

Senate Bill 956

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL, Representative LEVY B

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Instructs Water Resources Commission to take certain actions related to Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Walla Walla River Basin.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Commission shall collaborate with the Confeder-**
5 **ated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington to implement**
6 **and guide cooperative, bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin under the**
7 **Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan, under advice from a Walla Walla River Basin advi-**
8 **sory committee consisting of representatives from a broad range of interests, including ag-**
9 **ricultural, environmental and other stakeholders and federal, tribal, state and local**
10 **governments.**

11 (2) The Legislative Assembly declares that it is the intent of this 2023 Act that:

12 (a) This state shall share in the cost of implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Stra-
13 tegic Plan.

14 (b) At least one-half of the total costs of implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050
15 Strategic Plan will be funded through federal, private and other nonstate sources, including
16 funding from private entities that benefit from projects under the Walla Walla Water 2050
17 Strategic Plan.

18 (3) The commission shall implement the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan as an
19 integrated water resources strategy that invites coordination among this state and the State
20 of Washington, affected federally recognized Indian tribes, agencies and community
21 stakeholders, including stakeholders concerned with agriculture, the environment and busi-
22 ness.

23 (4) In developing water supply solutions in the Walla Walla River Basin, the commission
24 shall use an integrated water resources management strategy that provides concurrent wa-
25 ter supply benefits to both in-stream and out-of-stream uses and addresses a variety of water
26 resource and ecosystem challenges affecting fish passage, habitat functions and agricultural,
27 municipal, industrial and domestic water supply, consistent with the Walla Walla Water 2050
28 Strategic Plan.

29 (5) In consultation with affected federally recognized Indian tribes, and in cooperation
30 with the State of Washington, the commission shall assess the development of a legal and
31 regulatory framework for allocation of developed water resources.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(6) The commission may:**

2 **(a) Issue permits related to projects under the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan,**
3 **consistent with the requirements of ORS chapters 536, 537, 538, 539, 540 and 541 and as**
4 **agreed to under the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan or under a project implementing**
5 **the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.**

6 **(b) Issue water right certificates related to projects under the Walla Walla Water 2050**
7 **Strategic Plan, as described in ORS 537.336 to 537.348.**

8 **SECTION 2.** **On or before June 30, 2025, the Water Resources Commission shall submit**
9 **a report, in the manner prescribed in ORS 192.245, to a committee or interim committee of**
10 **the Legislative Assembly related to water that contains recommendations for a legal and**
11 **regulatory framework to promote equitable allocation and management of developed water**
12 **resources and water supplies resulting from projects undertaken under the Walla Walla**
13 **Water 2050 Strategic Plan.**

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