



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

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www.Oregon.gov/OWRD

November 3, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through two key goals:

- Directly address Oregon's water supply needs
- Restore and protect streamflows and watersheds to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

OWRD's work is not limited to but primarily focuses on water quantity issues. With a new director and the urging of Governor Kotek, the agency has focused on improving and modernizing water policies, governing statutes, and agency practices while taking steps to increase efficiency at the agency over the last two years.

This reduction options list slows current spending on services and supplies and reduces funds used to support our water partners. The list does not contain general fund vacant positions as the Department has few vacant general fund positions and any vacant positions are needed to meet the Department's 5% vacancy savings target that was built into the current service level budget, which will already be a challenge to meet. The Department would like to preserve currently filled positions; our staff and their expertise are our most valuable assets to carry out our mission, serve Oregonians, and ultimately fulfill the legislature's direction to the agency over the past and future biennia. Attention was given to minimize impacts to our critical IT staff, as well as those associated with processing water right transactions, as we are working to modernize our application processing and reduce application backlogs.

As we have done in prior budget reduction exercise work, we have evaluated our individual programs for elimination, but all are key to agency success in meeting Oregonians' water needs, with many of our programs dependent upon other programs for support and operations. The Department anticipates that these listed reductions will affect many program areas of the agency. Impacts will slow agency operations and services – including processing of water rights transactions; reducing the operation, collection and analysis of surface water and groundwater data; reduced assistance and support for communities and individuals engaged in water projects; reduced distribution and management of water; protection against illegal uses of water; the safety inspection of low-hazard dams; and fewer resources to replace aging equipment and computers. Travel reductions mean less staff in the field to assist landowners and our water partners with field operations, regulation and enforcement, and project scoping and work. Finally, direct appropriations make up a significant portion of the Department's general fund budget and some are also included on this list of reductions options.

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
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Thank you for your consideration of this request. For additional information, please contact Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, at (503) 983-5801.

Sincerely,



Ivan Gall

Director, Oregon Water Resources Department

CC: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer

Angela Parada, Chief Financial Office

April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)															FINAL CORRECTED																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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5		690 - OWRD	010-07	Water Measurement Cost Share program	121,074				\$ 121,074			No	Yes	Reduces amount of funds available for OWRD’s Water Measurement Cost Share Program for groundwater users to help offset the cost of flowmeter installation. One time reduction would be absorbable in the current biennium as there are available ARPA funds to supplement the program until December 2026.	
6		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants Washington Department of Ecology Reduction (1)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	The Tri-Sovereigns, with significant input from the members of the Walla Walla Advisory Committee who represent all water user sectors in the basin, have developed a 30-year strategic plan to address longstanding water quantity and quality issue, and habitat issues in the basin. As part of this work, a biennial list of shovel-ready projects is identified and prioritized for implementation. Washington State has continued to provide financial support to implement these projects and we were very happy to receive the support and funds from the Oregon legislature this session. We have developed a list of shovel-ready projects that would be implemented with these funds. The loss of funding will result in fewer projects being implemented although the group has not yet met to determine if this would result in less money for all implementors or if specific projects would be cut from the list. Our collective work to implement the strategic plan will be slowed and project implementors may loose matching funds from federal dollars or other grants.	
7		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Tualatin Reduction (1)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: The awarded funds for the Seismic Valving at Six Water Reservoirs are critical to ensure that the project can move forward as scoped. A reduction in funds by \$300,000 may mean that the project scope will be adjusted down, resulting in less resiliency and a lesser quality final product.	

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8		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Central Point Reduction (1)	12,500				\$ 12,500			No	Yes	Status: OWRD waiting for project information from the City. Impact: This investment connects an essential segment of the City’s water network, enabling service for hundreds of new homes. Reducing the state’s support by \$25,000 would leave a critical gap in planned infrastructure and delay much-needed residential development. The project is a key component of the City's long-range water system plan. It is necessary to maintain service reliability, fire protection, and capacity for growth in the City’s east area.	
9		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Sublimity Reduction (1)	12,500				\$ 12,500			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by December 2026. Impact: This project is essential to support a growing population's drinking water needs and enhance fire protection capacity. While a \$25,000 reduction could be absorbed, it would limit the City's ability to fund other critical services in a small, resource-constrained community.	
									\$ -					2.5% GF	
10		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Monroe Reduction (1)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: This project is essential to ensuring safe, compliant drinking water for the community and addressing Oregon Health Authority recommendations tied to organic concentrations in our source water. A \$300,000 reduction would prevent the City from completing key treatment system components and automation upgrades, leaving the project partially constructed and the community’s water system vulnerable to ongoing reliability and compliance risks. Without full funding, the City lacks a viable alternative source to cover this shortfall, placing both public health and the State’s investment at risk.	

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11		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Dayton Reduction (1)		100,000					\$ 100,000				No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: This investment is critical to supplement the City's water source to meet existing and projected water needs. A reduction in funds may jeopardize project viability and delay critical infrastructure; with a 45–55% poverty rate and recent rate increases, the community cannot absorb additional financial burden. Without these funds, the City would have pivoted to an alternative option involving installation of a watermain to intertie with McMinnville Water and Light.		
12		690 - OWRD	010-07	Complex Facilitation Funds (Willam&Desch&Others)		275,000					\$ 275,000				No	Yes	Reduce OWRD's ability to engage in and/or support complex water issue facilitation.		
13		690 - OWRD	010-04	Gaging Stations		260,000					\$ 260,000				No	Yes	Decreases replacement rate of gaging equipment and maintenance of existing station infrastructure. Increased likelihood of loss of real time data to support water management decisions. A one time reduction in the current biennium would be absorbable as there are currently other funds available to supplement the program.		
14		690 - OWRD	010-04	Groundwater Investigations		620,000					\$ 620,000				No	Yes	No new observation well drilling, focus will be on rehabilitation and measurement tubes instead; less funding available to contract with USGS for statewide recharge project; Less funds available for data collection and equipment.		
15		690 - OWRD	010-07	Outreach Funds		40,298					\$ 40,298				No	Yes	Reduces funds for outreach activities and materials OWRD uses to share information with the public.		
16		690 - OWRD	010-04	HB 2018 ET funds		300,000					\$ 300,000				No	Yes	Will not be able to contract for Statewide ET data for 2026 onward. Will need to estimate water use in the Fifteen Mile Basin study and other projects with a less accurate method.		
17		690 - OWRD	010-07	Communication Funds		14,000					\$ 14,000				No	Yes	Reduces communication materials and software available to communicate to the public about agency activities.		

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18		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants Washington Department of Ecology Reduction (2)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	The Tri-Sovereigns, with significant input from the members of the Walla Walla Advisory Committee who represent all water user sectors in the basin, have developed a 30-year strategic plan to address longstanding water quantity and quality issue, and habitat issues in the basin. As part of this work, a biennial list of shovel-ready projects is identified and prioritized for implementation. Washington State has continued to provide financial support to implement these projects and we were very happy to receive the support and funds from the Oregon legislature this session. We have developed a list of shovel-ready projects that would be implemented with these funds. The loss of funding will result in fewer projects being implemented although the group has not yet met to determine if this would result in less money for all implementors or if specific projects would be cut from the list. Our collective work to implement the strategic plan will be slowed and project implementors may loose matching funds from federal dollars or other grants.	
19		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Tualatin Reduction (2)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: The awarded funds for the Seismic Valving at Six Water Reservoirs are critical to ensure that the project can move forward as scoped. A reduction in funds by \$300,000 may mean that the project scope will be adjusted down, resulting in less resiliency and a lesser quality final product.	

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20		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Central Point Reduction (2)	12,500				\$ 12,500			No	Yes	Status: OWRD waiting for project information from the City. Impact: This investment connects an essential segment of the City’s water network, enabling service for hundreds of new homes. Reducing the state’s support by \$25,000 would leave a critical gap in planned infrastructure and delay much-needed residential development. The project is a key component of the City's long-range water system plan. It is necessary to maintain service reliability, fire protection, and capacity for growth in the City’s east area.	
21		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Sublimity Reduction (2)	12,500				\$ 12,500			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by December 2026. Impact: This project is essential to support a growing population's drinking water needs and enhance fire protection capacity. While a \$25,000 reduction could be absorbed, it would limit the City's ability to fund other critical services in a small, resource-constrained community.	
22		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Monroe Reduction (2)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: This project is essential to ensuring safe, compliant drinking water for the community and addressing Oregon Health Authority recommendations tied to organic concentrations in our source water. A \$300,000 reduction would prevent the City from completing key treatment system components and automation upgrades, leaving the project partially constructed and the community’s water system vulnerable to ongoing reliability and compliance risks. Without full funding, the City lacks a viable alternative source to cover this shortfall, placing both public health and the State’s investment at risk.	

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23		690 - OWRD	010-07	Direct Award GF grants City of Dayton Reduction (2)	100,000				\$ 100,000			No	Yes	Status: Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. Impact: This investment is critical to supplement the City's water source to meet existing and projected water needs. A reduction in funds may jeopardize project viability and delay critical infrastructure; with a 45–55% poverty rate and recent rate increases, the community cannot absorb additional financial burden. Without these funds, the City would have pivoted to an alternative option involving installation of a watermain to intertie with McMinnville Water and Light.					
24		690 - OWRD	010-07	POP 115 Complex Facilitation Funds (2)	150,000				\$ 150,000			No	Yes	This reduction would have a significant impact on OWRD's ability to engage in and/or support complex water issue facilitation.					
25		690 - OWRD	010-04	Shift staffing costs to FEMA grant	70,000				\$ 70,000			No	Yes	Shift FEMA 2024 IJJA to support staff; FEMA may require an amendment that is not expected to be difficult. Currently staff are supported by GF. Less money for contracting to support dam owners.					
									\$ -					5% GF					
1		690 - OWRD	All	All Divisions -Reduced spending in unprotected accounts. Reductions would impact travel, training, office expenses, program related services & supplies, expendable property & equipment, vacancy savings and other miscellaneous services & supplies.			257,400		\$ 257,400			No	Yes	This reduction will result in reduced ability to drive to more remote places for compliance checks or data collection or ability for follow up compliance checks which are often needed to ensure compliance with Oregon Water Law. Will also reduce ability to drive to attend community events which are important for building relationships and providing customer service to Oregonians. Training would be limited to section budget training only which would be reduced to about \$750 (estimate) per employee over the course of the biennium. Less funding would be available to replace critical technical and scientific equipment, computers, office supplies, furniture and software. Vacant other fund positions may need to be left open for three to six months.					

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2		690 - OWRD	Various	Delay filling two vacant other fund positions until next biennium, revenue dependent.			476,186		\$ 476,186			No	Yes	Delaying filling these positions in the current biennium will would be achievable as the revenue is limited at this time. Should a new revenue source be identified, reducing one of these positions may limit the Department's ability to provide assistant watermaster duties in the North Central Region.		
3		690 - OWRD	Various	Lay off three filled Natural Resource Specialist positions effective 06/30/2026			360,000		\$ 360,000			No	Yes	A layoff of three Natural Resource Specialist positions would mean the Department may not have sufficient resources to meet the HB2145 mandate to review well logs within 120 days, process conversions from hydroelectric to instream rights mandated by law, may slow decommissioning work and FERC comments, and may delay completion of basin studies which will result in delays in addressing water needs.		
									\$ -					5% OF		
				TOTAL	5,048,363	-	1,093,586	-	\$ 6,141,949	0	0.00					

Target (5%)

Difference

5,048,363

-

1,093,586

0

-

0

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690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2025	SB 5543 (25)	One time carry forward for City of Sodaville	370,000			\$ 370,000			Originally provided to us in SB 5506 (23). Actively managing grant; anticipate completing project by June 30, 2027
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2025	SB 5543 (25)	One time carry forward for Rogue River Irrigation District	1,500,000			\$ 1,500,000			Originally provided to us in SB 5506 (23). Actively managing grant; anticipate completing project by June 30, 2027
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2025	SB 5543 (25)	One time carry forward for City of Monroe	1,500,000			\$ 1,500,000			Originally provided to us in SB 5506 (23). Reviewing information provided by the City to develop grant agreement. Anticipate completing project by June 30, 2027.
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2025	SB 5543 (25)	One time carry forward for Deschutes River Conservancy	1,235,000			\$ 1,235,000			Originally provided to us in SB 5506 (23). Actively managing grant; anticipate completing project by June 30, 2027
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Umatilla County Regional Water Infrastructure Project: Originally \$6 million in ARPA Funds for a grant to Umatilla County for the Ordnance Project. (now \$600k)			600,000	\$ 600,000			Project construction is complete; OWRD is reviewing final report and will reimburse final \$600k by the end of 2025.
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Place-based Planning: Originally \$1 million to support place-based planning efforts. (now \$350k)			350,000	\$ 350,000			Actively managing two grants with this funding; anticipate completing projects and expending all funds by December 2026.
690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Dam Safety Flood Methodology and Inundation Assessments: Originally \$4 million to contract for professional engineering services to perform flood methodology, inundation assessments, and engineering analyses for dams. (now \$1.2M)			1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000			Funding has been obligated (i.e. contracts entered into) to spend all of this money; the federal requirements are that all the funds had to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Some contracts were delivered under budget and it was too late to re-obligate those funds. As a result, we anticipate that approximately \$60,000 - \$100,000 will be unspent.
690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Purchase and Deployment of Surface and Groundwater Data Collection Equipment: Originally \$3 million for surface water and ground water data collection equipment. (now \$250k)			250,000	\$ 250,000			Would use this to cover the one-time GF reduction for agrimet funding for BOR.
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Water Measurement Cost Share Revolving Fund: Originally \$1 million for the Cost-Share Measurement Program to assist water users with the installation of measuring devices. (now \$360k)			360,000	\$ 360,000			Department will be seeking to use most of the funds to support measuring devices in areas the Department is doing scientific investigations, as well as in the Harney basin where measuring devices are anticipated to soon be required as part of a Serious Water Management Problem Area rulemaking.
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5006 (25)	Carry forward of ARPA funding, originally provided in the 2021-23 biennium with HB 5006. • Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund: Originally \$2 million for deposit into the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement fund to help abandon wells and to repair or replace water wells used for household purposes. The original \$2 million has been spent in full. • Funds awarded for ARPA Fish Passage were unable to be spent in full and remaining funds were repurposed for use in the WWARRF program and this represents that carry forward portion. (\$182k)			182,028	\$ 182,028			WWARRF: We are opening a solicitation for grant applications and expect to fully use all available WWARRF funds. This program has been critical to helping low-to-moderate income households repair, replace and abandon wells that have been affected by drought or wildfire.

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690/OWRD	010-06	2025-27 Established	7/1/2026	HB 3544 (25)	Water Transactions Improvements: Position was obtained as a result of cumulative impacts of legislation during the session in the Water Rights Division. This position will support TACS with complex transfer questions; support resolution of contested cases (protested transfer files and other file types); support the broader division with special projects, such as: resolving complicated water right transactions; the division's modernization and efficiency improvements including implementation of legislation and rules; other streamlining efforts.	226,420			\$ 226,420	1	0.75	PPDB number 2581201, includes S&S. Because this is only 0.75 FTE for the biennium, OWRD plans to fill this position in or after January 2026.
690/OWRD	010-03	2025-27 Established	7/1/2026	HB 3806 (25)	Deschutes basin water banking - Provides authority for the Water Resources Commission to approve a pilot program in the Deschutes River for surface water banking. The bank must also be approved by the Warm Springs Tribe. OWRD will be responsible for distributing and legally protecting portions of water loaned through the bank. The bill also establishes new type of lease/transfer/forbearance agreement, including split rate and duty water use, provided the duty applied does not exceed 4.2-acre feet per acre. The bill allows entities in the Deschutes Basin to fund a position at the Department to support this work. Pilot program sunsets January 2, 2034.			216,394	\$ 216,394	1	0.75	PPDB number 2581202, includes S&S; The Deschutes River Conservancy submitted a charter for approval by the Commission in hopes of receiving approval in December 2025 and launching the bank in 2026. The agency has agreed to support a small scale implementation of the water bank in 2026 without additional staffing. External entities are fund raising and the agency is pursuing contracts to secure funds for the position for future year bank operations.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Expansion	7/1/2025	SB 5531 / HB 5006 (25)	Water Project Grants (ORS 541.651-696) - The Subcommittee approved an increase of \$8 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation for making grants and loans from lottery bond proceeds deposited into the Water Supply Development Account established under ORS 541.656. Water Supply Development grants and loans are made to evaluate, plan, and develop in-stream and out-of-stream water development projects that repair or replace infrastructure to increase the efficiency of water use; provide new or expanded water storage; improve or alter operations of existing water storage facilities in connection with newly developed water; create new, expanded, improved, or altered water distribution, conveyance, or delivery systems in connection with newly developed water; allocate federally stored water; promote water reuse or conservation; provide streamflow protection or restoration; provide for water management or measurement in connection with newly developed water; and, determine seasonally varying flows in connection with newly developed water.		341,064	8,172,999	\$ 8,514,063			Water Project Grants and Loans: As of October 2025, OWRD has \$607,000 available for immediate award and an additional \$4 million potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2026 lottery revenue bond sale. OWRD is currently hosting a public comment period on the Technical Review Team's funding recommendations. OWRD anticipates the Commission will award the immediately available funds and provisionally award a portion of the potentially available funds (contingent on the bond sale) in December 2026. OWRD will announce the next WPGL funding cycle in October 2025 with applications due in January 2026.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Expansion	7/1/2025	SB 5531 / HB 5006 (25)	LRB Direct Award - The Subcommittee approved an increase of \$6.5 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation, supported by lottery bond proceeds, for construction of the Henrici Reservoir #2, intended to address a critical water storage deficiency for Oregon City. The property for the reservoir was recently purchased by the city, and the project includes design and construction of a reservoir capable of storing 2.5 million gallons of water for the community			6,500,000	\$ 6,500,000			Lottery Revenue Bonds scheduled to be sold in March 2027. OWRD has not reached out to City yet to develop grant agreement.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Expansion	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF investment into Feasibility Study Grant program (ORS 541.561-581). The program was established to provide grants to to help individuals and communities evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects.	1,000,000			\$ 1,000,000			OWRD received \$1,512,009 in the 2025 session for FSG. This includes \$1M in General Fund (GF) from HB 5006 and \$512,009 in GF from our base budget. In September 2025, the Commission awarded \$1,039,504, leaving a balance of \$472,505 in GF which must be spent by June 30, 2027. OWRD is proposing a one-time reduction of of this amount (\$472,505).

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690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Expansion	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF deposit into the Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund established by ORS 537.766 (HB2145 2021) and a corresponding increase of \$1 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation to expend monies deposited into the fund for use in the program. The WARRF program was established to provide financial assistance to low to moderate income households for well abandonment, repair, or replacement, particularly in areas impacted by drought or wildfire.	1,000,000		1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000			WWARRF: We are opening a solicitation for grant applications and expect to fully use the available \$1 million in WARRF funds that will be deposited into the account. Historically we have spent all funds provided to the WWARRF program relatively quickly and have been unable to provide funds to everyone interested in the program.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	WA Department of Ecology Walla Walla Basin Projects - One-time appropriation of \$2.5 million General Fund to the Department to enter into an agreement with the Office of Columbia River within the State of Washington Department of Ecology to fund six projects in the Walla Walla River Basin. The projects and amount of funding include: - \$1.5 million for strategic piping to modernize irrigation infrastructure and benefit stream flows - \$75,000 to increase filtration of storm water to improve surface water quality - \$500,000 to reconnect floodplain to reduce flood risk and restore habitat - \$150,000 for water rights transactions to restore stream flows - \$50,000 to improve passage and habitat in Mill Creek - \$220,000 to minimize water quality impacts to the South Fork Walla Walla River through alternative access	2,500,000			\$ 2,500,000			OWRD has developed a draft grant agreement but has not yet shared with Ecology to enter into an agreement. OWRD and Ecology have a list of projects that are shovel ready and will enter into grant agreements with them once the OWRD/Ecology agreement is in place.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF Direct Award for City of Dayton Fisher Farm Wells Improvement	1,200,000			\$ 1,200,000			Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. \$200,000 of this award is on the 5% GF reductions option list (in two equal parts).
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF Direct Award for City of Tualatin Seismic Valving at Six Water Reservoirs	1,800,000			\$ 1,800,000			Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by June 2027. \$300,000 of this award is on the 5% GF reductions option list (in two equal parts).
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF Direct Award for City of Sublimity, Sublimity's Well #5 Improvement Project	280,000			\$ 280,000			Grant agreement in development; anticipate project completion by December 2026. \$25,000 of this award is on the 5% GF reduction options list (in two equal parts).
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One time GF Direct Award for City of Maupin, Water Lines - Distribution System Improvements	1,500,000			\$ 1,500,000			Grant agreement is at DOJ for legal sufficiency review. Funds will be used to reimburse emergency repair completed on upper reservoir in summer/fall 2025.
690/OWRD	010-07	2025-27 Established	7/1/2025	HB 5006 (25)	One Time GF Direct Award for City of Central Point - Gebhard Road Waterline Extension	258,100			\$ 258,100			OWRD waiting for project information from the City. \$25,000 of this award is on the 5% GF reduction options list (in two equal parts).
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Expansion	7/1/2023	HB 5043 (23)	Facilitate Interagency Work & Implement IWRS – Made a limited duration Program Analyst (PA) 4 IWRS Specialist a permanent position to implement the IWRS, develop updates, and coordinate among state, federal, and local agencies, and educational and non-governmental organizations. (2301001) Original LD - HB 5006 (2021) 2022 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update: \$450,000 GF, including 1 limited duration position and one time contract services funds to provide facilitation, document development, and staffing support for the 2022 update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. HB 5043 in 2023 gave us the perm position. Value in column G is the 2025-27 value which does not include S&S.	369,223			\$ 369,223	1	1.00	The Water Resources Commission adopted the IWRS this year. Key agencies developed a prioritization of recommended actions and work. Staff is now working on facilitating a joint agency implementation workplan.
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Expansion	7/1/2023	HB 5043 (23)	(Original POP 106 in 2023-25) Water Planning Funding and Support – \$433k GF; 1.75 FTE / 2 positions – Provides a Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) 4 Water Supply Solutions Coordinator and a 0.75 FTE NRS 2 Grant coordinator to support place-based integrated water resources planning.	265,775			\$ 265,775	1	1.00	(2306001-2) Both of these positions are implicated in the permaenat finance package for processing in the Feb session technical adjustment for the agency. The NRS4 went through the CHRO classification process as an OPA2. The NRS2 is not included in the figure as that position has been repurposed to ASD and considered support for central agency operations. Does not include S&S.

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690/OWRD	010-05 & 010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5043 (23)	(Original POP 111 in 2023-25) Water Availability Data Update – \$2.2 million GF; 6.87 FTE / 9 positions – Provides a dedicated team that will coordinate research, outreach, project management, and technical activities to refine estimates of water availability, incorporate new data and analytical approaches into the modeling effort, and develop computer programs critical for updating the model using these new approaches. Positions include: 0.79 FTE Hydrographer, 0.73 FTE Research Hydrologist position, 0.88 FTE Data Scientist, 0.88 FTE Software Engineer, 0.88 FTE Assistant Surface Water Manager, two 0.79 FTE Assistant Watermasters, 0.88 FTE Program Analyst, and 0.25 FTE Administrative Specialist to support the human resources and payroll sections. Includes \$225k for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Agrimet contract costs, \$200k for stream gage maintenance, \$10k one-time funding for Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) data, and \$18k one-time funding for Google data.	2,318,515			\$ 2,318,515	7	7.00	(2311001-9) Four of these positions are implicated in the permanent finance package for processing in the Feb session technical adjustment for the agency. The NRS2 Assistant Watermasters were repurposed to NRS 3 Field Hydrographers to meet the project needs and went through the CHRO reclassification process and came back as NRS3's and the PA4 came back and an OPA3. \$200k of the BOR Agriment funds and \$200k of gaging funds are on the 5% reductions list as one time reductions. The ISS7 is not included in this number as it would be considered an investment to support central agency operations. This does not include position related S&S. The budget summary that accompanied the LFO recommendation expected that the new Surface Water Information Modeling System is expected to be completed in six years. All the staff for the project have been hired, the department and has convened a technical advisory group of outside experts to provide feedback. The department has aquired data servers to store data, and has identified data analyses and modeling processes. The department has evaluated the need for new stream gages and continues to install new gages, is publishing gage data and is analyzing policy drivers. The department has created a web page for the project with critical information and quarterly updates. The department is on track to deliver this system in the six years expected by the LFO budget summary recommendation.
690/OWRD	010-07 & 010-03	2023-25 Expansion	7/1/2023	HB 5043 (23)	(Original POP 114 in 2021-23) Watermaster Staff and Complex Issues – \$456k GF; 1.76 FTE / 2 positions – Adds a 0.88 FTE Klamath Basin Region Manager to split management workloads in the Field Services Division. Adds a 0.88 FTE NRS 5 Basin Coordinator to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in the South Central and Eastern Region.	788,636			\$ 788,636	2	2.00	(2314002 & 2315002) This does not include position related S&S for the Basin Coordinator. No S&S was given to the agency for the Region Manager. The agency formed a new region (splitting the former South Central Region into the Central and South Cental Regions). The agency hired the new Region South Central Manager (position 2314002), who supervises 7 FTE based in Klamath Falls. This position's workload also includes interagency coordination in the contentious Klamath Basin. The Central Region manager supervises 8 FTE in Bend. The basin coordinator, after several failed recruitments, has been filled; the position will start in January which will help meet vacancy savings targets built into budget.
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Established	7/1/2023	HB 5043 (23)	(Original Package 801/POP 115) Supporting Resolution of Complex Issues – \$1.5 million GF; 1.00 FTE / 1 Position – Includes \$1.2 million in facilitation costs for work related to the Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) water rights settlement and other complex issues. Adds NRS 5 Coordinator that will lead the CTUIR settlement work for the Department.	1,281,600			\$ 1,281,600			This Basin Coordinator position was reduced by the legislature in 2025. \$980k of the facilitation funds are included as two different one time reductions on the 5% reductions options list. A portion of the funds have been proposed to be retained in order to allow the agency to complete its contracted work for the CTUIR settlement work. OWRD entered into a contract with a facilitator to engage in water right settlement negotiations and preparation for outreach required under ORS 539 for CTUIR settlement. The contract is still in place which can be covered with funds that would remain.
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Expansion	2023-25	HB 2010	Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning – \$2 million carried forward other fund – The Place Based Integrated Water Resource Planning Fund was established in the 23-25 biennium for pre-planning work, community capacity building, place-based planning, and implementation coordination of place-based plans.			2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000			OWRD has revised the Place-Based Planning program and guidance ("handbook") based on evaluation of the pilot program, and plans to open a solicitation for Place-Based Planning grants at the end of CY2025 or beginning of CY2026. OWRD anticipates fully using these funds.
690/OWRD	010-07	2023-25 Expansion	2023-25	HB 2010	Department Grant and Fiscal Capacity – \$930k; 4.25 FTE / 5 positions – Makes the limited duration PA 4 Well Fund Coordinator permanent, adds a 0.75 FTE NRS 2 Grant Coordinator, a 0.5 FTE Administrative Specialist 2 to support grant programs, an Accountant, and an Accounting Technician to process and finalize grant agreements and distribute and track funds.	510,514			\$ 510,514	2	2.00	(2300000-4) The 0.50 AS2 (2300002) was reduced in the LAB although part of the permanent finance package scheduled for Feb session technical adjustment. The PA4 and NRS2 positions went through the CHRO classification process and are PA3's and are scheduled as part of the permanent finance package technical adjustment in the February session. Position related S&S is not included in this figure. The Accountant and Accounting Technician are not included in this amount as they are considered support for central agency operations.

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690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Expansion	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 101 2021-23) Protecting Public Safety and Water Supplies – \$1.9m GF; 3.52 FTE / 4 positions – Provides 2 engineers to assess dams for seismic, flood and other safety risks; \$400k for an Oregon flood methodology for dams, and \$600k for engineering analyses on dams. Includes 1 position for coordination, planning and outreach on earthquakes, drought, floods, climate change, and dam failures, and work on Natural Hazards Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, the Governor’s Climate Executive Order, the Continuity of Operations Plan, and planning for and responding to potential dam failures. Includes a position for a safety and training program to support statewide initiatives and to comply with ORS 654.010, the Governor’s EO on Employee Wellness, and Oregon OSHA regulations	769,426			\$ 769,426	2	2.00	(9921001-4) This figure does not includes the value of the position for a safety and training program (9921004) to support statewide initiatives and to comply with ORS 654.010, the Governor’s EO on Employee Wellness, and Oregon OSHA regulations, as that positon is considered central agency operations and is not part of the Dam Safety program (position number was not established, used to fund establishment of HR Manager (9921076) and duties assigned to HR). Also does not include the positon (9921003) for coordination, planning and outreach on earthquakes, drought, floods, climate change, and dam failures, and work on Natural Hazards Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, the Governor’s Climate Executive Order, the Continuity of Operations Plan, and planning for and responding to potential dam failures as that position is also considered part of central agency operations and not part of Dam Safety program. The \$600k for engineering analyses on dams and the \$400k for flood methodology were one time investments.	
690/OWRD	010-03	2021-23 Expansion	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 109 2021-23) Timely Water Management and Distribution – \$1.37m GF, \$3,118 OF, 5.28 FTE / 6 positions – Adds five new assistant watermasters to support water regulation and distribution, complaint response, and surface water and groundwater data collection. Reclassifies eight watermasters from NRS-3 to NRS-4 to align with job responsibility and basin complexity. Adds Deputy Division Administrator to help provide critical services to the public.	4,100,373			\$ 4,100,373	13	13.00	Wound up reclassifying only 7 Watermasters after classification reviews. Added 3 NRS2’s and 2 NRS3’s and Deputy Administrator. Figure does not include position related S&S. Reclassified seven Watermasters from NRS 3 to NRS 4 after classification reviews. Two new NRS 3 Watermaster positions filled; dividing existing districs into two upon workload evaluation (Crooked and Walla Walla basins). Filled three new NRS 2 Assistant Watermaster positions, one in the Northwest Region, one in the Southwest Region, and one in the East Region. The East Region position backfilled a former county position we lost when Union County pulled funding. The reclassifications and new positions have allowed for increased groundwater and surface water data collection, improved water management including increased compliance work and improved service through water right research. The Deputy Administrator position (NRPSM 2) was filled has allowed for increased consistency in protocols and operations as well as for the agency to work on the backlog of rule, policy and procedure updates and outstanding safety issues.	
690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Expansion	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 110 2021-23) Foundational Data for Groundwater Studies – \$2.00m GF, 6.16 FTE / 7 positions – Provides seven positions to expand the agency’s capacity for groundwater basin studies, produce a groundwater budget for each basin in Oregon, and expand baseline water level and water use data collection. Includes \$600,000 for professional contracts. See HB 2018	1,623,512			\$ 1,623,512	5	5.00	Added HR administrative and procurement central agency operations capacity due to resource constraints with additional investments when provided duplicative resources in HB 2018 and POP 110. Those resources are not considered in these numbers. Added Groundwater Assistant Manager, 2 NRS3’s in GWH, and NRS4 and NRS2 in GW. S&S not included in these figures. The \$600k in professional contracts were one time funding. The department partnered with Bureau of Reclamation and OSU to install and operate 30 new weather stations. The department entered into a cooperative agreement with the USGS to develop water budgets for each administrative basin in Oregon. Phase 1 of the agreement extends through 9/30/26. This agreement will result in a story map about what a groundwater budget is, data release of baseflow estimates at stream gages statewide and an uncalibrated Oregon Hydrologic model. Phase 2 will include a calibrated Oregon Hydrologic Model and delivery of water budgets by the end of calendar year 2028. The Department entered into an agreement with the Desert Research Institute to produce a peer reviewed report on statewide consumptive water use that summarizes historical irrigation consumptive water use for all irrigated fields and estimates open water evaporation from all major reservoirs in Oregon annually for years 1984 - 2020. This data was delivered Jan 2025. The Department is using this data in the cooperative agreement with USGS to develop water budgets, the Harney and Walla Walla basin studies, and place based planning.	
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 111 2021-23) Complex Water Issues: Deschutes and Other Basins – \$422k GF – 0.88 FTE / 1 position – Contract funding and one position to support to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in priority water basins, including the Deschutes and Willamette River basins.	617,730			\$ 617,730	1	1.00	NRS5 position (9921027) plus \$232k in facilitation funding. Position related S&S not included in this figure. Position is filled. \$183k of this facilitation funding is on the reductions options list.	

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Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
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690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Established	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 112 2021-23) Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs – \$706k GF – 0.88 FTE / 1 position – \$500,000 in funding for cost share for the enrollment of lands and one position to support implementation of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to incentivize voluntary non-use of groundwater.	789,242			\$ 789,242	1	1.00	NRS3 position 9921028 plus \$534k in state cost share CREP funds. Position related S&S is not included in this figure. OWRD is committed to paying for 540.7 acres of water rights retirement for a total lump-sum payment of ~\$446,000. This is not including the in-kind cost share for capping wells, that could be up to \$7,500. The funds left over for CREP after these 3 applicants would be \$81,000-\$88,000. Next enrollment period begins in January 2026 to use the remaining ~\$80,000.
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	2021-23	SB 5545	(Original Package 113 2021-23) Willamette Basin Reallocation Pre-implementation – \$321k GF – 0.88 FTE / 1 position – Establishes Willamette Basin Coordinator position and funding support to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in priority water basins in conjunction with package 111.	470,580			\$ 470,580	1	1.00	NRS5 position (9921029) plus \$116k in facilitation funding. Position related S&S not included in this figure. Position is filled. \$92k of this facilitation funding is on the reductions options list.
690/OWRD	010-05 & 010-07	2021-23 Expansion	2021-23	HB 2018	Groundwater Data – \$2.387m GF – 5.75 FTE / 9 positions– Provides funding to develop and publish groundwater budgets for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon, a report on statewide consumptive water use and evaporation from all major reservoirs; to expand the ground water level monitoring network; and to help the public utilize the data. Includes 1 NRS 4 to assist with development of groundwater budgets; 1 NRS 4 to assess open water evaporation and historical irrigation water use; 3 NRS 4s to engage with communities on data collection and use; 3 NRS 3s to expand the groundwater monitoring network; and, one Principal Executive Manager D to oversee studies and contracts. Effective January 1, 2022. See POP 110	3,027,638		14,341	\$ 3,041,979	8	8.00	Three NRS4 Planning Coordinators, 2 NRS4 Hydrogeologists, 1 NRS4 Hydrologist, 2 NRS3 Hydrogeologists. One position repurposed for use in grants team and is not included in the numbers here. The OF represents the portion of work of a position does related to Scenic Waterways. There is about \$370k remaining of the USGS cost share funds (plus inflation) and about \$80k in outreach funding (less reductions, plus inflation). The outreach funding also appears as a one time item in the amount of \$40k on is on the reductions options list. The USGS matching funds are part of the agency's GW investigations budget; \$620k is on the agency's reduction list. In addition to contracting with the USGS for the statewide re-charge study, OWRD has contracted for the Harney Basin study and groundwater model development and the Walla Walla basin study. The agency has drilled eight new observation wells and retrofitted/repaired an additonal 11 existing wells. As a result there are 19 new wells delivering high quality quarterly measurements. The three NRS4 positions serve as Community Engagement Coordinators; these positions engage with communities on water data collection and use and are actively involved in helping communities across Oregon engage in water issues currently focusing on north-central, eastern and southwest regions.

Water Resources Department (OWRD)															
2025-27 Biennium															
FINAL															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	16			
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status			
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
690/OWRD	010-05	2021-23 Expansion	2021-23	HB 2145	Well Construction Modernization – Modernizes and increases efficiency within the well construction program to prevent well deficiencies that can lead to contamination or waste of groundwater and to better protect groundwater resources for Oregonians. Reduces deficiencies proactively by ensuring well drillers have the necessary skills to properly construct wells, extending the continuing education program to 2030 and requiring welding training for licensure or if a welding deficiency is found. Maximizes the effectiveness of current staff at the Department to better protect the groundwater resources for current and future uses, while ensuring a level playing field among the well drilling community through: establishing timeframes for submittal of start cards and requiring certain notifications of work being undertaken; updating requirements for information on start cards and well logs and starting in July 1, 2024, requiring electronic submittal; increasing the start card fee by \$125 effective January 1, 2022; requiring the Department to conduct a technical review of well logs within 120 days starting in July 1, 2022; requiring well drillers to submit the exempt use fee and map along with the well log to shift staff to technical well log reviews starting January 1, 2022; and allowing the Department to apply for an injunction for violation of well construction laws. The bill also establishes a funding program, including \$100,000 GF [SB 5006 includes additional \$2 million for Fund and expenditure limitation], to help domestic well owners whose wells have deficiencies, have been impacted by groundwater level declines or natural disasters such as wildfires, or who are lower or moderate income and need assistance in repairing, replacing, or abandoning their wells effective January 1, 2022. Includes 3 positions to meet the provisions of the bill. Most provisions effective July 1, 2023, except where stated in the bill. Requires agency to report to the legislature on well log reviews and inspections by January 31, 2023 and 2025.	876,608			\$876,608	3	3.00	Three positions (9921010-012). Position related S&S not included in this number. Two NRS 2 Well Inspectors were hired (one on east side and one on west side). One NRS 4 was hired as compliance coordinator (the NRS3 classified as NRS4). These staff help the agency review 100% of well logs and inspect a minimum 30% of wells drilled. The department completed rulemaking and major IT upgrades to implement the bill and support electronic filing of well construction start cards. The department also completed two legislative reports documenting implementation progress. Initial \$2.1M General Fund invested in Water Well Abandonment Repair and Replacement fund were expended via grants to low to moderate income homeowners to address dry wells to support household water needs in areas impacted by drought and wildfire. This has been spent in full.			
690/OWRD	010-07	2021-23 Established	2021-23	HB 3092	Domestic Well Remediation in Harney Basin – \$500k GF – Directs WRD to establish program for replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic wells affected by overallocation of ground water within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GWAC). Funds issued from the grant may provide up to 75 percent of total cost of replacing, repairing, or deepening well, not to exceed \$10,000. Grants awards should prioritize payments for wells owned by or serving persons of lower or moderate income and for wells based on severity of changes and declines in groundwater. Provides a \$500,000 GF to deposit in the Domestic Well Remediation Fund to assist domestic well owners. [Expenditure limitation approved in SB 5006.] Effective 91st day sine die.			510,627	\$510,627			This account accrued interest. This account also had grantee payments of \$59,650. OWRD is opening another funding cycle in fall 2025.			

<div>Water Resources Department (OWRD)</div> <div>2025-27 Biennium</div> <div>FINAL</div>												
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
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690/OWRD	010-03	2021-23 Expansion	Dec-21	SB 5561	In response to actual and perceived unauthorized water use tied to cannabis grows, the Joint Committee approved \$5 million General Fund to pay for 29 permanent, full-time positions (18.13 FTE) to expand the agency's capacity related to water rights enforcement activities. Fourteen of the positions will be used as Assistant Watermasters, with at least six of those stationed in the southwest region of Oregon where cannabis issues are most prevalent. Two administrative specialist positions will be used to provide field support. A dedicated enforcement section will be established that includes a section manager, four enforcement and compliance staff, along with an enforcement and compliance order specialist. The enforcement section will be in Salem and provide support for field staff as well as coordination with local code enforcement programs, other state agencies, and state and county law enforcement. Policy and communication programs will be enhanced with the addition of a policy analyst to work on enforcement policy and potential legislation related to cannabis issues and the addition of a public affairs specialist to enhance public outreach. A software engineer position and an information technology system support analyst position, along with \$827,000 for contracted information technology services, will be used to expand and develop technology solutions to aid operational and enforcement activities. Other supporting positions include a hydrologist to develop methodologies for and train enforcement staff in performing reconnaissance for illegal cannabis operations using remotely sensed data; a hydrographer position to address workload issues; and an administrative specialist to help alleviate workload in the agency administration program.	4,644,761			\$ 4,644,761	18	18.00	<p>Positions originally established were 9921043-071. Positions 9921057 (AS2 in FSD) and 9921068 (NRS3 in SWH - ET) were reduced by legislature. Positions 9921046 and 52 were repurposed for Water Rights backlog work. Positions 9921060, 63, 65, 66, 67, 70, & 71 are critical core services for agency operations and performing support functions (IT, Business Services, DO or part of PFP). Position related S&S is not included in the number. Positions 9921059, 60 & 62 are scheduled as part of the permanent finance package technical adjustment in the February session. The ESRI IT Contract funds (\$340k) and the server (\$12k) were phased out in 2023-25 budget development. The Open ET Platform Support (\$475k) was reduced when position 9921068 was reduced.</p> <p>11 NRS 2 Assistant Watermaster positions filled in various locations across the state (Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, Clackamas, Salem, Pendleton, Klamath Falls, and Vale). These are positions 9921043, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 58. One NRS 2 Assistant Watermaster position was filled in Grants Pass but is now held vacant to achieve LAB 5% vacancy savings target (position 9921047). The new Assistant Watermasters have allowed for increased groundwater and surface water data collection, improved water management including increased compliance work and improved service through water right research. The new Assistant Watermaster positions also help addressed succession planning and continuity of services issues in remote field offices.</p> <p>New Enforcement Section formed with a manager, a Compliance Specialist 3, two Compliance Specialist 2s, and an AS2. Those 5 positions are filled and the agency has seen increased efficiency in enforcement processes and been able to pursue enforcement more effectively statewide. This includes supporting an effort to increase compliance with permit conditions that require measurement and reporting of static water levels, critical data points for understanding groundwater status and trends, including if water is available for additional appropriations. This work is in progress, with a goal to move from ~50% compliance (~1900 measurements) to 100% compliance (~3600 measurements). Work continues on cannabis enforcement across the state.</p>
				TOTAL		36,823,653	341,064	21,356,389	\$ 58,521,106	67	66.50	

Instructions

Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.
Column (6) - Program description should include a summary of the program and the expansion (if applicable), including any partner state agencies.
Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.