources and technical assistance to those seeking to increase efficiency of their agricultural water use.

Strengthening Food Systems

Develop drought-tolerant crops, strengthen local food systems, and fund resilient agricultural practices and equipment.

WATER FOR FISH: INSTREAM PRIORITIES AND WATERSHED HEALTH

Healthy watersheds and stream flows deliver myriad co-benefits, including for fish and wildlife, recreation, and our economy. Examples of key components:

Promoting Fish Passage

Replenish funds for design and implementation of high-priority fish passage projects across the state.

Restoring Landscapes

Perform targeted work such as post-fire recovery, upland and streamside replanting, and floodplain restoration.

Investing in Natural Systems

Incent natural process-based restoration projects that increase watershed holding capacity and recharge aquifers.

Retaining Core Functions

Continue existing agency programs, research, and work to build drought resilience for watersheds and wildlife.

WATER PROJECT INVESTMENTS

Efficient water storage, recharge, and reuse can play a powerful role in Oregon's ability to address water scarcity and drought. Examples of key components:

Advancing Reuse/Recycling

Develop recommendations and resources to expand water reuse and recycling programs and projects.

Modernizing Infrastructure

Invest in irrigation modernization needs to increase efficiency, improve stream flows, and leverage federal dollars.

Promoting Storage/Recharge

Allocate resources for implementation of recharge and storage projects, and identify areas to improve state policy.

Supporting Local Partners

Provide funding to community entities engaged in projects to facilitate water conservation, efficiency, and storage.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In the face of increasing water scarcity, there is a need to raise awareness and understanding of the state's water challenges. Examples of key components:

Convening Conversations

Resources for statewide conversations, such as conferences to facilitate learning and relationship-building.

Improving Emergency Alerts

Invest in emergency communications, education, and resources to support those at the forefront of disaster risks.

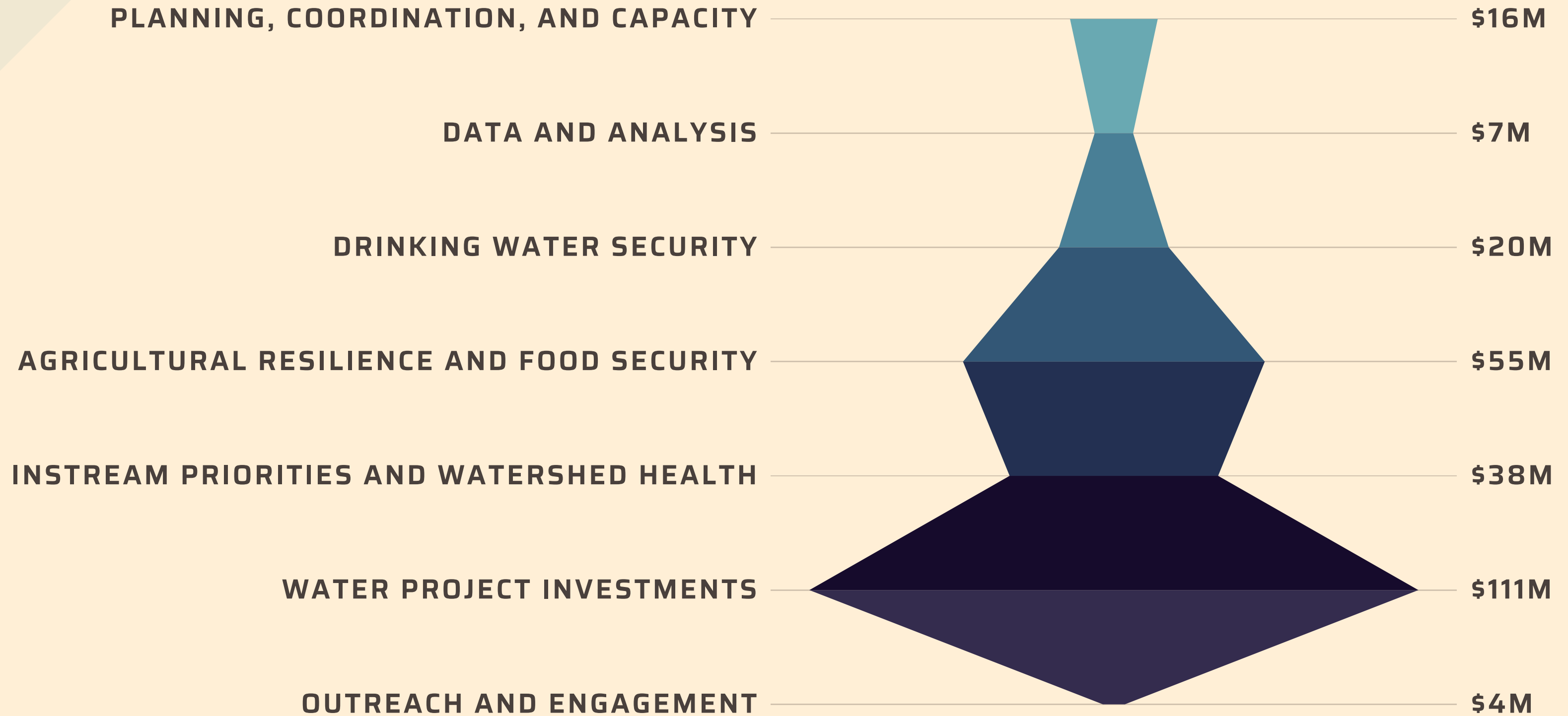
Funding Community Learning

Small grants for community-based learning and communications about water and emergency preparedness.

Engaging on Groundwater

Support for community outreach and education on groundwater resources to increase understanding and confidence.

PACKAGE OVERVIEW



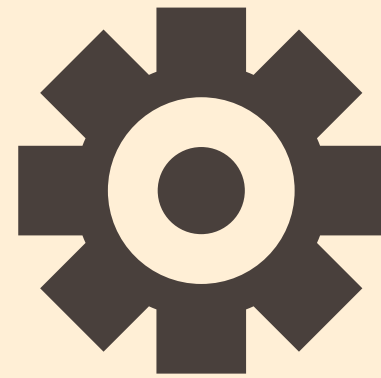
ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$250M

Appropriations and Capital Requests

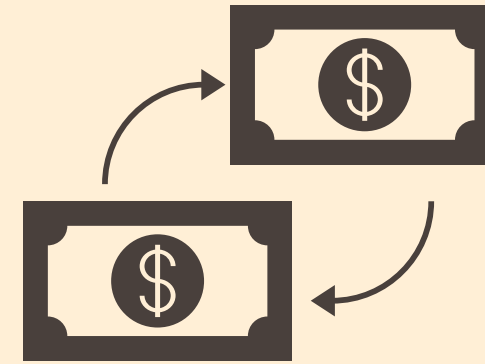
SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEDERAL FUNDING



Existing programs that require state match can cover significant needs, such as PL566 covering up to 75% of irrigation modernization costs.



Steps should also be taken to leverage newer programs, with the IJA's \$50B representing the largest investment in water infrastructure in American history.



Investments like pre-planning and technical assistance can help build a project pipeline to access funds such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

QUESTIONS