

Regarding HB 3211, Oppose as drafted

Dear Committee members:

The bill is written generally for all municipalities, but I think was designed for the Big Creek Dam in Newport. I know how hard Representative Gomberg and Senator Anderson have worked to get funding for Big Creek Dam improvements in Newport, Oregon. I am in favor of these very necessary repairs to the dam but I am very concerned and cannot support the bill as written as it contains no provisions to ensure environmental uplift. I think this issue is important enough that this bill be tailored specifically to the Big Creek Dam situation.

Though I have tracked and been a part of the MidCoast Place Based Planning effort, I was never made aware of this bill. If I had been, I would have been able to suggest changes to have this bill also provide for and require some environmental provisions.

I believe that the bill should only proceed if the following provisions are added:

1. Bill should be limited to the Big Creek Dam, City of Newport project
2. Any water that is withdrawn from the Siletz River as a result of this change of point of diversion and place of use shall only be permitted to be diverted before June 1 and after November 15.
3. No water that results from this change in point of diversion and place of use shall be allowed to be sold or transferred to others unless specifically to replace others' dependence on the Siletz.
4. All water withdrawals and transfers must be metered.
5. Large municipal and industrial water users served by the City shall be required to reduce their water use by 30% within 10 years of the bill's enactment or a 50% water use surcharge shall be imposed by the municipality.

Though the Siletz gets way too warm for salmon and other species as has long been well documented by ODFW and through the MidCoast Placed Based Planning Work, the City of Newport draws from the Siletz and transfers it into their Big Creek reservoirs during the dry times of year.

Though environmental benefits have long been promised by the City of Newport to assure that pressure is taken off the suffering Siletz River in summer and fall so that endangered coho salmon, the rare fragile run of wild spring chinook and fall chinook and other fish and wildlife dependent on cold clean water can thrive.

For example, this statement from the City web site (red): The Big Creek Dams Project will keep Newport's water supply reliable and resilient. We can save our supply, make it earthquake resilient, and allow us to store more water for future population growth and for use during drought. Sustaining the environment is a critical component of our solution. We can accomplish our water supply goals while enhancing natural habitat

and lessening our reliance on already stressed water resources. Newport's Big Creek Dams Project is important to the region not just to those living within our community. Progress on the Big Creek Dams Project paves the way for a more secure water and economic future for everyone in the mid-coast region.

Without commitments and requirements these may just be empty words, seemingly designed to meet future population growth not only for Newport but for surrounding communities (blue)

Not only did this project get state resources, it has received massive federal dollars as well. The natural resources, including clean cold water and endangered species that are held in trust for the people of Oregon the and U.S. are not being provided any commitments through this bill. Environmental safeguards must be required as a part of this bill.

Thank you for your attention.

Fran Recht
PO Box 1344
Depoe Bay, OR 97341